



March, 2019

Dear Members and Friends,

It may seem a bit chilly to be thinking about boating, but in fact it is time to renew your membership in the Lake Bluff Yacht Club. We have lots of opportunities for sailors, kayakers and paddle boarders to enjoy our great natural resource, Lake Michigan. We also offer plenty of social opportunities, ranging from cookouts on the beach, to brunch on the Bluff and the Lobster Boil. So even if your idea of a fresh breeze is what happens when you open a carbonated beverage, we have activities for you. Please take a look at the enclosed calendar of events so you can plan your fun accordingly. The calendar is also available on our web site [www.lakebluffyachtclub.org](http://www.lakebluffyachtclub.org). We want to see you and your family at Club events and down at the lakefront having fun.

As usual, there are several issues of importance I would like to bring to your attention as we start the year:

**Membership: Dues and storage fees are due by May 1st.** It is very important that we receive your dues by that date if you currently have storage in the compound and you want to continue to have the storage slot(s). \*\*\***This year, membership dues and fees for storage slots are due at the same time. The compound is currently at full capacity. If you have not paid your storage dues on time, May 1, 2019, you may lose your storage space.**\*\*\* You can pay your dues either by completing and returning the enclosed form or going to our website and signing up electronically.

**Adult Sailing Classes:** This year the club is offering a seven week learn to sail class on Saturday mornings taught by our members who are trained and certified by US Sailing as small sailboat instructors. We want more people to know how to sail and enjoy the sport. More information is on the website, but class size will be small – 10 students – so if you are interested, sign up quickly.

**Boat Compound:** Last year we had three separate incidents of equipment being stolen or “borrowed” from the compound. While we work hard at keeping the compound locked, the fact of the matter is that lots of people use the compound, including the Summer Sailing camp, and the gates are sometimes left open. There are U bolts next to every slot and **WE ASK ALL OWNERS TO LOCK UP THEIR EQUIPMENT WITH CABLES WHEN NOT IN USE.** This year we have received permission from the Park District to install a video monitoring system at the compound to further enhance the compound security.

**Safety and Personal Flotation Devices:** Last year, one of our neighboring clubs experienced a drowning by a kayaker who was not wearing a life jacket. Please don't let that happen to us. **ALL MEMBERS AND GUESTS MUST WEAR PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES AT ALL TIMES WHILE USING SAILBOATS, KYAKS AND PADDLEBOARDS.** This is a club rule, not one enforced by the Park District, so the fact that the lifeguards at the beach don't tell you to put on a life jacket has no bearing on your obligation as a club member to wear one. My years of experience have taught me that weather and conditions can be deceptive and change very quickly on Lake Michigan, so respect the lake and wear your personal floatation device.

Thank you for your continued support for our club and I look forward to seeing all of you at the beach, on the water or at one of our social events.

John M. Palizza, Commodore