

## Richmond Dive Club – Tuesday, May 9, 2023 Membership Meeting

Meeting held at O'Toole's Restaurant and Pub Forest Hill Ave. Richmond, VA and via Zoom.

Club President, Larry Antonacci began the meeting at 7:00 pm. Approximately 28 attendees (in-person or online).

- **New Member Introductions:** 2 new members introduced themselves: Alex and Jeremy, and a returning member, Jodi (sp?).
- **Used Gear:** Brian Cohen showed his BCD that he is selling.
- **Diver Days:** Larry reminded attendees that the first one for this year is Sunday, May 21 at Lake Phoenix. Registration is open; see the link on the website. Lunch is provided. The park fee is part of what our membership fees pay for, but does not include air. Remember to complete the releases.
- **Sponsors:** Larry recognized our 6 corporate sponsors again:
  - Tri City Scuba
  - Lake Phoenix
  - Dive Connections
  - Brunswick Scuba
  - Fluvanna Dive Center
  - The Dive Shop
- **Treasurer's Report:** Larry reported we now have a total of 76 members; 70 regular members and 6 corporate members. We have close to \$7,300 in the bank.
- **By-Law Updates:** Larry reported that an email went out ahead of this meeting with the proposed by-law changes (marked in red) and additions to the bylaws are as follows:
  - 8.1 An election for the Officers, shall be held at the Annual Meeting in October **every other** year. Officers elected at the Annual Meeting shall assume the duties of their office on January 1 of the following year.
  - 8.4 All elections shall be a term of **two years**...
  - 9.6 The club will pay food and non-alcoholic beverage expenses for each in-person speaker at the meeting. In addition, the club will pay \$100 as an honorarium per in-person presentation.
- Larry noted that we want to adjust terms so the club runs more smoothly. He welcomed input.
- Warren questioned whether a 2 year term would force someone out that could only commit to 1 year.
- Another member suggested considering having some roles that are a 1 year term and other board roles that are a 2 year term, so there is a rotation and prevents having a whole new slate of officers.
- Another member asked what happens if someone signs up for 2 years and then quits.

It was noted that someone can quit now too.

- Debi noted that the club used to have 2 year terms and changed it to 1 year. Why? Probably because it was hard to recruit. The same board members can always rerun for a 2<sup>nd</sup> one year term.
- Another noted that they like the continuity of 2 years. Debi noted that she always thought the 2 year terms made the most sense.
- **A motion was made by Mack that we approve the changes to 8.1 and seconded by Bill. Quorum was confirmed.**
- **Another motion was made by Mack that we approve the changes to 8.4 and seconded by Debi.**
- As for 9.6, much discussion ensued:
  - It was asked how it was handled in the past. Larry explained there was no set amount. Some different amounts were paid. Debi said they didn't pay speakers. Larry explained that some payments were made. Debi then noted some donations were made. Jodi noted that if it is a non-profit, some don't take pay – just donations.
  - Larry noted we want to make it even across the board [for those that travel here to speak in-person]
  - Another commented they were all for this change if the budget permits it.
  - Someone asks if it is \$100 per person; like when more than one person comes to speak? Larry explained it is \$100 per group; not per person. And then it was asked if we would also cover food and beverage for each person. It was noted that we covered the meals for both the speakers who came to one meeting this year.
  - It was asked if 9.6 could be connected to distance – per mile. Debi explained it would be difficult to budget for that. Brian explained it is an honorarium; not a per diem, so it would be the same no matter the distance.
  - Mack noted that what the Board was trying to address was inconsistency. It was suggested that we bring it to membership again after we work on the wording. Another member noted that the goal was transparency and that he appreciated the board for doing this.
  - Someone asked if there is a by-law that addresses what happens if a Board Member resigns early. Brian explained that there is a by-law that allows that we can call a meeting for a special election.
  - **9.6 was officially tabled until reworded** and sent out again. Brian welcomed anyone to email who may want to share additional considerations or to reaffirm a consideration already shared.

- **Speaker:** Brian introduced the speaker, Alex Brylske, author of "Beneath the Blue Planet: A Diver's Guide to the Ocean and Its Conservation."
- **50/50 Raffle:** Collected \$130, so the winner received \$65 and the club the other \$65. Joan was the winner.

Larry adjourned the meeting at 8:34.