
Election Edition 2019

Meet the Candidates – Monday, November 18th
5:30 – 6:30 PM.

Voting Deadline – Friday, November 22nd. **Ballots must be received in the SSS office by 6 PM on Friday, November 22nd.**

Annual Membership Meeting – Sunday, November 24th
11 AM – 12:30 PM

The Burgee – Election Edition 2019



N27°20'14" - W82°34'25"

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From the Commodore



Welcome to the Sarasota Sailing Squadron 2019 election edition Burgee! Our nominating committee has presented a slate of candidates for your consideration.

With the help of our outstanding staff, a committed board and hundreds of member volunteers we have made great strides in 2019. Our membership numbers are the envy of clubs nationwide, and we remain a destination of choice for regional, national and international events. Plus, we have the best place in the world for us!

Thank you everyone for your contributions to the sustained progress of our beloved club. Your efforts are what make the Sarasota Sailing Squadron the greatest! Happy sailing!

From the Election Judge

Jon Dowd



It is a privilege and honor to serve as the judge for this year's election. Here are a few things you should know....

The annual membership meeting is on Sunday, November 24th but voting closes Friday, November 22nd at 6:00 pm to allow us to complete the ballot count prior to this meeting. A voice vote to ratify the slate will occur at the Annual Meeting. You can read up on these candidates in this "election burgee" or on the SSS web site...please do your homework!

Another great opportunity is to attend the **Meet the Candidate's Night**
Monday Nov. 18th at 5:30- 6:30 PM

The election ballot is included in this Burgee or can be found in the SSS office or the SSS web site. Voting instructions are clearly explained here as well.

You must be a "member in good standing" for your vote to count. You can check with the club manager to be sure you're up to date.

I believe we are all lucky to be members of the greatest sailing club on planet earth and this is our opportunity to participate in its future. Take the time to read up on the candidates, it is important.

From the Nominating Committee



The Nominating committee comprised of members John Huber, Michael Kaighin (Chair, pictured), Tom Krueger, Michelle Lee and Scott Liebel met over the course of the summer with the purpose of identifying potential candidates for the following board positions: Commodore, Vice Commodore, Rear Commodore, Treasurer, Education Director and Regatta Director.

We are pleased to announce that we have found qualified candidates, who are excited to volunteer their time to serve the best interest of the Sarasota Sailing Squadron membership. I want to thank the Nominating Committee members for their commitment to the process.

The Nominating Committee will be hosting a Meet the Candidates Night on Monday, November 18th at 5:30. This is a great opportunity for the SSS membership to learn more about the candidates and thank them for their commitment to the SSS and eagerness to serve.

It is a privilege to be a member of the World's Greatest Sailing Club and I encourage all members to cast their votes this election.

Candidate for Commodore – Richard Elsishans



My passion for sailing began when a close friend asked me to crew for him on our college racing team at Southern Methodist University. I really didn't know much about sailing, but I was eager to give it a try! I've been hooked on sailing ever since. After college, I joined the Air Force and worked my way through the ranks to become a senior flight instructor in the B-52. Without a doubt, the diversity of job assignments I had while in the Air Force has helped me immensely while serving on the squadron's Board for the past six years. These experiences ranged from managing large scale construction programs, maintaining a base's electrical utilities, developing a safety program for a flying squadron,

leading planning teams during exercises with our allies in the Pacific, and guiding the flying training program at the B-52 schoolhouse.

As I mentioned earlier, I have served on our Board for the past six years, first as Race Captain and then as Vice Commodore. I am proud of the work our elected volunteers have done to make the squadron a better place for all of our members. Some of the projects I have worked on include:

- Founding a one-design fleet of MC Scows at the squadron
- Growing the One-Design Midwinter's in to the top money-maker for the squadron
- Bringing the newly developed Melges 14 fleet to Sarasota
- Coordinating the squadron's replacement of our aging wave fence and dock facility

I also spend much of my time working with the Boy Scouts. During my five year tenure as Scout Master, thirty young men achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. You can't imagine how proud I am of those guys! And over the years we've gone on some amazing trips. Some of my favorites include backpacking in New Mexico, white water rafting in the Carolinas, and kayaking through the Everglades. I love being outdoors!

