



VOL. 73

DECEMBER 2017

OTYC

NO. 1



Make your heart like a lake, with a calm,  
still surface and great depths of kindness.

Lao Tzu

## The Omena – Traverse Yacht Club Breeze

Official organ of the Omena -  
Traverse Yacht Club, authorized by its  
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twice yearly.

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### Editorial Staff

Trish Bosco

### Officers:

Commodore, Bob DeVries  
Vice Commodore, Scott Mulligan  
Rear Commodore, Nancy Cooper  
Secretary, Kanda McKee  
Treasurer, Cathy Heiser  
Board Members: Kerry Magrini,  
Linda McKenzie, Tommy  
Newland, Mike Biskupski

**Terms ending 2018:** Mike  
Biskupski, Scott Mulligan, Nancy  
Cooper

**Terms ending 2019:** Cathy  
Heiser, Kanda McKee, Bob  
DeVries

**Terms ending 2020:** Kerry  
Magrini, Linda McKenzie, Tommy  
Newland

**Full Membership initiation fee:**  
\$1,000.00

**Family Membership Annual Dues**  
(includes any child under age 26):  
\$323.00\*

**Single Membership Annual Dues:**  
\$169.00\*

Dues billed January 1, payable no  
later than March 1.

\*Includes \$15.00 for Omena-Traverse  
Breeze subscription

## Commodore's Letter

As the 2017 year comes to a close and we look forward to 2018, I am honored to be writing this letter as your new Commodore. Serving on the Board has given me an even greater appreciation for the hard work our members contribute to make the Club a very special part of life in this beautiful place we call Omena.

All of us are volunteers. Whether we serve as board members, committee chairs, or helpers at our many social events, our Club is special because we care enough to become involved. Volunteerism is the lifeblood of our organization.

2017 saw the departure of three Board members. Former Treasurer Mike Adelson, Secretary Cathy Stephenson, and Vice Commodore Libby Mustaine. Their years of service to the Club were indeed invaluable. Thank you to them for their willingness to volunteer in those capacities. We welcome and look forward to the contributions of new Board members Kerry Magrini, Linda McKenzie, and Tommy Newland.

Thanks also for the work of Dennis Armbruster, Bill Krusel, Dennis Turner and all of our dedicated volunteers. The clubhouse, floating docks and grounds are closed and ready for the winter season. Our youth program, again, set a record for attendance. Logo wear sales were brisk this past season and we once again experienced a very busy and fun filled social calendar. Our boat launch was repaired this fall and is ready for use in the spring.

This winter the Board is asking you to consider donating to the Pledge Drive to defray the cost of resurfacing the tennis court and replacing the fence around the court. The court was last surfaced in '02 and is in dire need of major work. The fence, too, is beyond repair and requires replacement. Our plan is to have the project completed in time for the 2018 season. Painted pickleball lines and removable nets to be used on the existing court are also part of the plan. The project will provide enhanced usage of the court for members and increase opportunities for our young people in the Youth Program. The bid price for the entire project is \$18,000 and while the work should last the club 15 plus years, the cost is not insignificant. As a result, the Board has decided to initiate the Pledge Drive. This is similar to what we have done in the past on big capital projects such as the boat house, sailboat fleet, and club window replacements. You should have received a letter from the Board asking you to consider donating to the Pledge Drive. Please give this your most serious consideration and contact Treasurer Cathy Heiser with questions.

In closing, on behalf of the Board, please accept my best wishes for this holiday season. I look forward to seeing you in 2018.

Sincerely,

Bob DeVries  
Commodore

## TID BITS



Kerry and David Magrini are officially empty nesters, and we are happy to say, “so far so good”. Shortly after returning from Omena, we packed up Robbie and drove him to Miami of Ohio where he is enjoying his freshman year. At the same time, Danny returned to Boston College for his sophomore year studying Economics and Spanish. A week later Maggie moved into her first apartment in New York City where she is working in marketing. Luckily all three are happy, healthy and having a lot of fun. We celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary by hiking in the Adirondacks and then hit the parent weekend circuit. So fun to see the boys in their own environments and meeting their friends. Lucky for us, we were able to squeeze in a week in Omena to help celebrate Dick and Nana’s 60th wedding anniversary. We were a little early for the fall colors, but able to sneak in a few more kayak rides! The visit was topped off with dinner at Blu to honor their amazing accomplishment!

The Cooper clan celebrated the marriage of Emmy Cooper to Marty Rittenhouse in Cincinnati on November 11. It was a wonderful weekend of family and friends gathering from Seattle to Annapolis, Orlando to Chicago. Marty is a legit addition to the family as he has visited Omena numerous times and has received thumbs up from the community.

Marking a very special birthday for Roberta Cohen, Allan planned an incredible birthday adventure in South America! After settling down in Florida for the winter, they drove to Miami and started their trip with a flight to Buenos Aires, Argentina. They explored the beautiful city, ate delicious & enormous cuts of beef, saw tango dancing in the streets, and even visited the difficult-to-describe cemetery where the famous Evita (Eva Peron) and many others are buried. They truly enjoyed the beauty of what is called the Paris of South America. They visited Colonia and then Montevideo, Uruguay, where they saw a professional tango show at dinner one night. The fun continued as they visited Mendoza Argentina, famous for its Malbec wines. Touring wineries for two days and having gourmet lunches paired with a variety of wines made for a wonderful experience. Roberta and Allan even took a cooking class at a boutique winery where they learned how to make empanadas and many other mouthwatering local



favorites. In Santiago Chile, they witnessed the infrequent changing of the guard ceremony at the Presidential Palace, with all of its military regalia and drum & brass music. A day visiting Valparaiso Chile gave them a chance to see the magnificent beaches of the Pacific Ocean. The multi-colored houses and beautiful graffiti art on the well-maintained buildings created a charming city where sea lions sunned themselves on the boulders at the water’s edge. One last stop on this trip brought them to Lima, Peru for Roberta’s actual birthday where they dined at the world-famous Astrid and Gaston restaurant. The dinner consisted of a 17 course tasting menu and ran the gamut from ceviche to guinea pig, rabbit, beef and several different fish & chicken selections before a variety of amazing desserts and assortments of chocolates were presented for the finale. It was an extraordinary meal, and an extraordinary trip celebrating a major birthday.



