



Susquenango SeaChest



Monthly Publication



January 2022

Volume 67 Issue 1

District 6

Susquenango January Happenings

19 January 2022 Executive Meeting, 3801 Country Club Road Endwell, NY
1900 Hours, BYO Libation. There will be cookies and snacks.



From all of us to all of you.

Happy New Year!





SeaChest

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Commander's Comments



Commander
Michael Acciai, AP

Our December meeting and annual Holiday Party was an evening of good food, fellowship, comradery and Holiday Cheer. We had trivia and word games provided by P/D/C Nancy Bieber, P and our only report was a prayer for Peace and Goodwill given by our Chaplin Lt Justin Park, SN. Our staff photographer, P/C Dave Olds, AP was busy arranging our group photo for the SeaChest and our Facebook holiday greeting. I thank them for their time and talent given to the Squadron.

Now we head into 2022 and will have to get down to business at our 19 January Executive Meeting. We must cover upgrading our IT equipment used for our ABC and Advanced classes and start the plans for the District 6 Spring Conference we will be hosting in April.

Our ABC and two advanced courses begin in January and run to May. The schedule is listed on Page 3 of the SeaChest or you can contact SEO Les Smith, JN at (607)797-7391 or visit our website at www.susquenango.org.

I received this request from National to pass on to Susquenango on the possible reorganization being investigated. I would ask you to go the link provided or read the text I have copied to the SeaChest on page 3-5. The times are a changing. It pays to stay informed.

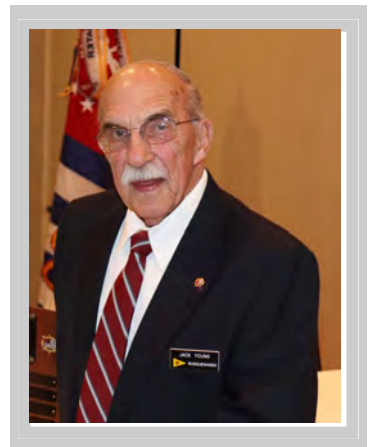
The national Board of Directors has formed an ad hoc committee to examine our organizational structure and operations to better serve our members and local Squadrons/Clubs. We are considering options that may include restructuring districts, forming regions, and/or improving services directly to Members from the national level. Please read the linked article for more information.

<https://theensign.org/organizational-restructuring/>

In closing, Peg and I would like to wish all our members a Happy New Year and a healthy 2022.



And remember the sage advice of Yogi Berra when it comes to Covid-19 "It ain't over till it's over."



P/D/Lt/C John Young, AP
Editor Emeritus

On the Horizon

16 February 2022: Executive Meeting—Location TBD

12 March 2022: Change of Watch and Founders Day—Venue TBD

8-10 April 2022: D/6 Spring Conference—Binghamton, NY

20 April 2022: General Membership Meeting—Location TBD

Susquenango 2022 ABC and Advanced Class Schedule

Piloting	January 4 – March 15
ABC	February 28 – March 28
Boat Handling	April 4 – May 23

For more information - Email: class@susquenango.org
or contact Les Smith (607)797-7391

Classes will be held at the Johnson City High School, 666 Reynolds Rd., Johnson City, NY

ORGANIZATIONAL RESTRUCTURING

Our current organizational structure of Squadrons, Districts, and national leadership was created decades ago when we were a much larger organization and we needed a hierarchical configuration for communication and coordination. Today however, total membership is much smaller, there are fewer Squadrons/Clubs and Districts, and telecommunications is far more advanced. Some Districts are no larger than Squadrons, Districts are consolidating, and too many Squadrons/Clubs dissolve each year. Commensurately, the number of educational courses completed continues to erode. A contributing factor is that our *modus operandi* has not kept pace with how today's boater learns, interacts with others, and depends on technology. As a result, we are challenged to recruit and retain members.

The Board of Directors has created a geographically diverse *ad hoc* group under the leadership of NXO Craig Fraser including David Allen, Allan Bombard, John Crawford, Bob David, Myles Gee, Paul Mermelstein, and Ralph Ziegler. This committee presented ideas for restructuring America's Boating Club at the Virtual Annual Meeting in February, the Governing Board meeting in September, the DEO online meeting in October, and at various District conferences this Fall. As a work in progress, feedback was solicited and continues to roll in. Predictably, there is some concern from members who enjoy participating in District and/or national activities and worry that we will lose that social interaction. Committee members understand; we have the same experiences and have made friends in our own Districts and at national events. It pains us to contemplate major organizational change, but we also recognize the following facts:

