



**2025 Inter-Lake Yachting Association
Spring Meeting Minutes
April 5, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER – COMMODORE SCOTT KNEISEL

The Spring Meeting of the Inter-Lake Yachting Association was held on April 5, 2025, and was called to order by Commodore Scott Kniesel at 3:31 pm. An invocation was offered by Fleet Chaplain Commodore Ed Payne.

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

Registrar Nate Edmunds (BVYC) called the roll of delegates, I-LYA Past Commodores, and I-LYA Officers. 40 club delegates and 14 Past Commodores were present. Election ballots were distributed during delegate rollcall. Commodore Scott Kniesel introduced guests and Commodores. Commodore Kniesel asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the 2024 Fall Meeting.

Motion to waive reading of the December 7, 2024 minutes and accept as published was made by Commodore Mike Fishbaugh seconded by Delegate Stan Ziemkiewicz. Motion passed.

REPORTS – COMMODORE SCOTT KNEISEL

Code of Regulations Committee

Commodore Cindy Johnson-Mintus presented the qualifications necessary to serve on the Nominating Committee as approved and adopted by the Delegates in December.

Election of the 2025 Nominating Committee:

Commodore Kniesel requested nominations for members to serve on the 2025 Nominating Committee.

Candidates nominated from the floor were:

1. Commodore Duane Burgoyne, NCYC
2. Delegate Stan Ziemkiewicz, Riverview Yacht Club
3. Delegate Pam Myers, DBBC
4. Commodore Bob Lang, WRY&CC
5. Commodore Mike Fishbaugh, SSC
6. Delegate Brian Huntley, SYC
7. Delegate Bob Bahney III, PIBYC
8. Delegate Ron Soka, TYC
9. Delegate Diane Wright, SBC
10. Trustee Rich McKee, CWHYC

Advisory Committee: Commodore Lloyd Bogue reported that 15 past commodores met earlier today to discuss how to support the association and the Commodore in 2025.

Executive Secretary: Commodore Cindy Johnson-Mintus submitted a written report (attached). Highlighted items include that 98 out of 133 Clubs have paid timely. Delegates were also asked to submit payments and update forms quickly to get the yearbook prepared. You can submit a written report or update online. Delegates are requested to provide email so we can communicate electronically. Four clubs are currently delinquent and subject to expulsion in the fall if not remedied.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Jennifer Convery, SeBC reported that the 2024 books have been turned over, 2025 budgets have been prepared, and responsibility for bank accounts has been transferred.

I-LYA Trustees Report: President Commodore Steve Hyder (DBBC) reported the Trustee meeting was open to the delegates, and one delegate attended. The Trustees tackled some interesting items and are working to make a long-term plan to preserve association history.

Delegate Reports

United States Sailing Association: Commodore Duane Burgoyne reported that the ice boaters had one of the best seasons in the past 20 years. The US Sailing meeting was held in San Diego the first week in February, but he and Commodore Fishbaugh were unable to attend in person. Duane was able to attend through Zoom and to discuss racing development around the country.

The One-Design Yacht Club of the Year award went to the Sandusky Sailing Club in support of their Opti Regatta during the 2024 season. Duane recognized Tim Willford (SSC) for the efforts coordinating the racing and for Chairing the 2025 I-LYA Junior Sail Regatta.

National Boating Federation (NBF): Commodore Mike Powers reported that the annual general meeting of the National Boating Federation was held two weekends ago in Philadelphia at the Pennsylvania Yacht Club. The expansion of the container port in Baltimore has been a priority for the NBF since the property needed is occupied by two Yacht Clubs. Mike will serve as NBF President in 2026 and will be hosting the meeting in Monroe, MI. All are welcome to attend.

Boating Association of Ohio: The Boating Association of Ohio has been dissolved and combined with Lake Erie Marine Trade Association, the Central Marine Dealers, and the Southern Marine Dealers. The Ohio Marine Trade Association (OMTA) is its new successor. Commodore Dennis Mintus submitted a written report (attached). He highlighted that ODNR wants to increase registration fees and shared the contents of the Ohio state budget bill which is relatively flat in this biennium. House Bill 183 related to 'spotter' requirements was reintroduced which OMTA opposes.