**In Memory of**  
**Mary Helen Ayars Ray**  
November 18, 1936 - September 23, 2017



Mary Helen Ayars Ray ("MH" to close friends and family), 80, of Wilmette, IL and Omena, MI passed away Saturday, Sept. 23, 2017 at Butterworth Hospital in Grand Rapids from complications due to a stroke.

Mary Helen, born Nov. 18, 1936 in Evanston, IL was the daughter of Stewart Vowell Ayars and Ruth (Marshall) Ayars. She spent every summer of her life in her favorite place on earth, Omena, MI. MH's mother was a sorority sister and very close friend of Helen Smith, mother of Rat (Smith) Renz, at Northwestern University. When MH's sister, Alice, was young, Ruth and Stewart Ayars visited the

Smiths on their cherry orchard and quickly fell in love with Omena. After MH was born in 1936, the Ayars felt it was "rude" to be a house guest with two children which led them to purchase the only cottage for sale in Omena at the time. MH came to Omena for the first time in 1937, that following summer.



Mary Helen spent each summer playing with many dear Omena friends such as, Rat (Smith) Renz, Margy Lyon and Betsy (Lyon) Ehrhardt. In 1947, MH and Rat rode their bikes around the point helping the older kids collect money to rent and eventually buy the dance hall we now call OTYC. MH's father, Stewart Ayars, was on the first OTYC Board of Directors and her mother, Ruth Ayars, was on the first social committee. The club was started for the sole purpose of connecting people and helping to form lifelong friendships - something MH continued throughout her life. In the early days of the club, weekly dinner menus were planned and MH and Rat would ride to every house each week asking members what they planned to bring - these dinners eventually turned into potlucks and MH never missed one! She also was an integral part of the start of the youth program and sailed in the first OTYC regattas on Omena bay, sailing Penguin sailboats. MH was very proud to be a part of the beginnings of OTYC and loved welcoming new members throughout the years to the Omena community.

MH adored every aspect of Omena and sharing it with her husband, John, their three children, spouses and eight grandchildren. Traditions from her childhood were very important to Mary Helen and she passed them onto her family - sailing, playing on the beach, collecting petoskey stones, making jam and perfecting the art of cherry pit spitting contests. As children, she and Rat had cherry pit spitting and swallowing (!!!) contests each summer and MH was happy to prove she could still do it, even as a grandma! MH could hardly wait to return to Omena each summer and when she pulled around the bend on M22, she'd happily announced to the car that she was home.

Mary Helen grew up in Evanston, IL and attended Roycemore School (K-12) where she was valedictorian of her high school class. Mary Helen went on to graduate from Denison University in Granville, OH in 1958. At Denison, she earned the honor of Mortar Board and was a member of the Kappa Alpha Theta Fraternity, remaining strongly involved her entire life.



John and Mary Helen met at the Harris Bank in Chicago where she worked in trust investments. They married on December 19th, 1959. After marriage, she taught fifth grade in Lake Forest, IL. They were loving, involved parents of three children, Kevin, Michael and Linda. Mary Helen volunteered her time to her children's schools and activities, never missing a child's recital, Boy Scout event or performance. She devoted her life to her children and eight grandchildren, always encouraging them to reach their full potential, while providing an excellent example of a loving marriage.

Mary Helen had a gift for reaching out to others, always including those who may have fallen on difficult times. She loved her family and always wanted to be a "fly on the wall" at every event, never missing a chance to make a new friend.

Preservation of the woods she loved so much in Omena, MI was her legacy. She was one of a small group who created the Omena Woods Association, which has protected 135 acres of land from future development insuring this unique and beautiful place will remain unspoiled for generations to come. Memorials may be directed to the Omena Woods Association, P.O. Box 55, Omena, MI 49674.

# OTYC 2017 Annual Meeting Minutes

## July 15, 2017 9:00 am EDT OTCY Clubhouse

### Attendees

Board Members in attendance included Nancy Cooper, Mike Adelson, Mike Biskupski, Bob DeVries, Cathy Heiser, Kanda McKee, Libby Mustaine, and Cathy Stephenson. Scott Mulligan was unable to attend.

Sixty-six (66) members attended the meeting in person. A total number of 120 members were either present or had submitted proxies. Of the proxies submitted, 25 designated the Board to vote on their behalf and 29 designated another member.

### Welcome

Commodore Cooper welcomed everyone to the 2017 Annual Meeting. She noted the full agenda and a commitment to moving along so all can make the most of another wonderful Omena day. Commodore Cooper thanked Tom Oehmke for volunteering to serve as parliamentarian this morning along with the able assistance of Joan Brovins.

