March 20, 2020

Dear CWB Members,

After a three-month search for a new Executive Director (ED), the CWB board of trustees voted unanimously to offer the position to our own Josh Anderson three weeks ago. He was to take the helm on April 1, 2020. Josh was hired three years ago as our boatwright and quickly demonstrated leadership ability with the staff, volunteers, and operations. Last year he assumed Programs Manager responsibilities directly reporting to Brand Faatz, our retiring ED. The board is enthusiastic about the future of CWB under Josh’s direction.

What a difference two weeks makes. The COVID-19 crisis has disrupted everything resembling normal life for our country, our community, and non-profit organizations; CWB is no exception. Our hearts are with all of you as we collectively navigate these uncharted waters.

Brandt Faatz graciously offered to step down immediately while remaining available for the transition to Josh, to save much needed funds. In his new role as captain of the ship entering a storm, Josh recommended actions to the board to protect the health and safety of our community. As of this past week all scheduled programs are postponed including livery rentals, adult sailing lessons, event rentals, and Sunday Public Sail. Our major events planned through the end of May are also postponed, including our Gala & Auction, Norm Blanchard W.O.O.D Regatta, Colleen Wagner Memorial Sailpast, and our Cama Beach Mother’s Day Saturday Sail. In addition, due to the lack of income from these cancellations, he recommended staff furloughs. It pains us to make these decisions knowing the financial impact on our dedicated crew.

Despite the uncertainty of this crisis, the board of trustees, working with Josh, has a plan for our community to come through this crisis and we remain enthusiastic about the future of CWB.

While we will be physically closed for the foreseeable future, Josh will be reaching out to our community regularly through email and social media with updates and other engaging content to keep you connected to our mission.

Close the seacocks, reef the main, steer straight and carry on. We will get through this together.

Emil Anderson  
President/Board of Trustees  
The Center for Wooden Boats

William Gartz, AIA  
President Emeritus/Board of Trustees  
The Center for Wooden Boats