Yacht Racing Union of the Great Lakes: Delegate Matt DuBois did not attend, but Commodore Steve Harris shared that YRU operates match-racing championships. Matt is looking for volunteers with match-racing experience to re-start match racing in the Great Lakes.

Yachtsmen's Fund: Commodore Harris reported the Yachtsmen's Fund Trustee and Member meetings were held this weekend. Even with current market volatility the financial position is good, and with the 4.5% spending budget we are able to maintain grant plans. The Yachtsmen's Fund is also supporting Junior Power; the Opti Championships at PCYC; and the Lake Erie Intercollegiate Offshore Regatta hosted by the University of Toledo and NCYC. There have been changes in the makeup of Trustees. Jane O'Brien has stepped back from the Board after many years of service as Trustee and Treasurer. The new Trustee will be Jayme Ward from Edgewater YC (term expiring 2028) and the new Treasurer will be C.C. Wisniewski from PIBYC.

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

Sponsorship Committee: Chair Teresa Vanderford (DBBC) that the Committee met on Friday and discussed the Shores & Islands grant money in support of Junior Sail to be used for coaching, security, and safety equipment. We are starting a partnership with Lakeland Boating and are working to identify businesses which could support our events and services.

Yearbook Committee: Chair Marilyn Paselsky (PIBYC) reported that the 2025 yearbook is in process, but we are still soliciting ads and other content. Proofs should be out within the next two weeks.

I-LYA Historian: Rear Commodore Tom Thanasiu Jr. reported that we have retrieved 18 boxes of photos, memorabilia, paperwork and other items from the Great Lakes Historical Society. Tom reported that we have found records from multiple clubs that we will be sorting and trying to return to Clubs in the future.

Tom reported that he was able to decorate the Commodore's Memorial over the holiday season, which was well received by the islanders.

Perpetual and Memorial Trophies: Rear Commodore Thanasiu reported the trophy room is located in the Put-in-Bay Winery. PIBYC will be keeping the George W. Lonz Trophy created by Commodore Bob Lang.

Island Liaison Committee: Chair Bryan Huntley (SYC) reported that the 2025 Liaison Committee includes Steve Harris, Steve Hyder, and Pat McIlwee. The PIBYC contract is through 2027; the contract with the Village for dockage runs through 2026. They will be meeting again with Mayor Judy Berry and the Chamber of Commerce in May.

AFFAIRS AFLOAT – VICE COMMODORE DEAN REAMSNYDER

Powerboat Committee: Chair Chris Aune (CRYC) reported the Powerboat Committee met this morning and are looking for someone to chair the Flying Mile.

Sail Committee: Chairman Bill Pribe (NCYC) reported that this year we will be hosting the International Laser Class Association Regional Championship during the sail regatta. Based on feedback requesting more time on the water, we will be pushing race times an hour earlier in the day and are looking at adjusting courses. Sail registration is live. Ladies Tea registration and Bayweek T-Shirts will be available online in the near future.

Sail Yacht Appeals Committee: Commodore Burgoyne reported there is one appeal in process.

Intersectional Racing Committee: Commodore Fishbaugh reported that there are some significant rules changes issued by US Sailing. The scoring parameters for the 2024 PHRF Championship were finalized at the Sail Committee meeting. Results for 2024 will be calculated and awarded at Bayweek. The 2025 NOR will be developed and released shortly.

Junior Activities Committee: Trustee Todd Duffett, (GIYC) reported on behalf of Chairman Alex Chabalowski and thanked the Bridge for their support of Junior Bay and the eight (8) Traveler Series Regattas. Entry fees for the Traveler Series will remain the same in 2025. The committee is focused on teaching rules, safety, and sportsmanship.

