



Roche Harbor Yacht Club

RHYC

*Dingy
Watch*

Welcome to your Dinghy Watch.

The board sent out the suggested bylaws changes back in March in anticipation of our April business meeting. We are resending them now ahead of the September zoom meeting which will be taking place on Saturday September 19th at 2:00pm.

Here is a summary of the changes and the justification for them:

1. In the past 10 years we have had significant changes to our membership numbers as well as our annual operating expenses. A club needs to work and function within a consistent operating budget. Senior membership is half of regular dues. This is opposite of the way that most clubs work with younger members paying less than older members. The board anticipates at least 10 members being eligible for transition to senior membership next year. This would significantly impact our operating budget (by as much as \$5000). As such the board is proposing a change to membership in which we move to 3 classes of membership. These three classes would eliminate 'senior membership' as an option. We have chosen to do this rather than a high increase in dues. This would disproportionately affect younger members.
2. With any organization typically a few volunteers do most of the work and those that volunteer are often the busiest people —this is no different with RHYC. Each year it is a struggle to find members willing to do our monthly meetings and help to continue to run the club. This has always been a mystery for me. As someone who joined a club to be able to meet members and belong to a boating group, jumping into a volunteer position (including running a cruise and being on a cruise team) seemed to be a no-brainer to me—if I wanted to get to know more people I needed to jump in and see how the club works. This has given me a great opportunity to meet so many more people. As we looked at club positions it was hard to find someone to do the secretary position. We decided to split the position and Verna Maruska jumped in to help us out. She has taken on the position of AW editor and we are so thankful she has done this. However, the bylaws are clear that the secretary's job is to be the newsletter editor. The bylaws will need to be updated to reflect the change in role of the secretary.
3. As a board, we occasionally need to call 'special meetings' of the membership for a variety of different reasons. There is no provision in the bylaws for this, so we needed to clarify this.
4. Annually prices go up for things—the website, our liability insurance, our outstations, and the upkeep of those locations—to name a few. As a board we wanted to have the ability to increase dues annually up to 5% to cover normal increases in operating expenses without needing to bring this to the membership at the business meeting. If we wait until the business meeting to address operating expenses, we are getting into a situation in which we must be running in the red rather than the black. Annually we are all used to cost-of-living increases for most everything we purchase. As a club our year starts in November 1 and ends October 31 and our business meeting is in April. When we get an increase, this is often something that we learn about in January. So, the club cannot catch up to this change until April. The board would like the discretion to be able to make a change to dues in January if we have been notified of an increase in moorage, website, or other fixed costs that we pay monthly.

So, to put it simply the board is asking the membership to vote for the following

1. Removal of senior membership and the various wording changes that need to be made in the bylaws to reflect this
2. A clarification in the role of secretary in section E2 to include the job of posting the minutes on the website\
3. Allow the commodore to appoint another person to do the Anchor Watch besides the secretary
4. Change the verbiage in Article VII Section 4E to allow for a special meeting
5. Allow the board to do an increase in membership dues up to 5% without needing a full vote by the membership on this

The board will also be asking for a vote on two other points.

6. Aside from the proposed bylaws changes the board will also be asking for a dues increase. How much we ask for will depend on whether the senior membership change is made. If the membership does not vote to remove senior membership, then the board will ask for a significantly higher dues increase of
7. The treasurer position is a 2-year position. We will be asking the membership to allow Michelle Nelson to continue this position for another year and waive the 2-year limit.

This meeting is always an important one to attend. Being that it is on zoom this year we wanted to make sure that it was clear to all what we will be asking for voting on. Please feel free to contact me with all questions in the time leading up to the meeting.

Thanks!

Orit Hickman, Commodore and Your RHYC Board

You will be receiving an email with the following link. Please go to the link to register in advance for the September Business meeting.

You are invited to a Zoom meeting.
When: Sep 19, 2020 02:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting:
<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJldOiupjksHd0sK60AWxInfsady0skzXDj>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

2020 Proposed RHYC Bylaws changes

The board is proposing the following changes to our bylaws. In order to maintain the health and longevity of the club we are proposing a change to our current membership structure as well as changes to annual dues. Annually the club is seeing increases in expenses with a net loss of members in the past 10 years (down 29% active membership since 2011). In order to keep us in the black and align us with how other clubs have structured their membership levels we are proposing the following changes: The removal of senior membership would increase our annual budget/ working capital for club expenses by about \$5000 amount without having to increase total dues as much. The ability to increase our annual dues by up to 5% without a club vote would allow us to maintain our budget.

Regarding senior membership the following bylaws changes are proposed:

Article II: Membership

Page 2 Section 2 Current wording is listed below.

The club shall have the following four (4) classes of membership.

Page 2 Section 2 Proposed changes are listed below.