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Continued from Pg. 3

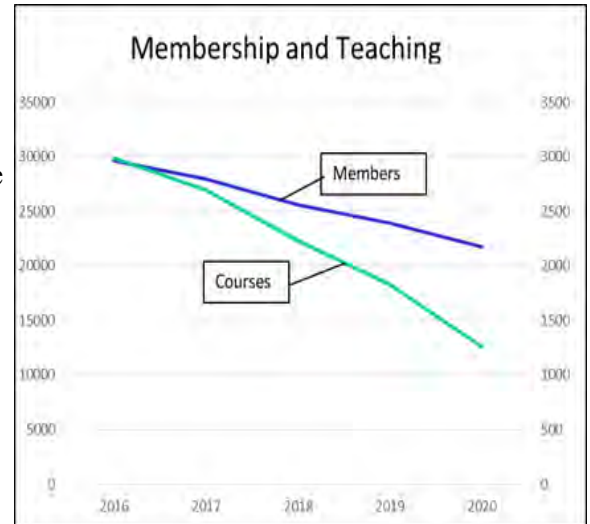
Over 90% of our members have no relationship with, or interest in, District or national activities. They are served by their Squadrons/Clubs and want localized education, boating activities, and social interaction.

It is from this 90%+ that we continue to lose most members. In fact, over half of all new Squadron/Club members leave within two years of joining.

Every District has seen significant declines in both membership and courses taught.

Very few Districts have the resources to help squadrons/clubs stem the losses.

Over 25% of squadrons/clubs have less than 25 members and do not have robust programs.



We are carefully considering a range of major organizational and functional changes to improve the delivery of services in order to attract and keep members. We recognize that changing the organizational structure alone will not suffice. We also need to increase the volume, efficiency, quality, and communication of educational, boating, and social programs that we provide to our members. Our goals are to:

- Increase the attraction of America's Boating Club for both member recruitment and retention

- Meet the needs of members to keep them satisfied and engaged

- Preserve and strengthen squadron/club capabilities to serve their members

- Bolster the capabilities of local Squadrons/Clubs to market and teach boating education

- Where necessary, directly provide education to individual members such as cyber-members and Squadron/Club members who do not get adequate education locally

- Increase opportunities for members to participate in boating events and social activities

- Reduce red-tape and bureaucracy to streamline services, administration, and coordination

- Improve communication to Squadrons/Clubs and to all members

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We recognize that, by definition, boating events and social activities must be localized. Active Squadrons/Clubs should be free to offer what they and their members want. However, many Squadrons/Clubs do not boat much anymore and social activities are often limited to dinners and other gatherings. From our market research, member exit surveys, and common sense, we know that we need to have a much higher level of boating events and social activities to attract and keep members satisfied. Consequently, any organizational change must supplement local Squadron/Club event planning and the conduct of boating and social activities in locales that conveniently interest participants.

There is a range of options for addressing reorganization potentials, each with their pros and cons, including:
Do nothing

Rely on Districts, but allow more freedom

Eliminate Districts and provide services directly from National to local Squadrons/Clubs and to individual members

Consolidate Districts into about a half dozen regions with new systems and procedures that will integrate and synergize both national resources and local Squadron/Club leadership

Some combination of the above

The Reorganization Committee continues to work on this challenge and evaluating options. We have prepared a needs assessment survey that will be sent to all members in order to obtain direct input and better evaluate where we need to improve and what we need to change. We will incorporate this data along with feedback and suggestions that continue to arrive. Additionally, we will examine how we do business, current processes and systems, resources, and organizational functionality. Subsequently, we will determine and recommend the most appropriate course of action for review by the BOD and appropriate committees, before presenting to the Governing Board for approval. The work continues; stay tuned.



Happy Holidays 2021





Some New Year Humor



The
SCOTTISH VARIANT.
At least you can hear it coming.



1979	2020
Long hair	Longing for hair
KEG	EKG
Acid Rock	Acid Reflux
Seeds and stems	Fiber
Hoping for a BMW	Hoping for a BM
Going to a new, hip joint	Getting a new hip joint
Rolling Stones	Kidney Stones
Disco	Costco
Whatever	Depends





How to recognize the moods
of an Irish setter



WHO WAKES UP ONE DAY
and says, "We're going tubing...get the cat"

**Why did the cows return
to the marijuana field?**



It was the pot calling the cattle back.

I found a recipe from Morocco
for homemade dinner rolls. It
called for fresh thyme but
mine was outdated. I used it
anyway.

You know, as I reminisce, I
really like that old thyme
Moroccan roll.

11/11/82



The Evolution of Man

The moment you realize 2022 is
pronounced "2020 too"



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