I am truly honored to be on the ballot as your Commodore. I have worked hard to ensure a bright future for our squadron, and I am deeply committed to keeping it a place that everyone can come and enjoy!

Candidate for Commodore – Steve McCormack

I am Stephen McCormack and I am running for the position of Commodore. My membership in the



Squadron dates back to 2000 and in these years I have held the positions of Treasurer and Rear Commodore. If elected, I will lead the board, staff, and members to begin construction of major capital improvements, as well as increase operational efficiencies. It is my intent to work with everyone to develop and improve procedures, providing future leaders of the club with the tools needed to make wise decisions to move the Squadron forward.

In 2020, the squadron faces some very pressing and expensive issues pertaining to the replacement of the “wave fence” dock. As the current Treasurer, I am working with the finance committee to provide the board and members with the most prudent financial path to complete this project. As well as maintain the flexibility to face the known and unknown future financial needs of the club.

My educational background includes a Bachelor’s degree in Aerospace Engineering from St. Louis University, a Master’s of Business Administration from the University of South Florida and finally additional courses in financial analysis and mechanical design.

As for the fun stuff, I am an avid sailor of a 1974 International Folkboat. This is a traditional full keel displacement sloop originally designed in the 1940’s. It was built to sail in the heavy winds and deep waters of the Baltic Sea. When the winds pick up my crew and I call it a “Folkboat” day!

My involvement in the club over the years provides me with a deep understanding of club issues. This, along with my desire to foster open and fair discussions on club decisions makes me the best candidate for the position of commodore in 2020. I appreciate your support. Let’s work together to keep the Sarasota Sailing Squadron, the BEST sailing club in the world!

Candidate for Vice Commodore – Sue Forrest



My name is Sue Forrest and I am running for the office of Vice Commodore. I learned to sail at the SSS in 2010 and I think as most of us got hooked! We have a wonderful and unique club and I feel extremely fortunate to be a member here. I have served on Race Committee, Standing Rules Committee, and Grounds Committee Chair for the Labor Day Regatta. I have also been an unofficial gardener, building the squadron gardens with my High School students in 2011-2013 and continue to volunteer to keep them up. I feel that now I would have the time and continued passion to serve the members in

a different capacity as your Vice Commodore. In my professional career both in education and laboratory science, I have written many grants, headed up successful fund raising campaigns, and membership drives. I am very excited about our Long Range Plan for the squadron. There would be much to learn in this position, and I am willing and able to serve you. My boat is Emma, and she sits on the dock, come by and say “Hi”, I would love to meet you!

Candidate for Vice Commodore – John Santiago



Born in Brooklyn, NY, raised on central Long Island, I enjoyed my youth growing up in Brentwood. My dad worked for himself as an auto mechanic, at a Texaco station. My mom worked for Mary Sonkin's Answering service. That's how they supported our family of five. I had two sisters, one older, one younger. Long Island was a great place to grow up.

I spent my entire youth as a product of the Brentwood School system, graduating from Brentwood High School Class of '72. We were 1,275 strong! I still remember the heat of that long day, but not much else. I spent summers on Great South Bay digging clams before I went to College. In the winter I would pump gas at Dad's shop, or help rebuild starters for Electro Dynamo Rebuilders.

I went to College at State University at Oneonta, NY, but left after a year and a half. It wasn't for me. I left to learn to weld, and was soon offered a job putting up smokestacks for a local company. I traveled, and became a Field Construction Boilermaker. I worked through the Local Union #5 for various employers. I traveled for work for years.

I married my childhood sweetheart, gave up travelling, and started working for the local power company in 1981. I was part of a crew that worked all over Long Island at various locations sharing whatever work was needed by other parts of the company. In the winters we hosed down powerhouse boilers, or helped overhaul turbine generators, in the summers we helped other divisions, on gas holders, or gas system upgrades.

