



**2025 Inter-Lake Yachting Association
Fall Meeting Minutes
December 6, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER – COMMODORE SCOTT KNEISEL

The Fall Meeting of the Inter-Lake Yachting Association was held on December 6, 2025, and was called to order by Commodore Scott Kniesel (BVYC) at 3:17 pm. An invocation was offered by Fleet Chaplain Commodore Ed Payne (FYC).

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Head Fleet Captain Kevin Stone (GLSBC).

Nomination Committee

Commodore Duane Burgoyne (NCYC) presented candidates for the positions of Board of Trustees and Rear Commodore. Candidates for the three open Board of Trustee positions.

- Mark Balazy, Ford Yacht Club
- Tony Blank, Bay View Yacht Club
- Alec Chabalowski, Grosse Ile Yacht Club
- Bryan Huntley, Sandusky Yacht Club
- David Monk, Elba-Mar Boat Club
- Kevin Stone, Great Lakes Steel Boat Club

Commodore Burgoyne also presented candidates for the position of Rear Commodore; Eric Osborne, Edgewater Yacht Club and Bob Shepperd, Alum Creek Sailing Club. Bob expressed his interest in future service to the organization but asked the delegates to join him in supporting Eric Osborne.

Executive Secretary Commodore Cindy Johnson-Mintus (PCYC) presented to the members that delegates were also going to be asked to vote to admit a new club to the I-LYA, the Detroit Motor City Yacht Club, located in Detroit. Attending on their behalf were Commodore-elect Keith Thomas, Secretary Kelly Terrel, and Chairman on New Membership, Annette Bearden.

Registrar Nate Edmunds (BVYC) called the roll of delegates, I-LYA Past Commodores, and I-LYA Officers. 36 club delegates and 15 Past Commodores were present. Election ballots were distributed during delegate rollcall.

Commodore Scott Kniesel recognized the I-LYA Past Commodores and distinguished guests in attendance at the meeting.

Commodore Kniesel asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the April 5, 2025, Spring Meeting.

Motion to waive reading of the minutes and accept as published was made by Commodore Dale Vanderford (DBBC) and seconded by Delegate Rock Adams (IYC). Motion passed.

DRAFT

REPORTS – COMMODORE SCOTT KNEISEL

Advisory Committee: Commodore Lloyd Bogue (AYC) reported that 15 past commodores met earlier today to discuss how to support the association and the Commodore in 2026.

Executive Secretary: Executive Secretary Commodore Cindy Johnson-Mintus (PCYC) submitted a written report (attached). The Highlighted items include that 128 out of 133 Clubs have paid 2025 dues timely. Three Clubs have been past due for two years: Buffalo Yacht Club; Great Haven Yacht Club; and Saginaw Bay Yacht Club.

North Coast Yacht Club was admitted as an Associate Member in 2023 and has been voted for full membership by the Board of Trustees.

I-LYA Trustees Report: Executive Secretary Commodore Johnson-Mintus was joined by Trustee President Commodore Steve Hyder (DBBC) to discuss the financial status of the organization. Club Dues were last increased in 2024 and will hold in 2026. All contracts for 2026 are in place with the village, the yacht club, and other entities.

President Hyder reported that the budget is very tight. The Trustee annual budget is approximately \$31,000 and includes insurance for the junior traveler's series and championship regatta, and the power and sail regattas. The Trustees maintain a rainy-day fund of approximately \$24,000 to address unexpected items but are discussing alternate sources of revenue. One option is offering merchandise for sale through Kevin Stone (GLSBC).

The Executive Secretary also requested that Club Delegates download the 2026 Club Update form and submit the information no later than March 31st. The [Club Update Form](#) is available at this link. Responses may be submitted via hard copy or email. Instructions are on the form.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Jennifer Convery (SeBC) reported that the 2025 financials are in balance. Year-end reports will be prepared and submitted in early 2026.

