

First, I have some good news:

The City of West Sacramento, through Rick Toft (who manages the port area for West Sacramento) has just graded and paved the entrance and the upper parking lot at the Port. The paving of the entrance ends at the road that leads down to the gate to our club.

This was accomplished through funds provided by the City of West Sacramento and the West Sacramento Fire Department.

The really good news is that now there should be a lot less flooding (possibly none) in that area, not to mention good riddance to the potholes we've had to dodge when trailering our boats.

Now I have some bad news:

The Board has decided to cancel the June 19 potluck. This was partly because over the last year, there has been dwindling participation at the Wednesday evening social potlucks, but mostly because we can't get volunteers to run the night's event.

The issue of volunteers – or lack of them – is of great concern to me. I have structured the Board so the four Directors each has responsibility for coordinating the VFW Hall, Food, Stripper Derby or Volunteers. That person does not do all the work; they coordinate to get the bodies, supplies, etc. to get the work or task done.

Board member Rich Alcartado is the food coordinator. For the past several months Rich has been recruiting for someone to do the June potluck ...with his help, to make sure the food was purchased, cooked and served. No one stepped up, so the Board canceled the event.

The remaining scheduled potluck for the year, August 21, is still on the schedule, but if no one steps up, it will also be cancelled.

The Washington Outboard Club is not just a "fishing club," it is a social organization composed of 600 members with a shared interest in fishing. It is run by volunteers. There are only 10 positions of responsibility needed to run this club - that's 1.666666% of the club's membership – but those 10 can't do it alone while the other 98.444444% just sits back. Besides that, volunteering is the best way to get to know other members, to contribute, to share ideas, to become a real part of the group. It's also good for your mental health, according to my wife (who is almost always right).

We have been blessed over the years to have dedicated, hardcore volunteers do various jobs. Not to overlook anybody, but an example would be the past half dozen years where Steve Rath and Rich Alcartado have handled anything to do with food and dinners and potlucks and cooking, and Rick Tietz has spent countless hours fixing potholes.

**Defining membership requirements** -- Related to volunteering and meeting membership requirements, I provide this section of the bylaws that spells what a member must do to retain an active membership:

*Section 5, Article C states: Membership in the club may be terminated by the Board of Directors when any member does not attend or participate in two (2) club functions a year. (A year is defined as the period beginning 1 June through 31 May) Functions being regular membership meetings, dock or area, work parties, kitchen help at club dinners, 1 donation of blood to the*

*club's account, or combination of each to make a total of two (2).*

There may be a misconception, right or wrong, that to retain your membership, all you have to do is make two meetings. But our bylaws are pretty specific about criteria for retaining a membership.

It's not just attending two meetings. "Functions" is the key word here. And there's only the month of May left to fulfill the requirements to retain your membership. Also, beginning last year, new members were required to volunteer for two or more functions (attending meetings and blood donations do not count) in order to maintain their membership.

**Renewals** – June is the month for members to renew their membership. The first two dates will be at the VFW Hall on June 11 (Tuesday) and June 20 (Thursday). The final renewal date will be June 22 (Saturday) at the port. You will be receiving your membership renewal form this month.