### Approval of 2016 Annual Meeting Minutes

Drew Ehrhardt motioned to waive the reading of the 2016 Annual Meeting Minutes. Sally Shapiro seconded the motion which carried. Mike Bosco moved to accept the 2016 Annual Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Bill McMenamy. The motion was approved by the membership.

### Acknowledgements

Commodore Cooper next commented on the many differences within the makeup of the current Board of Directors: representing various careers and hailing from all over the country; some of us have been Yacht Club members all our lives whereas others have joined our community in the last few years; there are those who are in Omena all season while others are here for only a couple of weeks; some are experienced Board members and some are newbies this year. Indeed, its makeup is quite varied. However, the Board has three crucial commonalities which have been the basis for its effective service: our love of this Club; our respect for its past; and our vision for its solid future. Commodore Cooper noted it has been her distinct honor and pleasure to work this past year with: Directors Mike Biskupski, Kanda McKee, Bob DeVries, and Scott Mulligan and Officers including Secretary Cathy Stephenson, Treasurer Cathy Heiser, Vice-Commodore Libby Mustaine, and Rear-Commodore Mike Adelson.

#### A Note from the Breeze Editorial Department . . .

Sending appreciation and thanks to all those that submitted information and photos for this edition. Special thanks to those that read all the annual meeting minutes! Congrats goes to the Krusel family for their winning cover photo in our contest. As always, thanks to pro Jim Miller for his beautiful dock photo gracing our farewell on the back cover. Until spring! Best, Trish Bosco

Three Board members retire from the Board on August 15<sup>th</sup>.

- Libby Mustaine will be retiring after serving for 6 years. Libby has served in various roles during that time always employing a great can-do attitude and well considered opinions while spicing things up with her contagious laugh. Being a college professor, department chair, wife and mother we thank Libby for finding the time to work with us.
- Mike Adelson will be leaving the Board having completed 1 term. Mike has served us well first as Treasurer then accepting the role as our Insurance liaison, both of which he artfully accomplished while tending to dozens of daily meetings for that pesky job of his “down state”.
- Cathy Stephenson is retiring after 2 terms on the Board. Cathy has served with distinction as our Secretary these last five years while, unofficially, she has also been our archivist, business and parliamentary advisor, community liaison, and tireless advocate for the betterment of the OTCY all the while flitting around the world on business and pleasure. We all appreciate Cathy’s shepherding us toward meeting dates and necessary email responses while producing the most amazing Minutes out of lengthy phone meetings involving discussion and tangents, in all directions, interspersed with teasing and laughter.

Commodore Cooper extended her sincere thanks and appreciation to the retiring Directors and the entire Board for their time and attention this past year.

### Commodore’s Report

Enjoyment and use of the Club by its members and families is, and has been, the primary mission of the OTCY since 1947. To that end, the Board has focused this year on preserving and prolonging the utility of the Club’s assets while mitigating its risks. While we all want to maintain the relaxed nature of this wonderful establishment, time marches on and protocols change. In order to be good stewards of our club, it is essential that, while respecting our past, we be responsive to current trends.

In the fall:

- We conducted a property survey where one had not been recorded since the 1950’s.
- Our Club was buttoned up with the Sunfish and waterfront equipment wintering in the Boathouse for the first time, thereby saving the life of the Clubhouse floor and the backs of the volunteer movers.
- Our floating docks were reconfigured to comply with our northerly property line with permits applied for and granted for insurance purposes.

This winter:

- At the suggestion of several members, an AED was purchased and training scheduled.
- Also at members' suggestion the Board developed a new Bylaw policy to welcome our Legacies into full membership.
- The OTYC joined the Lake Michigan Yachting Association which offers several benefits, one of which is complimentary entry into other association clubs.
- And, with the help of our Youth Committee and legal counsel, we formalized documentation for our campers and staff which will protect them and the Club during our summer camp seasons.

In the spring:

- We turned our attention to the Clubhouse which was in need of painting for maintenance as well as esthetic purposes. The entire building was painted and completed in June.
- The parking lot was regraded and designated handicapped parking places identified while the main beach, south beach and the volleyball court were refurbished with additional sand.
- Two damaged Sunfish were repaired, resulting in a full fleet of 6 sailboats available for members' enjoyment and use by our campers.
- Also in the spring, severe damage to the boat ramp and launch dock came to our attention. Both were deemed too dangerous for use and the launch was closed. Lengthy discussion and research resulted in a reconstruction plan for the ramp, a more sustainable dock, and advancement of project permitting.

Commodore Cooper concluded that all in all, it has been a busy and productive year for the Board. It has also been a very busy year for the Committee Chairs, who have devoted countless hours to prepare the Club for the 2017 season.

### *Committee Reports*

*Building - Dennis Armbruster* (Given by Cathy Stephenson in Dennis' absence.)

All is well with the main building, with no serious issues to report. This winter was relatively kind. As with any older building, ongoing maintenance is necessary and expected. The new boathouse has allowed the clubhouse storage area to be reorganized and more usable. Pest control is an ongoing issue. We have one company who does twice yearly preventative applications. Last winter, we had fewer critters in the building and damage was very minimal. We had the entire outside of the building scraped, primed and top coated this spring, including the porch area and the front porch floor. So, all should be good for at least 4-5 years. We had previously scheduled to do one side per year, but doing all at once this year presented efficiencies.

