



March, 2018

Dear Members and Friends,

During the long, cold months of winter, your Lake Bluff Yacht Club Board of Directors has been busy planning for the sailing, paddling and social activities we enjoy so much when it finally gets warm enough to go down to the beach. Whether you are a sailor, a paddler, or just enjoy coming to our parties, we have activities for you, so 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. We want to see you and your family at Club events and down at the lakefront having fun.

There are several issues of importance I would like to bring to your attention as we start the year:

Membership: Dues are due by Friday April 20, 2018. 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). *****As we did last year, we will be sending out bills for storage slots after you have paid your membership dues. The compound is currently at full capacity and there is a waiting list. If you have not paid your storage dues on time, Friday May 11, 2018, you will lose your storage space.***** You can pay your dues either by completing and returning the enclosed form or going to our website, www.lakebluffyachtclub.org and signing up electronically.

2018 Sunfish North American Championships: We will be hosting both the youth and adult championships for Sunfish this year between July 30th and August 4th. Because our beach in Lake Bluff is too small to accommodate the 60 – 70 boats we anticipate, the event will be held at Waukegan's public beach, however, we will be asking many members to help out, either through volunteering or by hosting some of the sailors in your homes. The Championships are qualifiers for the Pan American Games, and we anticipate a number of international sailors attending. We'd like to make sure they become acquainted with Midwestern hospitality and we hope that you can help make their stay memorable.

Safety and Personal Flotation Devices: I am a bug about safety, and so I want to remind everybody about our rule regarding personal flotation devices (life jackets). **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 change very quickly on Lake Michigan, so respect the lake and wear your personal flotation device.

Boat Compound: Safety is also our biggest concern with respect to the boats and boards stored within the compound. This encompasses not only the physical equipment stored in the compound, but potential liability for unauthorized use of equipment stored within the compound. There are U bolts next to every slot and we ask all owners to lock up their equipment with cables when not in use so that unauthorized people cannot come in and "borrow" your equipment. This year we will be installing a video monitoring system at the compound to further enhance the compound security

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