I eventually landed a job as a field operator at the Shoreham Nuclear Power Station. I thought I found a home. I earned my Nuclear Reactor Operators License, and moved to Wading River, NY where my wife Roseann and I raised our two kids. Unfortunately, the power plant never went into full operation and was decommissioned. I saw the end was near and returned to school and earned a Bachelors in Physics. I did a brief stint in the Gas Department installing gas services and repairing gas leaks. I left the gas department to return to the electrical side of the company as a relay technician. This is where I remained until the installation of a defibrillator causing the end of my career in the electrical power transmission and distribution system.

I've lived in Willowbend full time for three of the fifteen years we've owned the home. After building the house in 2004, we've slowly furnished it and used it as our vacation resort. When I moved in full time I became a member of the Sarasota Sailing Squadron to be able to sail and store my Delores, a twenty-five foot Catalina 250K.

I also joined the Willowbend Community landscape committee, however, after joining the Board of Directors, my capacity within that committee was significantly limited in scope. I no longer am active with the Landscape Committee, but as a board member have been assigned the authority to upgrade and ensure proper operation of the community's irrigation pumps and distribution system. I enjoy taking on challenges, as well as being part of a team. I believe that some of my experiences, and acquired knowledge may be an asset to the Sarasota Sailing Squadron. I am currently a consistent volunteer for the Luffing Lassie's, and enjoy the time spent with the organization. I hope to be an even greater addition to the Board of Directors for the Sarasota Sailing Squadron.

Candidate for Vice Commodore – Ted Weihe



I love sailing and contributing to the governance of SSS. I am currently racing an MC, an E-Scow and just completed the restoration of my 1939 Chesapeake 20. Throughout my working career, I have served on numerous civic organizations including several sailing clubs. I understand the diverse needs of cruisers (I cruised an Erickson 35 on the Chesapeake Bay for over 20 years), recreational and racing sailors. I believe all types of sailors should feel welcome to enjoy SSS and Sarasota Bay which I consider the best small boat sailing venue in the US. I have written three self-published books about sailing including one about racing MCs in which royalties support the class and most recently *Sailing in My Time: A Lifelong Passion for Cruising and Racing*, dedicated to SSS sailing friends.

As your rear commodore, it has been my privilege to work with the board and staff on upgrading the grounds, docks and clubhouse. Some highlights include: new fans, recessed lighting, painting the bathrooms, new flag pole, removal of Australian pines and soon their replacement with native trees, and decorating with nautical flags and sailing club pennants. I have written applications to The West Coast Inland Navigation District (WCIND) for matching grants that enabled us to purchase C dock, boat lifts on B dock, replacement motors, and committee and instructional boats.

If elected as your vice commodore, I would support the new commodore in the construction and installation of the new wave fence, initiate fund raising efforts to begin to replace the reserve/building fund which will be dramatically depleted with the wave fence, focus on recruitment of new members, and work with SYS and county officials on acquiring the land next to the radio tower for a potential elevated instructional facility.

Candidate for Rear Commodore – Judy Hodgson



Thank you for considering me for the position of Rear Commodore for the Sarasota Sailing Squadron. Although I've been a resident of Sarasota since 1972, I'm relatively new to the Squadron, having become a member 5 years ago, since marrying long-time local sailor, Andy Hodgson. I proudly graduated from Sarasota High School (Go Sailors!) and have a daughter, two step-daughters, two sons and three grandchildren.

I have been happily involved with the Luffing Lassies for 4 years and have served as Race Captain and First Officer. I've sailed E-scow and now serve as their regular race committee. I am also a member of US Sailing and active with the MC-scow, and Flying Scot groups and enjoy my time as Regatta Race Committee, in any capacity. I especially love fun-sailing with my children and grandchildren on the Squadron rental fleet.

Service is my history, having retired from 30 years in government, in a variety of roles including: Sarasota County Emergency Management Planner, 9-1-1 Center Manager, Manatee County Sheriff's Office IT support, Civilian Training Officer and Property & Evidence Director for the Manatee Sheriff's Office. In these various roles I served on a number of boards including APCO (Association of Public Safety Communications Officers), NENA (National Emergency Number Association) and others. My strengths are creativity and problem solving, I enjoy public speaking and travel.