The existing old, shallow well remains a potential problem issue, as the water supply is not aesthetically pleasing. Because of the age of the well, its shallow depth, and unappealing water appearance, a new well and conditioning system continue to be on our "watch" list. In the interim, we have a drinking water cooler located in the bar area. Housekeeping staff are doing a great job cleaning the main building (Sarah) and the kitchen (Rosie) weekly. We should appreciate their work in keeping the building looking great. Members need to continue to help keep the building clean after events by tidying up afterwards. If anyone notices supplies are needed, write a note on the sheet in the kitchen. Thanks to Mary Smart for stepping up to oversee the purchase of supplies this year. The Boathouse is functioning well, allowing the nautical and outdoor equipment to be properly stored (and not inside the main building), freeing up much needed space in the main building storage room. Thanks to the many persons who maintain, improve, and assist with the use of the building throughout the year. It certainly is a team effort. It is a pleasure to help keep this grand lady in good shape for all to enjoy.

### *Grounds - Keith Disselkoen*

The winter was again kind to the property. There was very little winterkill on our plantings. The ornamental trees in the garden were treated this year although it was not done last year so the result is somewhat disappointing. The tree surgeon will do so again next year and assures us we will see improved results. We are continuing to monitor two kinds of elm trees, a slippery elm and an American elm, near the entrance to ensure their survival. The ash tree along the waterfront will be watched. Other trees seem to be in great shape. Cleanup day was held on June 3 with about 25 enthusiastic participants. Thank you to all who lent a hand. The work was nearly completed with an additional smaller workday on June 24 to complete some of the work delayed by the grading and changes to the parking area. With the final dust suppression application, this season's projects are now completed. Additional sand was added to Cove beach and the South Beach. Some of this has already washed away but it makes for a very nice addition to our property. We also did some tree and brush trimming and removal on the South Beach area and have now planted grass in the shaded area of South Beach along the sidewalk. When mature, we anticipate this will continue to be a popular area to bring your grandchildren for sand castle building and a cool afternoon in the grassy shade. We have completed the installation of two handicapped parking spaces adjacent to the building's 'kitchen entrance.' These well marked spaces, perpendicular to the building, were done in coordination with Kanda McKee and Debbie Disch. ***Note, parking is not allowed on the North Side of the new posts to ensure sufficient space for egress from these new designated spots.*** A handrail and staircase were installed to aide in walking from the parking area to the porch.



Kal Excavating installed additional gravel on the parking area and completed grading for improved drainage and reduced puddling. Also better definition of parking procedures is being evaluated to ensure we have sufficient capacity as well as to protect the sprinkler system which is in the grass areas from unwanted damage from parked cars. Parking should not occur on the grass unless there is an event so large that additional parking is required. Please stay on the dirt/gravel areas!

#### *Waterfront – Dennis Turner*

Now is the winter of our discontent  
Made glorious summer by the sun of Omena  
And all the ski parkas that filled our houses  
In the deep bosom of our closets buried.  
Now the slip lottery winners brows are bound with  
victorious wreaths;  
Our bruised Sunfish safely moored;  
Docking alarms changed to merry leavings.  
....with credit to Wm. Shakespeare and Richard III  
Specific missions accomplished included:

- Floating EZ Docks were towed and stowed on South Beach for the winter. Thanks to Thad Tomlinson and his trusty tractor, Keith Disselkoen, Bob Krist, Bill Cron, and Bob Gelakoski.
- Sunfish, kayaks and canoe were stowed on racks in the boathouse for the winter.
- Committee Boat was stowed and winterized; thanks go to Tommy Newland.
- A lottery was held for use of the available slips. All slips were rented.
- The floating EZ Docks were reconfigured in a more compact design which still accommodates the mooring of four Sunfish. Thanks to Scott Mulligan for the very clever redesign.
- Refloating and installation of the EZ docks with more thanks to Keith Disselkoen, Scott Mulligan, Thad Tomlinson and Tommy Newland.
- Training of youth group instructors on how to launch and retrieve the Sunfish with the new dock configuration; similar training occurred and is available to other members who want to sail the Sunfish.
- Two Sunfish with damaged hulls were repaired. Thanks to Bill Krusel for delivery/pick-up of the boats. The Board approved the purchase of two dollies to preserve the newly repaired hulls.
- The possible use of extra section of floating dock as a swim raft of the South Beach is being explored. Secretary's note: ***This idea has been considered by the Board and will not be approved due to concerns for excessive liability to the Club***

*Launch Ramp* - Commodore Cooper asked Bob DeVries to provide an update on the status of the boat launch ramp. Bob reiterated the ramp had sustained significant damage over the roughly 30 years since its installation noting that the sand that supported the concrete ribs had washed away. He expressed concern for the cracks in the ribs and that other ribs had pulled away and that a vehicle driving on the ramp could be damaged. Bob, along with Jim Morrison, a civil engineer with experience in dock structures, Scott Mulligan and Thad Tomlinson reviewed potential solutions and received estimates to pave the surface from the top of the ramp to the water's edge. They met with the MDEQ and USACE, both of which require permits for the work to be done. Permits were submitted in mid-June. Once we receive the approval and permits, Kal will begin the work. The work, including staging, is expected to take 3 weeks. It is Bob's hope that the work will be completed before the end of the boating season so the ramp may be used by members.

#### *Membership - Bill Renz and Suzy Wheeler*

Bill noted that there is a single deadline to note: April 1 when the application for Guest Membership is due. At the end of the season, a Guest Member can then indicate a desire to become a full member, making for a short period of Guest Membership. Bill welcomed the 4 new members to the Club.

#### OTYC 2017 Annual Membership Report Types of Membership

##### Full Members

###### Family New

Joe & Susan (Smith) DeMarco  
Peter & Danielle Moore  
Greg & Marcia McMorro  
Tim & Brenda White

###### Single New

Joey Bensley	change in status
Stuart Williams	change in status

##### Guest Members

Matt & Kelli (White) Fitzgerald  
David & Julie DeWitt  
Jim Morrison & Susie Tock  
Rob Oberndorf

##### Lifetime Members

Mary Cone  
Bill & Marilyn Graf  
Dick & Nana Kennedy  
Bob & Trudy Lewis  
Carolyn Marbach Alis Robinson  
Bill Sandt

## Resignations/Terminations

Scott & Julie Bristow  
Bruce & Carla Cunningham  
William & Be Fuertges  
Sam & Sharon Knoll  
Charles & Linda Melville  
Lucy Loveless  
Suzanne Mason

## Deaths

Larry Bensley  
Jay Grosmark  
Bob Krist  
Tom Maher

## Membership Summary

	2017		2016	
	# of Memberships	# of People	# of Memberships	# of People
Family	119	234	122	242
Single	48	48	48	48
Lifetime	7	10	8	11
Guest	4	7	3	6
total	178	299	181	307

## Logowear - Susie Goldman

Susie indicated last year logo sales broke even. There is new merchandise this year and Susie is now using a screening company based in Traverse City and a local embroiderer. Use of these local resources will save considerably on shipping expense. She encouraged everyone to show their OTYC spirit!

## Social - Gail Bowden

The 2017 OTYC Social Calendar and Leelanau County events calendar were sent out with the spring issue of The Breeze. A revised edition is posted and copies are available at the club. Mary Tonneberger, our wonderful Scuttlebutt reporter has been sending out regular emails to us all with weekly reminders, upcoming events, revised dates and special requests. The 2017 season opened with The Memorial Day Cocktail Party hosted again by Judy and John Smart. The opening dinner was hosted by Ann Marie and John Mitchell with a "Summer Solstice" theme with 106 in attendance. Having everyone pay in advance of attendance worked out well. The 4th of July Picnic was hosted by Nana and Dick Kennedy with set up help from their son, the Krusels and Joe Varley. Eighty plus attended; leftover items such as ice cream and lemonade were to be used by the Youth Program.

Caroline Oberndorf is Catered Dinner chair again this year with five dinners scheduled. The first dinner was held on July 10th hosted by Mary Smart and Marcia Biskupski, a "Purely Non-Partisan Pork Picnic". Lisa Newland is July Potluck Chair; we are still in need of an August chair due to a resignation. All the slots are filled for scheduled potlucks. Entertainment Chair Cathy Heiser has brought back the square dance and sing along that were so popular last year as well as The Jazz Stompers, bingo, game night and a movie night.

Kathy Miller and Charlotte Read hosted the Ladies Social Meeting that had a large turnout with delicious treats and much discussion. The Ladies Luncheon is scheduled for August 17 at Caroline Oberndorf and Brenda Andersons'

homes. Summer Toddy Times chair is Laurie Remter; winter chair is Joan Blount. There was discussion at the Ladies Social meeting about the possibility of extending the season for Toddy Times at the Club. The Labor Day Party will be hosted by Bill and Susan Krusel.

Other scheduled events are The Commodores' Reception hosted by Cathy Stephenson on Friday, August 11 (note change in date from August 12<sup>th</sup>), 5:00-7:00; Beer Tasting with Bill Renz on August 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:30-7:30; a Dance Party with the Geezer Band on August 19th; and a Pickleball Tournament on July 22nd. The signup sheet for volunteers for open positions in 2018 is available.

## OTYC Breeze - Trish Bosco

Trish enjoyed taking over the role of Breeze editor this year and previous editor Kerry Magrini made the transition easy. Winter and Spring editions were published per tradition with a new addition of color printing on all pages. It really helped to bring members' photos to life and was well-received by the readership. After experiencing a problem with printing labels on the first go, Trish extended her apologies for leaving off members with last names in the first initial "R" range. Suzy Wheeler was very helpful in pre-printing the labels for the spring edition. Trish thanked everyone who made contributions and encouraged others to share their news. It is always fun to hear what is happening in and out of Omena. A photo contest will be held this summer with submissions of our beautiful yacht club building due after Labor Day. Winners will be shared in the 2017-18 editions of the Breeze.

## Scuttlebutt - Mary Tonneberger

- 214 listings- some multiple per household; only two members are without email.
- Approximately 50 issues of Scuttlebutt were sent between August 1, 2016 and July 15, 2017.
- Topics focused on upcoming social events, club management, youth camp/registration, and member activities of special interest, including obituaries.
- Normal deadline - Saturday evening before Sunday distribution; exceptions made for Commodore's alerts and special events.
- Host email server has a limit on number of messages distributed per day so some delays occur when other group emails have already been sent on same day.



### *Youth Program - Linda McKenzie*

Adult Supervisors: Linda McKenzie & Sara Goldman  
Staff:

Kati Kattelus - Director (CPR/First Aid/Lifeguard certified)  
Zach Bosco - Head Sailing Instructor (CPR/Lifeguard cert.)  
Jack McKenzie - Sailing Instructor (CPR/Lifeguard cert.)  
Audrey Saxton - Administrator/Sailing (CPR/Lifeguard cert.)  
Elise Kennedy - Sailing/Tennis (CPR/Lifeguard cert.)  
Robbie Magrini - Tennis  
Tess Edgley - Tennis/Sailing (First Aid cert.)  
Grace Bosco - Tennis (CPR cert.)  
Gillian Walker - Floater

Week	Enrolled Campers*	Theme
#1	19 (2 walk-ins)	'Merica Baby!
#2	23	Happy Campers
#3	21	Pirates Quest
#4	25	Olympic
#5	17	Minute to Win It

\* The number of campers will be capped at 25 each week in order to maintain safety and ensure everyone has the best possible experience.

