

## Minutes of SUS Board Meeting on February 8, 2024

Location: Aija Kleber's, 320 Strawberry Hill Ave. #40, Stamford, 7:00 pm

Members attending in person: Aija, Andy, Lynne, Peter, Ida, Ronnie

by Zoom: Marie absent: Bill, Julie, Annie

1. Call to Order – Aija 7:05 pm
  
2. November Meeting Minutes – Lynne
  - Will be updated to remove reference to SUS providing access to outside alcohol; and prior Board approval will be required if event tickets are to exceed \$60
  - Ida moved to accept, Aija seconded, all approved
  
3. Board Member Reports
  - President's Report – Aija
    - Social gathering on February 20 agreed with Marie to be held at Sedona
    - Location yet to be announced for next Board meeting, March 14
    - After discussion, decided 2024 Annual Meeting March 21 will be Zoom only
    - April 6 Meet the Skippers location is confirmed at USCG Auxiliary in Norwalk
    - Program meeting April 18 location at Stamford YC – issue if open to the public?
    - Note that half of the current Board is in their first term; we need to listen to new ideas be flexible, patient and understanding during this learning curve time
  
  - Commodore's Report – Peter
    - How to track crew have completed MOC and DOC; Ida says this is done already
    - Ida will provide lists of members with MOC/DOC and Boating Certificates
    - Issue whether Boating Safety Certificate numbers should also be collected
    - Vice Commodore is responsible for MOC and DOC orientation; the actual work can be delegated; most of the MOC is now done by Tom Z
    - Skippers are not responsible for educating crew; are in favor of a Safety program
    - Member application on the website says "subject to approval", but not enforced
    - Skipper meetings are open to all in the club; Andy will attend as a regular member listening and adding possible new ideas, and not as a representative of the Board
    - Minutes of Skipper meetings will again be posted to the web after stopping in 2020
    - Meeting minutes are stored for reference in OneDrive, maintained by Ida
    - An in-person event was scheduled for March 23, winter walk at Tod's Point

- Vice Commodore's Report – Bill (written report submitted)
  - Vice Commodore Committee (CVC = Annie, Ronnie, Andy) was formed to create a survey of members' interests; Andy is researching relevant software
  - Much Board input on question if should it be limited to OTW (on the water) interests only, or should it also ask member preferences as to social activities
  - Bill suggests the mission of SUS is to maximize OTW participation by scheduling multiple activities on the same day, with focus and in support of these four areas:
    - Overnight sail-aways and anchor-out get togethers
    - Day sails and twilight sailing
    - Racing
    - Cruising (4 to 8 days)
  - Skippers will not provide education, but provide links to relevant public videos
  - Board agrees that the Scope and method of member survey is still a work in progress
  
- Vice President – Andy
  - After lengthy discussion and with some regret, Board voted to hold the Annual Meeting on March 21 by Zoom only. Issues and lessons learned:
    - Meeting can be boring and sparsely attended; how to make it more engaging
    - While legally required to be held, the 2024 room rental expense, cost of refreshments and effort required outweigh the benefit of in person meeting
    - For 2025 meeting, start to plan for it in the Fall; location, fun activities
  - Andy is investigating if his RE/MAX office in Westport can be used for future Board and Skipper meetings
  - As the Board position responsible for Programs is vacant, more input and help is needed from other Board members
  
- Membership – Marie
  - Membership renewal notices have been sent out; reminders will follow
  - There is only one category of membership; no "emeritus" classification exists for social-only members or for those who can no longer physically participate
  
- Masthead - Ida
  - Procedure is to request content on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, due on 26<sup>th</sup> for next Masthead
  - February Masthead has been published on the 1<sup>st</sup> as scheduled

- Public Relations - Ronnie
  - The remaining small promotion cards were given to Andy
  
- Special Events – Annie
  - Discussion of the January 28 brunch at Rizzuto’s attended by 22 members
  - All agreed that the location and ambiance was fabulous; however, some reported issues with their entrees or were disappointed with the food
  - Members paid \$30 for brunch, but it actually cost only \$24.95 leaving a small surplus
  - Thanks to Annie for an event very well done!
  - Cast-off Party is confirmed for May 4 at Cedar Point, menu TBD
  
- Treasurer – Julie
  - See three documents attached
    - 12-31-2023 Balance Sheet
    - Profit and Loss 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2023
    - Profit and Loss Calendar Year 2023

#### 4. New business

- Ronnie reported there are over 350 people on our Meetup.com site; a proposal to take new members out for a sample afternoon sail was defeated
  
- Aija received a copy of our Liability policy held by Malloy Insurance Company
  - She will read it and meet with our agent to try and understand terms
  - Premium of \$770 is due again in March

#### 5. Meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm