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Survey of Commodores Uncovers Clubs Needs

In January of 2023, the LMYA conducted a survey of our commodores to determine what their needs and opinions were about topics of interest to yacht clubs around the lake. Fourteen commodores registered their opinions on how the LMYA might be of assistance to them this year in areas of interest.

There were seven questions on the survey and here are the questions and the responses received. Most of the respondents were commodores, although a few were other officers such as secretaries, treasurers, or vice-commodores.

Special points of interest:

- Survey of Commodores
- New Burgee now available
- Milwaukee breakwater to be repaired this year
- LMYA founded at Racine Yacht Club
- Dogan's report on wind turbines and wave walkers
- Charity boat rides in Illinois

1. Are you interested in knowing when other clubs in your area are having social events which might be of interest to your members?

The responders unanimously answered Yes to this question.

2. Are there any inter-club competitions which are held at your club or others near you that could bring more boaters to your location?

The largest majority responded that poker runs would be helpful, while some others voted for boat shows or other contests—i.e. fishing, sailing, or derbies.

3. Are there any areas where we could secure highly qualified speakers to bring you tips to help your business run more smoothly?

Half of the respondents preferred to hear from speakers on local or federal grants. Many also were interested in hearing about harbor safety issues or tax laws.

4. Do you have any safety issues locally that we can help address to protect your boaters and guests?

A few of the responses referred to harbor safety problems or finding ways to educate the poorly educated boaters on boating etiquette or observing and enforcing no wake areas.

5. What are your environmental concerns for Lake Michigan?

Ten of the responders were most concerned with controlling and monitoring invasive species. Many also cited industrial waste pollution and wastewater treatment plants.

6. Do you have concerns about surrounding tributary rivers?

The answers were similar to question 5. The largest number were concerned with invasive species, followed by wastewater treatment plant overflows and industrial waste pollution.

7. What are your suggestions for improving the LMYA website, LMYA.net?

Most felt the website was fine as it is and found it easy to use.

The LMYA will focus our efforts in 2023 to make changes to help meet the needs of our clubs:

1. We will look for speakers who can present information to our member clubs on topics such as finding grant money for clubs. One grant that is available from the federal government is for installing pump out equipment.

2. We see that there is a need for better training courses for pontoon boaters which have a problem with accidents on the waters. Written courses have not helped to avoid accidents.

3. We will add links to the LMYA website to recent articles on invasive species which threaten the great lakes and tributary rivers.

New Burgees for LMYA are Now Available

New burgees have been produced for the LMYA and will soon be available for purchase. The design follows our most recent logo which came into use several years ago replacing the older rope and knot design. It includes the wording Lake Michigan Yachting Association around our boating design in a bold blue color. The burgees may soon be purchased by going to the LMYA website LMYA.net and using the Burgee Order Form. Here is the new design. The price for a burgee will be \$25, which includes shipping.



Milwaukee Breakwater to be Repaired this year

We have just learned that Milwaukee County has just received a 2.4 million dollar grant to repair and rebuild the Milwaukee breakwater. Contracts have been signed and con-

struction is to begin in just 2 weeks. This repair work has been desperately needed to keep boats from being damaged by storm surge waves coming through gaps in the

wall directly in front of the dockage of South Shore Yacht Club. The gaps were created by the major storm in January 2021 and many boaters were forced to move to other marinas to

reduce the risk of damage to their boats. It's great news for SSSYC, which has been trying for years to get breakwater repairs to fill the gaps.

Our Post Office Box:

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LMYA Officers Elected for 2023

Commodore:	Thomas Dogan
Vice Commodore:	Matthew Dogan
Secretary:	Jim Mergener
Treasurer:	Sally Mergener
Judge Advocate:	Thomas Dogan



Lake Michigan Yachting Association and the Racine Yacht Club

In 1894, five yacht clubs came together at the Racine Yacht Club to start an organization which could govern sailing races on Lake Michigan. That was the start of the LMYA. There were other ties to Racine Yacht Club as several racing regattas were held there by LMYA over the years.

Racine's club was officially chartered in 1916 with a formal club house and elected officers. They are celebrating their 107th anniversary this year. Many of Racine's members have held offices in the LMYA.

The document to the right comes from the LMYA Blue Book and is the record of the formation of LMYA in 1894.

Tom Dogan Reports on Wind Turbines and Wave Machines

Tom has reported from his meetings with the NBSAC (National Boating Safety Advisory Council) in Washington DC that he has been working on a committee which is discussing the safety issues from Wind Turbines being installed on the oceans and lakes. Boaters must be able to navigate around these huge structures which don't show up well on radar units. Another type of energy production machine is a wave walker which draws energy by creating wave movements. He predicts both of them will eventually be on the great lakes.

Formation of the Lake Michigan Yachting Association

Following are the minutes of the first two meetings of the yachtsmen organizing the L.M.Y.A. back in 1894. These minutes are copied from the original Minutes Book, still in existence, and are of historic interest.

Racine, Wisconsin, June 2, 1894.

On May 30th representatives from Green Bay, Milwaukee, Chicago, and Racine were assembled in Racine, where steps were taken to form an association of all the Yacht Clubs on Lake Michigan. The objects were to adopt a uniform set of rules, racing measurements, time allowance, etc.; also a code of signals; and to further the interests in yachting generally.

At the aforesaid meeting E. C. Berriman of Chicago was elected Chairman and J. D. Sarles, Secretary. The membership dues were fixed at \$10.00, to be paid to the Secretary on July 4th at Milwaukee, the time and place set for a formal meeting of the various clubs, when the association would be permanently organized, and officers elected.

J. D. SARLES,
Secretary Protem.

Milwaukee, Wisconsin, July 4, 1894.

Plankinton House 8:00 P. M.—A meeting of the various clubs on Lake Michigan took place for the purpose of forming a permanent organization of a Lake Michigan Yachting Association. E. C. Berriman of the Lincoln Park Club of Chicago presided. The minutes of the previous informal meeting held at Racine were read and approved. The rules and regulations of the Lake Yacht Racing Association of Toronto were adopted, subject to revision by the committee.

E. P. Warner was elected President.
C. J. Williams was elected Vice President.
Thos. Boyle was elected Second Vice President.
C. O. Andrews was elected Secretary.
J. C. Follett was elected Treasurer.

The different clubs represented at this meeting, as follows:

Milwaukee Yacht Club	Milwaukee
Racine Yacht Club	Racine
Green Bay Yacht Club	Green Bay
Columbia Yacht Club	Chicago
Lincoln Park Yacht Club	Chicago

J. D. SARLES,
Secretary Protem.

LMYA to help sponsor charity boat rides in Illinois.

LMYA will be a contributor to a charity boat ride event in Illinois this August. This event known as Phalen Fest began five years ago by taking a group of veterans out for a ride on the Kankakee. It has grown annually to six pontoon boats and a party with bands to honor of our service veterans. We feel this is a well deserved way to salute the veterans who have given so much to defend our country.