Expenses - The Committee expects to average about \$75 in expenses per week for supplies/snacks, comparable to last year. Once per season expenses will be incurred for: tennis balls, staff shirts, staff whistles, photo paper, camper prizes, water balloons. This year there is an unusual expense for 2 Sponge Rollers to make the tennis court playable following a rain. Linda and Sarah will provide a complete spreadsheet of expenses at the end of season.

Documentation - The Committee Chairs recommended the creation of comprehensive Director, Counselor and Junior Counselor contracts. They drafted contracts and worked with legal counsel to fine tune them. It was further noted that the Camper Release documentation did not fully protect the OTYC, so they worked with legal counsel to create an updated release which all parents complete before their child participates in camp.

Thank Yous were extended to:

Tommy & Jordan Newland - Brought the sunfish/committee boat out of storage and rigged for start of camp.

Dennis Turner & Newlands- Helped train the staff on the use of the new sailboat docking system.

Cathy Heiser - For her prompt attention to paycheck distribution as well as reimbursements.

Parents - Each Friday parents volunteered to bring lunch to the campers - pizza was gobbled up quickly.

Director Search - The search for the camp director began in late February and included placement of ads in different media and culminated with the hiring of Kati Kattelus, a sophomore at Grand Valley State University. She has an extensive background working with children. Kati is CPR/First Aid Certified and a certified Lifeguard. She works well with the rest of the staff and has a great rapport with the campers and keeps everyone engaged, safe and happy.

The staff hired this year has done an outstanding job. They have worked well together and have done an amazing job juggling the variety of ages of campers. Kids are always happy to arrive at camp each day and have been greeted by the enthusiastic staff members. It is fun watching staff as well as campers reconnect each July at camp. There are some new activities and weekly themes such as "Happy Camper Week" (complete with s'mores, hiking through the woods, planting sunflower seeds) and "Minute-to-Win-It Week" where kids learned how to wiggle cookies from their foreheads to their mouths without using their hands...an important skill they can carry with them throughout life. The 5<sup>th</sup> week of camp will be supervised by Linda McKenzie (Sara will have returned home at that point in the season). "Tie Dye Tuesday" is July 18<sup>th</sup> followed by a fashion show of the fashionable creations at potluck on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Some off-site activities have been added this summer.

The main purpose of camp is to encourage lifelong friendships. The staff have a tough job at times since they have all grown up in Omena and know each other's families well. Some staff have siblings in the program and have been able to maintain friendly, professional relationships all while being sure to keep the safety of the children as their top priority. It is noteworthy that there are 5 lifeguard/CPR certified staff members on staff.

### *Nominating Committee - John Ray*

The Nominating Committee, chaired by John Ray, also included Harold McKee and Cathy Stephenson to whom John expressed appreciation. John reviewed the proposed slate for three year terms: Kerry Magrini, Linda McKenzie and Tommy Newland, noting that each had significant roots in Omena and had made numerous contributions to the OTYC over the years. Commodore Cooper asked if there were nominations from the floor and there were none. Drew Ehrhardt moved that the nominations be closed; Michael Ray seconded and the motion carried. Drew then motioned that the slate be accepted as presented, Jim Miller seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The effective date of the change in directors is August 15th.

The Commodore asked for a round of applause to show appreciation for all of the committees and their chairs.

### *Legal Report - Tom Oehmke*

Tom stated that there were four major areas of legal work on behalf of the Club during the past year. He provided an overview of the various individual components of each:

1. Contract Drafting relating to the Youth Camp
  - a. Contracts for the Director, Counselors and Jr. Counselors (minimum wage considerations)
  - b. Parental Release Form
  - c. Worker's Comp insurance application
2. Legal Opinions
  - . Member request for a prescriptive easement which was denied by the Board
  - a. Member request for Board minutes
  - b. Member concern over accumulation or spending of reserves
  - c. Member concern as to checking account endorsement stamp
  - d. Defibrillator (AED) regarding the Good Samaritan law
  - e. Timely filing of annual reports to the State of Michigan
  - f. Bylaw Amendment - transitioning 26 year old (Legacy) Members
3. Beach refurbishment and Boat Launch repair
  - . Review of the KAL contract and refer Waterfront Committee to seek US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) permit
4. EZ Docks - USACE Permit. The process began in July 2016 and concluded in June 2017.
  - . Survey of property
  - a. Insurance as to EZ Docks
  - b. MDEQ jurisdictional dispute with USACE
  - c. Leelanau Township Board of Trustees Approval
  - d. USACE application for 4-slips
  - e. Attorney objection to any encroachment

Tom concluded his comments by saying that the OTYC is in good stead.

### *Treasurer's Report - Cathy Heiser*

In giving the 2017 Treasurer's Report, Cathy said her objective was to share how the Club's finances run from year to year as detailed on a handout. She first reviewed the components of the Profit & Loss statement. Next, she discussed the Standing Principles associated with managing the Club's income and expenses.