Junior Sail Championship Regatta Committee: Tim Willford (SSC) and Shannette Becker (LYC) are co-Chairs for the 2025 event. Tim thanked the Bridge and Yachtsmen's Fund for their support. The Committee anticipates 90 participants at the Junior Championship. PROs, Judges, and Coaches are set so there are no concerns at this time.

Junior Powerboat Regatta: Commodore Bob Lang reported the Junior Power Committee is concentrating on getting more juniors involved. We also need the loan of inflatables and adult volunteers to expand the competition.

AFFAIRS ASHORE – REAR COMMODORE TOM THANASIU, JR.

Entertainment Committee: Teresa Vanderford (DBBC) reported that all is ready for the spring banquet.

Publications Committee: Rear Commodore Thanasiu thanked Vice Commodore Reamsnyder for assistance in getting the Newsletter out. Statistics show that only 7% of website visitors are opening the I-LYA Newsletter.

Shore Courtesy Committee: Commodore Lang reported the Bagpipers are lined up for the 2025 Parade and Memorial Service.

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

- The permanent George F. Lonz trophy will be stored and displayed at the Put-in-Bay Yacht Club.
- Keeper trophies are being sourced and will be funded by Commodore Fishbaugh.
- Commodore Kneisel is going to thank the Put-in-Bay Winery for the trophy storage and display.
- There is an I-LYA History page on Facebook with 544 members.
- Melinda McCann Myers has been selected as the Honorary Chairman of the 2025 Regattas.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Election Results for 2025: The following have been elected to serve on the Nominating Committee:

1. Commodore Duane Burgoyne, NCYC
2. Delegate Pam Myers, DBBC
3. Commodore Mike Fishbaugh, SSC
4. Delegate Diane Wright, SBC
5. Trustee Rich McKee, CWHYC

Commodore Kneisel asked the Committee to meet and select a chairman; he appointed Commodore Duane Burgoyne.

Motion by Rear Commodore Thanasiu, seconded by Commodore Powers, to destroy the ballots. Motion carried.

Announcements:

- Commodore Kneisel stressed the importance of taking current information back to their member Clubs to encourage additional involvement. Delegate Jim Knechtges (IHBC) requested that information be made available on the website as quickly as possible for Delegates to share, which Scott indicated would be an upcoming priority.

Motion made to Adjourn: Commodore Kneisel asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion made by Delegate Patty Duffett (WSSC) seconded by Commodore Steve Hyder, to adjourn. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 4:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Connie Miller, PIBYC
2025 I-LYA Recording Secretary



Executive Secretary Report – General Meeting 4/4/2025

1- Club Status Report –

- a. Dues notices sent January 10, 2025**
- b. Clubs paid through March 31st. 98 out of 133 total clubs, ahead of last year by about \$3,000, 24k vs 21k**
 - i. Thank you very much for your prompt payment**
 - ii. For those clubs that have not paid or paid and did not submit a club update form, please get your forms and payments in as soon as possible as the yearbook updates need to be completed in the next couple of weeks**
 - iii. If you are aware of a new mailing address for your club, please see me or email me the updated information**
- c. We have 4 past due clubs at this point who are 2 years behind as of March 30th**
 - i. Buffalo Yacht Club, Grayhaven Sail Club, Grosse Point Yacht Club and Saginaw Bay YC**
 - ii. I do plan additional follow up with these clubs but**
 - iii. Per the Code of regulations Article 3, (f) ii I will send them a letter of suspension this summer and then a notice of expulsion 30 days before the fall meeting where we will vote on expulsion – this gives them plenty of time to pay their dues before this happens**
- d. Dues second notices will be going on in the next week or so.**

I-LYA Ohio Marine Trades Report Spring 25

Transportation Budget Heading to Governor

House Bill 54, OMTA supported amendment to exempt watercraft dealers from having title transfers notarized. We heard from our that having a notary on staff at all times had gotten burdensome, so we requested an exemption modeled after one provided to auto dealers. A notarization will still be required for casual sales. But for registered watercraft dealers, it will no longer be required. OMTA is pleased to report that the final version retains this provision.