Delegate Reports

National Boating Federation (NBF): Commodore Mike Powers (MBC) serves as our delegate to the NBF and currently serves as Vice-President. He will be moving up to the position of President at the annual general meeting of the National Boating Federation which will be held in Monroe, MI. The primary concern for the association is how states treat the issue of abandoned vessels.

Ohio Marine Trades Association: The Boating Association of Ohio has been dissolved, and combined with LEMTA, the Central Marine Dealers, and the Southern Marine Dealers. The Ohio Marine Trade Association (OMTA) is its new successor. Commodore Dennis Mintus (AYC) submitted a written report (attached).

Yacht Racing Union of the Great Lakes: No report.

Yachtsmen's Fund: Commodore Steve Harris (BLYC) reported the Yachtsmen's Fund Trustee and Member meetings were held earlier. Even with current market volatility the financial position of the fund is good, and with the 4.5% spending budget the fund is able to maintain grant plans. The Yachtsmen's Fund supports all boating programs – juniors, adults, power, sail. Clubs are encouraged to present innovative programs for review and potential grant opportunities.

The Yachtsmen's Fund management responsibilities have been adjusted. Marcia Ashley (PIBYC) will assume Recording Secretary; CC Wisniewski (PIBYC) will be Treasurer; and the Membership Secretary will be Dar Burgoyne (NCYC).

The 2025 Dollar Per Member solicitations were not sent timely due to changes in the positions but will be issued for 2026 early in the year.

Code of Regulations: No report.

Admiralty Committee: Commodore Steve Hyder (DBBC) noted that there is no report at this time.

Sponsorship Committee: Chair Teresa Vanderford (DBBC) reported that sponsorship from 7 vendors totaled \$9,400. Among the highlights, Heidelberg Brewing and Great Lakes Brewing were on board this year and the Shores & Islands provided grant money in support of Junior Sail to be used for coaching, security, and safety equipment.

Yearbook Committee: Chair Marilyn Paselsky (PIBYC) reported that she will be editing the 2026 yearbook and asked that delegates consider highlighting their club and activities with an 1/8-page ad for \$100.

I-LYA Historian: Rear Commodore Tom Thanasiu Jr. (JRSC) reported that the Great Lakes Historical Society was able to purchase a facility where photos, memorabilia, paperwork and other items will be able to be displayed and stored.

Tom introduced Johnny Thompson (BVYC), President of GLHS and the new Historian for I-LYA. Mr. Thompson reported that they have found records from multiple clubs in 18 boxes of memorabilia. As things are sorted, they intend to return them to Clubs.

Perpetual and Memorial Trophies: Rear Commodore Thanasiu reported that he was able to decorate the Commodore's Memorial over the holiday season, which was well received by the islanders.

Island Liaison Committee: Chair Bryan Huntley (SYC) reported that the goal is to secure longer term agreements with the village, Yacht Club, and other island businesses. The PIBYC contract is through 2027; the contract with the Village for dockage runs through 2026.

AFFAIRS AFLOAT – VICE COMMODORE DEAN REAMSNYDER

Powerboat Committee: Chair Chris Aune (CRYC) reported the regatta had more than 80 boats attend. Chris thanked the 2025 team members for their support: Joy Moon (GLSBC), Treasurer; John Brock (CLYC), Recording Secretary; and Nate Edmunds (BVYC), Vice Chair.

Sail Committee: Chairman Bill Pribe (NCYC) reported that this year we had 52 boats which is below the 60-boat budgeted. Despite this we were able to control expenses and end in the black. Bill recognized the 2025 PROs, Commodore Duane Burgoyne, Dar Burgoyne (NCYC), Commodore Steve Harris, and Rear Commodore Tom Thanasiu.

After 8 years as Chair, Bill will be transitioning to the Junior Regatta as part of the NCYC management of the event in 2026 and 2027. Bob Shepperd (ACSA) will be taking the helm in 2026. Commodore Heidi Backus Riddle (VBC) recognized Bill Pribe for his service and his selection as 2025 Sailor of the Year.

Sail Yacht Appeals Committee: Commodore Burgoyne (NCYC) reported there was one appeal.