Cathy highlighted the main categories of operating expenses and the capital improvements which are deemed one-time expenses. In principle, the Club should be able to cover operating expenses with our revenues, rather than operating at a loss. Cathy reviewed the importance of maintaining a reserve for major expenditures, both unexpected repairs and expected investments related to the Club's assets. Such might include a tennis court or a new roof. She indicated that the benchmark reserve comparison with other not-for-profits is 30-40% of operating expenses.

Cathy stated that the Board has approved a goal of a *minimum* cash reserve of \$40,000 and that there is no designated maximum cash reserve. This amount is in addition to the three CDs on deposit totaling \$18,000.

Cathy next reviewed the two specific financial statements that had been distributed:

1. Profit & Loss statement for Actual 2015, 2016 and projected 2017
2. Profit & Loss statement for 3-Year Projections (2017 - 2019)

In 2016 and 2017 we had some extraordinary capital requirements for the EZ Docks and the boat launch. In 2016 the Club sustained a net loss of \$12,136.38. While we did end up with a loss principally due to the investment in the EZ Dock system, we were actually slightly better than projections shared with members at last year's Annual Meeting as revenues were higher than projected (despite reflecting a normal new member class where 2015 was quite unusual with 11) behind much higher income from Youth Camp participation.

In comparing projected 2017 with 2016, Cathy noted that there is one more new member projected than anticipated (4 v 3) which benefits the Club due to the \$1000 initiation fee and a higher number of campers along with an increase in compensation for the staff as well. The legal work that was just reviewed is expected to stand us in good stead, resulting in lower legal fees in future years, however, Cathy cautioned that the governmental entities are requiring greater rigor in reporting and filings. The variance from 2016 is primarily explained by the unanticipated repair of the boat launch. The AED and the parking lot grading projects were the top projects requested by members from the outreach in 2016. It is important to note that the painting of the entire Clubhouse in 2017 reflects a compression of planned cost across 4 years, which escalates our 2017 spending but deflates our out year spending. The three-year projections do not include any major capital projects.

Cathy stated that the last time the annual dues were raised was in 2005. She reviewed that the Board had approved a 10% increase in the annual dues effective in 2018. This brings the annual dues for an Adult Member to \$154, an increase of \$14, and the annual dues for a Family to \$308, an increase of \$28 per family. The Board is permitted by the Bylaws to increase the dues annually by up to 10% without approval of the membership.

Some questions from the floor were raised *and responses provided*:

1. Linda McKenzie: What is included in Program expense? *Expenses for the Youth program (staff salaries, supplies), Logowear, Breeze.*

1. John Ray: What are the funds in the restricted fund restricted for? *No one knew the answer. The Board will explore and respond back to membership with an answer.*
2. Kathy Bosco: Expressed concern over the condition of the tennis court; are there no monies in the budget for it? *Commodore Cooper explained that determining possible solutions is the top priority of the Board and that it will be addressed in the coming months. Kathy said that this needs to happen now so the court can be improved and enjoyed next season.*
3. Brian Shapiro: Is the water safe to drink? Is the septic system leaching? Brian recommended testing the water every year. *Yes, the water has been tested and is safe - it is just rusty. It is the well that is of greatest concern as it is very old.*
4. Waldo Abbot: What is the facility & dock rental income? *The Club receives income from the rental of the boat slips as well as the Clubhouse (rented to members).*

Dennis Turner motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented, Drew Ehrhardt seconded; the motion passed.

#### *Proposed Amendment to the Bylaws*

Commodore Cooper announced that the proposed Amendment had to do with waiving the initiation fee for Club Member Legacies in an effort to encourage their continued involvement in the Club after they age out of their Family Membership.

The term "legacy" refers to young adults who have been part of the Club under their parents' family membership. The membership policy stipulates that these young adults may be a part of that family membership through their 25th year. When they turn 26 years old these "Legacies" have aged out of membership. As the policy stands, should they wish to continue their involvement in the OTYC, they would be expected to become members in their own right, including payment of a \$1000 initiation fee.

This winter a member, whose son was turning 26, approached the Board questioning this policy. The Board recognized that a \$1000 initiation fee is prohibitive for most young adults. With the help of the Membership Committee, the Board embarked on developing a policy that would encourage Legacies to become members in their own right, thus continuing their engagement with the OTYC.

To this end, for interested Legacies we propose waiving the initiation fee associated with the membership application. The Legacy will have a window of 4 years, until they turn 30 years old, to take advantage of this opportunity. The Board firmly believes that what is good for our young adults is good for the Club. We trust that this policy will incentivize our Legacies to continue their commitment to the OTYC.

Although it is within the rights of the Board to have passed this Bylaw amendment during the off-season, it is not a time-sensitive issue and so the Board chose to bring it before the membership. Commodore Cooper expressed her hope that the membership would join the Board in demonstrating to our Legacies the value of their continued commitment to the Club.

Bill Renz noted this was a past practice. Joan Brovins clarified that there were junior and associate members in the past and to qualify an individual had to have been a dues paying member for every eligible year. Mike Bosco wondered why a 4-year lag is allowed. The Commodore stated that the 4-year window offered the Legacies time to consider whether membership in the OTYC is of interest to them. They have benefitted by their parents' membership all their lives and it may take some time for them to appreciate the importance of Club membership in their own right. This window gives them that time. Sally Shapiro motioned to approve the proposed amendment to the Bylaws; Kerry Magrini seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 120-0.

