

North Flathead Yacht Club
Special General Membership Meeting
July 9th, 82014

The special general membership meeting was called for the purpose of discussing the initiation fee changes the board had instituted at the May board meeting. The board had decided to initiate a sliding scale initiation fee based on age. Several members of the club were disgruntled with this change and had requested that a special meeting be held in order for the general membership to vote on whether we keep the change in initiation fee or rescind the decision made by the board.

The decision made by the board to change the initiation fee to a sliding scale fee was made after an exorbitant amount of research was done by our membership committee on how other clubs, similar to ours, structure their initiation fees. The membership committee is made up of board members and members of the general membership.

Trevon Baker made it very clear that this meeting was not an "us against them" situation, that we needed to have a productive discussion and that we all need to look at how to promote the health and longevity of the club by way of encouraging young people to join and become the new stewards of our club.

Reasons for keeping the initiation fee at \$2500:

1. Not fair to the 28 people (20% of members) who paid the \$2500
2. This change would affect the club financially
3. If people are paying this large fee they will be more emotionally invested in the club
4. It is only fair that everyone pay the same fee.
5. For what the club offers, it is well worth the \$2500

Reasons for changing the fee to a sliding scale fee

1. Only 5% of our membership is 40 years of age and younger.
2. The longevity of our club is at risk due to the aging demographics.
3. Younger members will pay dues for a much longer time, which will help sustain the club.
4. Our mission statement, which was established by our charter members at the inception of the club, is to "promote the the sport of sailing". This is primarily done through our racing program. We have seen a significant decline in our racing program and an increase in our aging cruising population.

Discussion:

1. The bylaws state that these kinds of financial decisions can be made by the board without calling a general membership meeting.
2. A suggestion of revisiting this fee schedule annually was brought up. This will be discussed at our next board meeting.

3. A discussion also took place regarding how to inform the general membership of special meetings that have been called. Some folks felt that they should be informed by snail mail, while others felt that most everything in this day and age is done electronically, through e-mail. This will also be discussed at our next board meeting. We may need to change the bylaws and redefine what "mailing" is.

4. There could be a liability issue for the club to have members that are under the age of 21 when there is alcohol involved. The board will look at changing the age of when one can become a member.

5. Jim Thompson suggested we promote sailing by offering sailing classes through the community College or adult sailing classes through the club.

A motion was made to rescind the board decision of initiating a sliding scale initiation fee based on age and keep the current initiation fee at \$2500.

A written ballot vote was taken .

17 members present, voted to rescind the board decision of a sliding scale fee.

25 members present voted against rescinding the board decision.

The initiation fee will be on a sliding scale fee.

A motion was made to adjourn meeting. All in favor.

Submitted by NFYC Secretary

Sydney Anne Muir