Ohio Registration Fee Increase

OMTA sent a request to ODNR for additional information on their plans for additional revenue they would generate from a proposal to increase boat registration fees. We have not yet received a response. The OMTA Board voted to oppose the proposal until we received additional detail on how the increase will be used to benefit boating, by way of ramps, dock upgrades and washing stations.

State Budget Bill

Line items of interest to OMTA are as follows:

7086 739401 Watercraft Operations	\$ 28,432,898	\$ 28,922,532
7086 725414 Waterways Improvement	\$ 5,782,184	\$ 5,880,807
5TD0 725615 Park Maintenance	\$ 1,540,331	\$ 1,540,331
GRF 725505 Healthy Lake Erie Program	\$ 931,976	\$ 939,077
5140 725606 Lake Erie Shoreline	\$ 1,694,771	\$ 1,732,863
4U60 725668 Scenic Rivers Protection	\$ 58,860	\$ 58,860
GRF 235402 Sea Grants	\$ 308,000	\$ 308,000
GRF 730321 Parks and Recreation	\$ 55,000,000	\$ 55,000,000
2270 725406 Parks Projects Personnel	\$ 4,831,529	\$ 4,976,475
5140 725606 State Parks Operations	\$ 43,122,931	\$ 43,358,465

H2Ohio Specific Appropriations by agency:

Ohio Department of Agriculture:	\$ 60,607,500	\$ 60,662,000
Lake Erie Commission:	\$ 132,000	\$ 132,000
ODNR:	\$ 46,622,268	\$ 46,622,268
Ohio EPA:	\$ 27,537,015	\$ 27,537,015

Boat Registration Writing Fee

There is a change proposed to allow ODNR, or their authorized agent, to charge a writing fee of \$5 (currently it is \$3).

House Bill 96

House Bill 96 has proposes creating two new funds first the Park Lodges, Maintenance, and Repair Fund consisting of monies received contracts with service providers and concessionaires for state park lodges, restaurants, and marinas. The second fund created is the parks and watercraft holding fund. This fund consists of gift card, credit card, or sales at the field. Below is the implementing language.

Sec. 1546.25. The park lodges, maintenance, and repair fund is created in the state treasury. The fund shall consist of money received from contractual agreements with service providers and concessionaires for state park lodges, restaurants, and marinas. The chief of the division of parks and watercraft shall use money in the fund to pay maintenance and repair costs for facilities operated by concessionaires and service providers at state park lodges, restaurants, and marinas.

Sec. 1546.26. The parks and watercraft holding fund is created in the state treasury. The fund shall consist of money received by the division of parks and watercraft from gift card sales, credit card sales, and sales conducted at field locations.

With regard to gift card sales, the chief of the division of parks and watercraft shall transfer money in the parks and watercraft holding fund to the appropriate fund after gift certificates and gift cards are redeemed.

Fishing License Fees

Non-resident fishing licenses increasing as follows: \$49 to \$74 for annual, \$24 to \$50 for three day and \$13 to \$26 for one day.

“Spotter” Bill Introduced

Representative Levi Dean has introduced [House Bill 183](#) to remove the requirement that boats have a “spotter” when participating in towing water sports. Under the bill, a boat with a rearview mirror would be an acceptable alternative to a person serving as the spotter. The Ohio Marine Trades Association has long been opposed to this proposal for safety reasons. The bill also doesn’t take into account risk levels on different bodies of water and at different times of the season, nor skill level of the person being towed.

Senate Passes Marijuana Law Changes

The Ohio Senate has passed [Senate Bill 56](#) that makes changes to the recreational marijuana law passed by voters in 2023. The bill does things such as modifying THC limits. The bill also tightens provisions regarding public use. While the citizen initiative statute stated that public places were not required to allow use, and could prohibit it, the changes passed as part of SB 56 would specify that: *the smoking, combustion, and vaporization of adult-use , and vaporization of medical marijuana, is **permitted only in a private residence that is not a childcare home or a residential premises occupied pursuant to a rental agreement that prohibits such activities.***

Submitted by:

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Government Advantage Group