



PENTWATER YACHT CLUB

established 1935

January 1, 2017

Dear PYC Members,

As this year begins, I cannot help but to reflect on the superior results obtained by Commodore Doug Nelson. He and Julie have brought significant leadership, direction, and attention to detail to the club and raised the Pentwater Yacht Club to an excellent position for the 2017 season and beyond. Joann and I, join with the total membership in thanks and gratitude to Doug and Julie for all they have done during their rotation through the Rear Commodore, Vice Commodore, Commodore, and now Past Commodore Chairs at the PYC. We look forward to seeing your smiling faces in the Blue Chairs often and enjoying all the activities planned for 2017. Congratulations on your outstanding dedication and service to PYC.

The 2017 season begins with 25 new members. The PYC welcome these new members with open arms and we are pleased that your time has come. The club represents one of the best social and water sports facilities in the country. Welcome new members.

It has been an honor to have Larry Conroy as Rear Commodore this past year. Larry had a great year as all of the Thursday Night Dinners were complete successes. He has been a valuable supporter and advisor to me during 2016 and I look forward to his continued service as he becomes Vice Commodore. I pledge my support to him, as he assumes the duties of the operational aspect of the PYC. This assignment requires the support of all the members, as he ventures to serve and support the club membership, their families and guests. Larry has proven leadership skills that have served us very well this past year. His wife Chris continues as our Membership Chair where she does an outstanding job in keeping our prospective members informed of their status as they become eligible for full membership.

Jim Hieftje joins the Flag Officers as Rear Commodore, continuing Larry's success. Jim has excellent credentials from the Fremont School District where he was Superintendent. Jim and Donna will continue the mission of the PYC and their leadership will be invaluable.

This past year Aleksy Urick and Barb Siok joined the Flag Officers mid-year to fulfill vacancies in the Treasurer and Secretary positions. Their quick adaptation and complete immersion into these positions served us very well this past year and we look forward to the future with these dedicated members. Both are experienced and talented individuals who are eager to work with the officers and members.

As you know, we lost the tent over the deck after a water spout raced north up Pentwater Lake ahead of a severe storm on August 20th. The replacement of the roof over the Hatch, the wooden support posts on the south deck and the damaged siding and eve troughs have been replaced, and we are awaiting final design and costs for a replacement tent/awning that will serve and enhance the look of the PYC as we add 25 new members to the 2017 rolls.

In 2016, we asked members to help our staff out by making reservations whenever possible for dinner in advance of your visit. This program was met with moderate success, so this year we are encouraging a significant increase in this process. When you make a reservation, we are able to plan for your visit, purchase more efficiently the products you consume and most importantly provide the staffing you deserve for your family and guests when they come. Our staff is anxious to serve you, and provide you with the service and value you deserve, so we feel this request is in the best interest of all our membership.

The season is full of promise as we look to the future to enhance the PYC through installation of a new membership management/POS system that will upgrade our current outdated system and budget permitting we are investigating a zoned cooling system that will provide a better climate controlled kitchen and/or clubhouse. We are also planning membership meetings to discuss a refurbishment and augmentation of the bar area, a marina retention system that will help control the surge that batters our current docks, and marina expansion to accommodate larger boats. These projects and others are being vigorously managed by various committees and will be brought to the Board of Directors as they are designed and budgeted. We will be looking to the PYC membership for final approval and payment options for these large ticket items. While these projects cannot happen instantaneously, we must look to the future to insure the PYC remains a safe, stable and vibrant club.

This past year saw the development of the Pentwater Yacht Club's Centennial Fund. This voluntary (*non-tax-deductible*) contribution fund will help to accumulate financial resources for significant projects and improvements for decades to come. In an effort to help seed the fund, I am personally contributing \$300 to the fund this year. I challenge all members to follow my lead by matching my donation, either in part or full, by including a separate check with your annual membership dues check. Please make your donation check payable to the Pentwater Yacht Club and proudly include "PYC Centennial Fund" in the memo field of your check. It is through the financial participation of all of our members that we will be able to keep our club the gold standard of waterfront social clubs!

As the year progresses, I encourage you to talk to the flag officers, board members, and committee chairs and let us know your ideas, recommendations, and concepts for the future. We are interested in growing the value of the club for its members both now and in years to come. Your comments are very important as we attempt to "enhance your experience" at the PYC.

And last but not least, my feelings on volunteering at the PYC. It is my opinion that to experience full membership, one should be involved in the club. This affords the opportunity to meet great people who like the water, enjoy our facilities, and contribute to the overall well-being of the club. If you would like to volunteer and no one asked you... here I am, asking if you would be interested in full membership.

Looking forward to Spring,

Russ

Russ Murphy
Commodore 2017
(248) 761-0819
rpmsailor@comcast.net