I look forward to helping the membership to grow and the facility to improve. We need to encourage membership to be involved and active on shore and off. Whether it's the paddle board, the kayak or the sailboat, there's no bad day on Sarasota Bay.

Candidate for Treasurer – Herb Larrabee



In my career with Lockheed Martin I served in many roles beginning in engineering, then into program management and technical and business consulting. Establishing and adhering to budgets and reporting the programs financial status were an integral part of my responsibilities. For the last 15 years at Lockheed I was an ISO certified engineering and financial auditor.

I have been a member of the Squadron's Finance Committee for more than 5 years serving under 2 treasurers. I am the founding member of the Sustainment Committee that focuses on the long term financial support of the many assets the squadron owns. This provides a schedule of future funding requirements. The goal is to help the squadron be better prepared to stay afloat and avoid debt.

The financial prosperity of the Squadron has been my focus. I look forward to contributing toward keeping the squadron 'The Best Sailing Club in the World'. I ask for your support.

A little about how I got here. I grew up in south eastern Connecticut where my dad was a naval architect. Boats and sailing were always a part of my life. I began crewing on big boats. Later this evolved into one design sailing, J24's, Ensigns, and others. After college I drove submarines. Just after leaving the submarine service I met my wife Meg. I later entered graduate school in a dual degree program, MBA/Computer Science. While pursuing the MBA, which included accounting and finance, I was a small business consultant.

We moved to Sarasota in 1980, joined the Squadron and purchased a San Juan 21. We started our family of 2 sons, who participated in the youth sailing program. I was active with the San Juan fleet and chaired the San Juan Midwinter Regatta for many years. I founded the first Squadron One Design Midwinter Regatta. This collected the many midwinter venues into one event which reduced volunteer burden, improved profit and allowed for a better event for the competitors. Today it continues to be the squadron's premier spring event.

In 2000 our family relocated to England where I was a technical and business consultant. I became involved in international regattas predominantly as judge. While in England I sailed a Laser. In 2007 we returned to the states settling at corporate headquarters in Virginia. I became active with the Naval Academy's Dinghy Sailing program and intercollegiate sailing programs. In 2012, I retired, returned to Sarasota, rejoined the Squadron, and now sail a Flying Scot.

I have served on the squadron's board twice before.

Candidate for Education Director – Chuck Feldman



I grew up in Miami and sailed with my dad after school every day. I left Florida when I met my wife and spent the next 25 years in New Jersey. I missed living by the water for all those years. A few years ago, my wife and I moved to Sarasota. It did not take long for me to find the Sailing Squadron. It brought back all the memories of my dad teaching me to sail.

So if sailing is in my DNA, one could say that education is my passion. My dad taught high school, my wife was a college professor, and I have found my in the front of a college classroom. What I know is this, education, of all kinds, changes lives. Sharing the joy and lessons of sailing with others would be an activity to which I would commit to with enthusiasm and creativity. I know that I could contribute in a way that would enhance other's lives. I also know it would enhance mine and it would give me a chance to honor my father's lessons to me both on a sailboat and in life and my desire to share and pay it forward.

Candidate for Education Director – Ray Markham



I have been the Education Director for five years. During this time with the help of several education committees (Brenda Scanlon, Richard Elsishans, Bob Miller, Jane Owens, Bob and Brenda Twinem, Alana O'Reily, Barry Milbourn, Craig Bridges, and Penny Durham), we compiled a printed curriculum for the Start Sailing Now, the adult sailing instruction. After beginning with several donated O'Day Sailers, four Hobie Waves were purchased and a new RS Venture sailboat. A rental program for members began using the same boats as well as kayaks and SUP's. Within the past year, David Ames and Jordan Byrd joined Julie Forbes as instructors and new

lessons on the Flying Scot (racing group instruction) began most weeks as well as intermediate and advanced sailing techniques on the RS Venture. Over 5 years, Start Sailing Now and the rental program has been able to grow membership in the Squadron, raise the level of sailing ability of members and added revenue to the Squadron.

