

The club has been saved! Let me explain.

Though the Commodore position is the highest position in the club, and I do not take that position lightly, and I think things have been for the better than the worse since I took the job in January 2018 (especially the financial position we are now in), I always felt the most vital position of this club is the Secretary's position.

The Secretary must keep records on 600 members, take accurate minutes, supply a yearly calendar of events, and make sure adequate signup sheets for the various volunteer jobs we need. In addition, the secretary must keep track of all the member credits and volunteer jobs and field all the calls when a member disputes those discrepancies in the record keeping... Need I say more about the importance of the job?

For awhile now, with elections coming up in a couple months, I have hammered the need for a Secretary beginning in 2020. Our current Secretary, Guy Brown, who has brought the club out of the dark ages and up to the 21<sup>st</sup> century with his detailed and thorough record keeping since he took over the job in 2018, is planning to run for Commodore.

So, for the past four months, at the general membership meetings, at any outing, at anytime, I have announced, pleaded, whatever, asked if any member would like to consider running for the Secretary position. **DEAD SILENCE.**

As I saw it, if nobody stepped up, we had two options: Function without a secretary - which is not an option. Or hire someone to do the job. You would think that a club of 600 members could find one person to volunteer.

At this point, we do have one option. Roger Haney found and recommended a person, Tom Lee, who is not a member, but is on our waiting list. Tom is retired and says being retired allows him the time to do the job. Guy conducted an informal "interview" with Tom, where he really laid out what the job entails, the time required, familiarity with Excel, etc. etc. Tom also asked some pertinent questions of Guy and after it was said and done, Guy was quite confident Tom could be the right person for the job and will do a great job. Tom agreed to be secretary for two years if elected.

My recommendation is, if no member volunteers to run for secretary by the time nominations close after the November meeting, then Tom will be moved up the wait list and be approved as a member so he will be eligible to run during the December elections.

The board will discuss this possible scenario at the November board meeting and make a decision at that time. That decision will be announced at the November general membership meeting for member questions or concerns.

I have but one vote on the board on the decision whether to bring in Tom off the wait list or not, but I think it is a fair and best-for-the-club decision to bring Mr. Lee in as a member and take advantage of his willingness, experience and talent that he would bring to the club as secretary.

**More on the elections** –There are two board of directors openings, as well as the secretary, vice commodore, and commodore positions up for election for the 2020-2022 term. To date our nomination chairman, Sam Bobb, has Charlie Kite and Allan Grossman willing to run for the board. As previously mentioned, Guy Brown wants to run for Commodore and our incumbent

Vice Commodore Thurmond Watson is willing to run once again for Vice Commodore. Any member who wants to be considered for any of the open positions should contact Sam Bobb.

**Ramp update** –We slowly move forward on the possible ramp improvement. Early in September, Cal Gladden (WOC member), Ross Peabody (private engineer the club hired to do preliminary land and underwater surveys) and I met with West Sacramento Port Manager Rick Toft and a member of West Sacramento's staff who handles permits for the city when projects are proposed. Cal and Ross presented their plan on what should be done to repair and improve the ramp (the same presentation they made to the board in late August which was positively accepted by the board). The main question and concern presented was the permit process: just what type, how many agencies may be involved, how long it would take to get the permit(s), and the cost.

At that September meeting, the general overall feeling was that since the footprint will not be changed and there will be minimal damage and displacement of the surrounding area around the ramp, permit(s) should also be minimal.

On September 26, Gladden and Peabody met with the member of the West Sacramento staff and a representative of a company West Sacramento uses when it has to get permits, and more information was provided to Gladden and Peabody on what permits may be needed.

Peabody is going to compile all the information that has been provided and will present the options the board. These may range from us hiring the company the City of West Sacramento uses for permits, to us doing the permit process ourselves.

Stay tuned.

**Derby/banquet** – Our Fall striper derby is set for Oct. 26. Points from that derby coupled with the Spring derby will determine our Angler of the Year. It should be a good day of fishing on the 26<sup>th</sup> with a light lunch and some great tall tales. Remember, the winner is determined by a previously length (done at the start of the derby) and NOT by weight. Points will be awarded to the top 10 places, with 10 points awarded for first down to one for 10<sup>th</sup> place. Those points added to any points you may have accumulated in the Spring derby.

**Membership meeting etiquette** -- Please, as a courtesy to all, turn off your cell phones during our membership meetings. I do not want to have to remind a person whose cell phone is ringing off the hook more than once. If I do, I feel I'm justified in being rather abrupt.