United States Sailing Association: Commodore Burgoyne reported that US Sailing is down to 30,000 members and is suffering from engagement. Charlie Enright has taken over as CEO of the organization. His concentration is to

get back to grassroots sailing support. The national US Sailing meeting will be held in regions. The closest meeting for us will be in Milwaukee.

Junior Activities Committee: Alec Chabalowski (GIYC) reported that the committee oversees more than 600 kids competing in the 8 Traveler Series regattas. Alec recognized 2025 team and introduced the 2026 leadership – need names.

Junior Sail Championship Regatta Committee: No report was provided by the co-chairs, Tim Willford (SSC) and Shawnette Becker (LYC).

Junior Powerboat Regatta: Commodore Bob Lang noted that he is looking for a replacement to take over the Junior Powerboat Regatta in 2027. He hopes someone will come aboard in 2026 and take the reins in 2027.

AFFAIRS ASHORE – REAR COMMODORE TOM THANASIU, JR.

Entertainment Committee: Sharon Amlin (SPBC) is decorating for the Change of Watch.

Publications Committee: Rear Commodore Thanasiu (JRSC) noted that we were highlighted by the Toledo Blade and the News Herald this year. Tom noted that he is working with ESP to get additional articles in Scuttlebutt.

The I-LYA news is going to undergo changes with smaller articles and shorter messages. The messaging frequency will increase with the goal of increased engagement with the members.

Shore Courtesy Committee: Nothing to report.

Long Range Planning Committee: Delegate Kay Soka (MBIYC) reported on the initiatives in process and noted that meetings are open to all delegates.

- The LRPC focus has been, and continues to be, on securing more permanent storage for records and memorabilia, including our trophies. Items recently secured from the Great Lakes Historical Society are being evaluated to determine which are valuable to store.
- Yearbooks back to 1894 have been digitized and are accessible on the I-LYA website, but some years are missing. LRPC will compile a list and ask that Club Delegates check whether they have a copy we can digitize and/or add to our collection.
- Delegate engagement is a key effort moving forward. Club Delegates are asked to share information with their members, to disseminate information from the I-LYA News, to promote the I-LYA events, and to highlight the advantages of membership.
- General Meeting minutes will be available on the website, [Past Meeting Reports](#). Club Delegates are encouraged to share information with their membership.
- The committee made a recommendation for the 2026 Honorary Regatta Chairman.
- The LRPC continues to work to create a Trophy inventory to include the deed of gift, historical information, and past recipients.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Election Results for 2025:

Congratulations to Detroit Motor City Yacht Club! Welcome to I-LYA.

For the position of trustee, the Delegates elected Kevin Stone (GLSBC), Alec Chabalowski (GIYC) and Tony Blank (BVYC).

For the position of Rear Commodore, the Delegates elected Eric Osborne (EWYC).

Motion by Chris Aune (CRYC), seconded by Commodore Hyder (DBBC), to destroy the ballots. Motion carried.

Motion by Commodore Hyder (DBBC), seconded by Commodore Johnson-Mintus – to promote Vice Commodore Dean Reamsnyder (HVYC) and Rear Commodore Tom Thanasiu (JRSC). Motion carried.

Announcements: Commodore Kneisel (BVYC) asked the delegates to stand and asked them to disseminate this information amongst their membership members.

Commodore Hyder (DBBC) noted that marketing has been a common refrain from the committees, but we do not have a source to help us develop a plan to spread the word about I-LYA beyond our membership. We are looking for volunteers to help us market the events. Chris Merkle (PIBYC) offered to help with physical distribution of items to visitors centers and other sources.

Vice Commodore Reamsnyder (HVYC) noted that we will have a booth at the Midwest Boat Show.

Commodore Kneisel noted that the I-LYA hospitality room will be open at 5:00 p.m. There will be a cash bar on the main terrace beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Motion made to Adjourn: *Delegate Rock Thomas (IYC) made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Delegate Patty Duffett (GIYC). Motion carried.*

Meeting adjourned at 4:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

CS Miller

Connie Miller, PIBYC

2025 I-LYA Recording Secretary