In 2017, the Squadron Board authorized the formation of a 501(c)(3) named Sail Sarasota, Inc. and asked me to form this charity for the benefit of sailing education. I serve as Vice President of Sail Sarasota (and a liaison to the board) which was recognized by the IRS last year. During the FY 2018-2019, it donated \$33,700 in boats and cash to the Squadron.

While I have been Education Director, we have had on-going training for race committee, mark boat, safety boat, and a US Sailing PRO course last year. There have been capsize and recovery drills and classroom presentations of water safety for adults, the Boy Scouts and several middle school groups. There have been seamanship lectures, Squadron history presentations and numerous racing topics presented.

Prior to moving to Sarasota, I taught and coordinated education in oncology.

Candidate for Regatta Director – Claire Morda



I'm running for Regatta Director. I'm running because I believe this position needs to be filled to continue to advance and enhance the squadron's place in attracting and maintaining quality regattas-our own and invitational. We have an outstanding venue for regattas of many types from Opti's to skiffs, multihulls, keelboats, PHRF.

Our club originated and continues to be run and governed by volunteers, the backbone of all we do. I want to be part of the governing board to participate and add my voice to the future of who we are and what we can do to make our regattas the best they can be. And it wouldn't be a bad thing to have a woman on the board, especially as women's sailing increases in different classes and racing.

To tell you something about me as a sailor, I'm a latecomer to the sport-only because I didn't have the opportunity earlier. I learned to sail about 12 years ago, started racing on J24's and Harbour 20's, crewed on America II, a 12 metre that was a Dennis Connor practice boat during the 1992 America's cup, a short time on Sunfish, and have crewed on and delivered big boats. I am an Oakcliff (USSailing High Performance Training Center) supporter so I get to race on Swedish Match 40's, classic boats, Shields. I was on the delivery crew of their Ker 50 from Bermuda to Newport, which we hand drove through a horrible storm in the gulf stream without a boom.

I've worked in different venues on Race Committee doing all positions in match, one design, skiff, scow, multihull, PHRF. I've passed the test for club pro, waiting to be accredited. I ran 2 very successful international regattas in NYC for J24 racers. I organized the event, the racing, coordinated the food, awards, dinners, worked with the various tour and ferry operators in NY Harbor, for which I was given a club award for the person who had contributed most to the club.

A view into my past is that I have done manual labor, been a management leader, drove a NYC yellow cab, was a cab dispatcher, furniture mover, black car owner (corporate cab service) and after going to grad school, been a PSC (Professional Staff Congress) union rep, an ESOL professor in Russia, France and City University NY (CUNY). All of these jobs involved dealing with the public, with administrations, union negotiators, and with different faces, different places.

I'm passionate about our environment and have worked with the Squadron staff to improve, upgrade and make us leaders in Sarasota in moving towards a plastic, pesticide free operation. I have instituted practices within the club that have allowed us to reach varying degrees of certification from Sailorsforthesea.org, which puts us among other well-known sailing clubs and organizations as leaders in the field. I've become known to some as the "plastic police" and I don't mind at all.

The Burgee – Election Edition 2019

Ballot for Election - Sarasota Sailing Squadron Board of Directors

Ballots must be received in the SSS office by 6 PM November 22, 2019.

Check only one box per office.

Commodore Richard Elshans
 Steve McCormack

Vice Commodore Sue Forrest
 John Santiago
 Ted Weihe

Rear Commodore Judy Hodgson

Treasurer Herb Larrabee

Education Director Chuck Feldman
 Ray Markham

Regatta Director Claire Morda

This ballot is my proxy to conduct the Annual Membership meeting.

Printed name: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____

(Alternatively you may include your ballot without name or signature in a sealed envelope on which you print your name, date and signature.)

*Only 1 vote per Membership

*Mail to:
Election Judge - Sarasota Sailing Squadron
1717 Ken Thompson Parkway-Sarasota, FL 34236