The Club shall have the following three (3) classes of membership.

Page 2 Section 2B Current wording is listed below.

Page 2 Section 2B Proposed changes are listed below.

~~Section 2B Senior Membership: Senior membership may be conferred by the Board of Trustees upon an Active member who meets one of the following criteria:~~

~~Any individual member who has reached age 65 or over, has been an Active Member in good standing continuously for ten (10) years, and is a Past Commodore of RHYC. OR~~

~~Age 65 or older, has been an Active Member in good standing continuously for fifteen (15) years.~~

~~This class of membership shall be eligible to vote, may fly the Burgee and attend all Club functions. Boat ownership is not required. Senior members shall pay reduced dues equal to or half of the active dues rounder to the nearest dollar, but will pay no assessments. Qualifying members must apply to the Board of Trustees for this type of membership.~~

Page 3

Current wording: Section 2D [...An active member in good standing who has been bestowed honorary membership may return to active or senior membership by notifying the Board and paying appropriate dues and assessments.](#)

Proposed change: Section 2D...An active member in good standing who has been bestowed honorary membership may return to active ~~or senior~~ membership by notifying the Board and paying appropriate dues and assessments.

Current wording: Section 2C- Associate Membership

Proposed change: Section 2B-Associate Membership

Current wording: Section 2D- Honorary Membership

Proposed change: Section 2C-Honorary Membership

Page 4

Current wording: Section 3B. Active to Senior—See section 2B above.

Proposed changes: ~~[Section 3B. Active to Senior—See section 2B above.](#)~~

Current wording: Section 3C Senior to Associate-See section 3, general paragraph above.

Proposed changes: ~~[Section 3C Senior to Associate. See section 3, general paragraph above.](#)~~

Page 4 Section 4

Current wording: Section 4 Voting members of the Club shall be the Active and Senior Members.

Proposed changes: [Section 4 Voting members of the Club shall be the Active ~~and Senior~~ Members.](#)

Page 11 Article VII: Governance Section 3 A4:

Current wording: Section 3 A4: [The committee will be comprised of a minimum of 2 Active or Senior members, one of which is a past Commodore and are not members of the board of Trustees or the investment committee.](#)

Proposed Changes: Section 3 A4: The committee will be comprised of a minimum of 2 Active ~~or Senior~~ members, one of which is a past Commodore and are not members of the board of Trustees or the investment committee.

Page 21 Article IX: Pennants

Current wording with proposed changes are listed below:

An Active or Senior member shall be entitled to fly the Club Pennant on any vessel which the member is operating;...

Regarding secretary duties and role the following by laws changes are proposed:

Page 14 Article VII: Governance

Current wording: Section E2: The Secretary shall see that minutes are taken at all meetings of the Board of Trustees and general membership, transmit them to all Board Members in a timely fashion, and make them available to any member upon request.

Proposed changes: Section E2: The Secretary shall see that minutes are taken at all meetings of the Board of Trustees and general membership, transmit them to all Board Members in a timely fashion, **post approved minutes on the website**, and make them available to any member upon request.

Regarding secretary duties and the inclusion of an AW editor the following by laws changes are proposed:

Page 10 Article VII: Governance

Current wording: Section 2H: The flag officers and treasurer shall submit monthly, a written officer's report to the secretary for inclusion in the monthly newsletter.

Proposed changes: Section 2H: The flag officers and treasurer shall submit monthly, a written officer's report to the secretary **or other member appointed by the commodore**, for inclusion in the monthly newsletter.

Page 14

Current wording: Section E4-The secretary shall prepare, publish and distribute to the members the monthly RHYC Newsletter (Anchor Watch), which shall be the Official publication of the Club.

Proposed changes: Section E4-The secretary, **or other member appointed by the Commodore**, shall prepare...

Regarding general and special meetings the following by laws changes are proposed:

Page 16 Article VII: Governance Section 4-Meetings

Current wording: Section 4 E: A quorum of a general meeting shall consist of ten (10) voting members of the club and four (4) members of the Board of Trustees. Proposed changes: Section 4E: A quorum of a general membership meeting **or a special meeting** shall consist of ten (10) voting members of the Club and four (4) members of the Board of Trustees.

Regarding increases in dues the following by laws changes are proposed:

Page 7 Article V: Application fees, dues and assessments

Current wording: Section 1: Annual membership dues rates will be established from time to time based on a recommendation by the Board of Trustees and approved by club members. These rates will be published to the membership each year on the membership renewal form and on Club Application forms.

Proposed changes: Section 1 Annual membership dues rates **may be increased up to 5% by the board to cover normal cost of doing business expenses. Any increases above and beyond this amount** will be established from time to time based on a recommendation by the Board of Trustees and approved by club members. These rates will be published to the membership each year on the membership renewal form and on Club Application forms.