#### *Review of Boat Slip Rental Agreement*

Two years ago the Board enacted a Boat Slip Rental Agreement in an effort to have clear cut rules about boat slip usage during the summer season, thereby removing the previous arbitrary arrangement that became burdensome for the Waterfront Committee and confusing to those members wishing to use the slips. The policy has worked well since. However, a question has arisen about the lottery system utilized to choose the 4 members who get the right to rent one of the available four slips. A member asked that the lottery policy be discussed with the membership. The discussion and points made will be taken under advisement by the Board which will consider the policy at a future Board meeting. The policy is that anyone interested in renting a slip for the upcoming season must notify the Waterfront Chair by February 1. This notification involves filling out the agreement form and specifying the boat to be entered in the lottery. The applicant's name is put into a hat and on February 2<sup>nd</sup> the Waterfront Chair draws 4 names. These are the 4 who will have the right to rent one of the 4 available slips. This lottery system was decided upon as the most equitable way to spread a limited resource among the membership while not making the procedure overly complicated. Point #3 in the Policy, which states that a vessel may be entered into the lottery only once, was the issue raised for discussion. This "one vessel/one vote" was the original intent of the policy so that each boat looking for a slip has as fair a chance of being drawn as the next applicant.

This policy is being questioned by the Abbot family. In their situation, there are 3 dues paying families who share 1 boat. It is their belief that each of the member families deserves the opportunity to enter the lottery, thereby giving that one vessel 3 chances at being drawn for a slip. It is the Board's opinion that this approach gives unfair advantage to boats shared by multiple families to the detriment of those interested members who happen to not have extended family in the club.



A lively discussion followed primarily by those who rent the 4 available slips. Waldo Abbot said he felt the policy could be viewed as discriminatory, that all full dues paying members had a right to be in the lottery and that there were other options such as shortening the rental period and having multiple rental periods within the season. He further maintained that the policy does not accommodate rental boats. John Ray stated that these are boats not people. There are limited slips available and a limited number of boats that require a slip.

Linda McKenzie articulated that most people have boats in Omena – and it is a question of ease of access to the boats and that the policy requires a boat to be registered in the State of Michigan. Sally Shapiro suggested a Wait List, especially if someone wanted to sublease a slip during the summer. Finally, Dennis Turner asked to please keep the process simple for the Waterfront Chair.

Commodore Cooper thanked everyone for their input and said the Board will review and address the issue in the near future.

#### *Meeting Adjournment*

Sally Shapiro motioned to adjourn the meeting; Roberta Cohen seconded. With all business concluded, Commodore Cooper adjourned the 2017 Annual Meeting at 11:03 am.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cathy Stephenson, Secretary

## 2018 Dues Increase

The OTYC Board announced at our 2017 Annual Meeting that Annual Dues will be increasing 10% from current levels effective with the 2018 season. This is the first Dues increase the OTYC has taken since 2005!

Including your \$15 Breeze fee (which is unchanged),  
TOTAL PAYMENTS are as follows:

**Family Membership – \$323** (was \$295)

**Single Membership – \$169** (was \$155)

There are no further changes to our policy:

- Dues are to be received by March 1, 2018.
- Payments are to be made to the OTYC, and mailed to PO Box 103, Omena, MI 49674
- You are welcome to pay early! There is no need to wait for the invoice, or to enclose the invoice with payment.

Please also remember our Late Fee policy is a single \$100 charge if payment in full is not received by March 1.

Questions? Contact Cathy Heiser, Treasurer, at [OmenaTYC@gmail.com](mailto:OmenaTYC@gmail.com)



## OTYC Tennis Court Pledge Drive

As you all know our tennis courts and fencing will be getting a much needed facelift in 2018. A letter was sent to members via the Scuttlebutt explaining all the details. This is just a reminder of how you can pledge to help defer the cost of this exciting project. Any amount will be gratefully appreciated.

Pledges can be paid with your 2018 OTYC Dues, or you can send a separate check payable to the OTYC to our mailbox, PO Box 103, Omena, MI 49674.

If you are willing to make a pledge, please return the pledge letter with your pledge amount to our OTYC mailbox by December 30, 2017. Or send us an email to [Omenatyc@gmail.com](mailto:Omenatyc@gmail.com) with “Tennis Pledge” in the subject line, and let us know what you would like to contribute.







# 2017 Summer Highlights

Ladies Luncheon



Lovely Hostesses



Including 3 Suzies



OTYC Sing-A-Long





Commodore's Reception



Tie Dye Tuesday





## 2017 Pickleball Tournament



They do it for the fans....

## Champs!



Don Leathery and Danny Magrini were defeated by champs Kerry Magrini and Todd Goldman in the final match.



## Jazz Stompers



Enjoy the days in  
between until we  
are together again  
in 2018!

### THANK YOU 2017-18 OTYC CHAIRS

Breeze: Trish Bosco  
Building: Dennis Armbruster  
Catered Dinners: Doni Lystra  
Entertainment: Kelli Fitzgerald (Aug)  
Grounds: Keith Disselkoe  
Logo Wear: Susie Goldman and Julie DeWitt  
Membership: Bill Renz and Suzy Wheeler  
Potluck: Lisa Newland (July)  
Scuttlebutt: Mary Tonneberger  
Social: Gayle Madison  
Waterfront: Jim Morrison  
Youth Program: Sara Goldman  
Still Need: Potluck (August), Entertainment (July), Youth Program Co-Chair, House Beautiful (formerly Housekeeping) If you are willing to volunteer to help our club as a chair, please contact Commodore Bob Devries at [omenabob@gmail.com](mailto:omenabob@gmail.com)

