



# ST. PAUL YACHT CLUB

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

**Date:** Tuesday, March 10, 2026

**Time:** 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

**Location:** SPYC Clubhouse / Google Meet

**Video call link:** <https://meet.google.com/rec-pvtw-jhp>

**Or dial:** (US) +1 304-981-5485 PIN: 533 011 671#

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### ATTENDANCE

#### Board Members Present:

Bill Tschohl (Commodore), Bob Smekta (Vice-Commodore), Jim Camery (Treasurer), Bonnie Jean MacKay (Secretary), Andy Ristrom, Fran Potvein, Janeice DeLisle, Brian Backes, Tom Marrone, Mike Gude, Greg Jorgenson (remote), Lee Pfeilsticker (sitting in for Greg J.)

#### Board Members Absent:

None

#### Staff Present:

Mike Shimshock (Executive Director)

#### Guests:

Michele Borne, Geoff Racette, Brenda Richens, Barbara Haake

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### PERFUNCTORY INTRODUCTORY RITUAL

Bill Tschohl, Commodore, presiding, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the USA Flag was recited.

Approval of Agenda

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### OPEN COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

*(Up to 3 minutes per member)*

**Bonnie Jean MacKay** provided a heads-up that next month she will be introducing a Code of Conduct drafted by former board members with former board secretary Troy Janisch for review.



**Dredging Question:** A question was raised regarding unusable slips due to shallow water. Andy Ristrom indicated that the club will use the hose to address the shallow slip issue.

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## CONSENT AGENDA

### Monthly Meeting Schedule

1. Board meetings will be held on the **2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM**
2. In months when there is a General Meeting, only the General Meeting will be held (no separate Board meeting). General Meetings will also be held on the 2nd Tuesday at 7:00 PM Central.

### Board Member-Led Committees

#### Committee Chairs and Meeting Schedules:

1. **Operations Committee**
  - Chairs: Andy Ristrom, Bob Smekta
  - Meeting Schedule: 1st Tuesday of the month @ 11:00 AM
  - First meeting: April 7, 2026
2. **Social Committee**
  - Chair: Janeice DeLisle
  - Meeting Schedule: 1st Tuesday of the month @ 6:00 PM
3. **Finance Committee**
  - Chair: Jim Camery
  - Meeting Schedule: Last Wednesday of the month @ 6:00 PM
4. **Strategic Planning Committee**
  - Chair: Bill Tschohl
  - Meeting Schedule: 3rd Thursday of the month @ 6:30 PM
5. **Marketing and Membership Committee**
  - Chair: Bonnie Jean MacKay
  - Meeting Schedule: TBD
6. **Amenities Committee**
  - Chair: Brian Backes
  - Meeting Schedule: Last Wednesday of every month @ 6:30 PM (March 25th first meeting)
  - Note: Brian will be meeting with Bill this week or next to review previous meeting notes
7. **Human Resources Committee**
  - Flag Officers
  - Meeting Schedule: TBD



## Committees Composed of Non-Board Members

### Elections Committee 2026

- Colleen Velo
- **Past Commodore Position: TBD**
- **Past Commodore Position: TBD**

**ACTION ITEM 1:** Contact past Commodores to ask the most recent two to serve on the Nominations Committee. Continue down the list until two are found willing to serve together. The Secretary will take this on.

**Note:** Upon reviewing the relevant bylaws, the Elections Committee is to be comprised of the TWO immediate past Commodores and one at-large Voting Member in good standing. This requirement needs to be addressed given Greg Jorgenson's request to step down.

### Grievance Committee 2026

1. Brenda Richens
2. **TBD**
3. **TBD**

**Important Note:** Geoff Racette volunteered to serve on this committee, but consultation of the SPYC Bylaws (Article IX, Paragraph 2 on page 6) revealed that all three committee members must be SPYC Voting Members.

Geoff Racette is not a Voting Member, so he is not qualified to serve on the Grievance Committee under the current iteration of the Bylaws.

**ACTION ITEM 2:** Recruit SPYC Voting Members to serve on the Grievance Committee.

**ACTION ITEM 3:** Recommend a review of the Bylaws with attention to who will be qualified to serve on the Grievance Committee in future. Consider whether it would be valuable to engage Associate Members or even non-member stakeholders.

## REPORTS INDEX

*Note: Written reports submitted prior to or at this meeting are in a separate section following the main Minutes document. Oral comments made at this meeting have been added to the written report.*

### Flag Officers' Reports

1. Commodore's Report
2. Vice-Commodore's Report
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Secretary's Report



## Executive Director Report

### Committee Reports

1. Operations Committee
  2. Social Committee
  3. Finance Committee
  4. Strategic Planning Committee
  5. Marketing and Membership Committee
  6. Amenities Committee
  7. Human Resources Committee
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## OLD BUSINESS

### 1. Approval of January 2026 Election Meeting Minutes

**Motion:** To approve the minutes of the January 2026 Board and Nomination meeting as written by Dave Nelson and shared with the agenda to this meeting.

**Background:** The minutes were previously approved by Diane Scovill and Dave Nelson of the previous Board prior to this meeting.

**Approved by current Board members:** Tom Marrone, Janeice DeLisle, Bob Smekta, and Fran Potvein post name spelling corrections.

**Status:** APPROVED

**ACTION ITEM 4:** Finalize format and submit to Executive Director for posting to SPYC website. ✓

(Post-meeting note: The Secretary went through the minutes again after this approval, got answers to pending questions to assure accuracy, and formatted the document prior to submitting to Mike S. for posting to the SPYC website.)

### Action Items from February Board and Elections Meeting:

1. Solicit Interest for Past Commodore Position

**Background:** Greg J indicated that he wishes to resign from the SPYC Board. It was recommended in February that past Commodores preceding Greg's term be contacted to solicit interest in serving as acting "Past Commodore" on the 2026 Board of Directors.

**Reference: Past Commodores**



**Commodores Consulted:** Two past Commodores were approached regarding interest in serving. Barbara Haake was present at the meeting and expressed willingness to serve.

### 3. Solicit Interest in Grievance Committee Service

**Status:** Addressed (see Consent Agenda section above)

### 4. Resolution of Past Commodore Resignation and Replacement

**MOTION:** To make Lee Pfeilsticker the acting Immediate Past Commodore, replacing Greg Jorgenson who has requested to be released from Board service.

**Context/Background:** Greg Jorgenson moved out of state years ago and is no longer around for social or regular activities. As noted in the Bylaws and the Secretary's report, this is a distinct position described in the Bylaws in a way that doesn't readily allow for resolution. This would leave the Board with 10 members, when the Bylaws stipulate there are to be 11 members on the Board, creating a conflict.

**Made by:** Greg Jorgenson

**Seconded by:** [Not recorded]

**Status:** TABLED

**Motion to Table made by:** Jim Camery

**Seconded by:** Bonnie Jean MacKay

**Vote:** 6 in favor

**Note:** This matter requires further discussion and potential Bylaws revision. Four related proposals were presented in the agenda materials for consideration at a future meeting:

- **Proposal 1:** Release of Greg Jorgenson from Board Service as a stand-alone decision, independent of any decision on filling the vacancy.
- **Proposal 2:** Apprise all potentially suitable past commodores of pending vacancy and pending Bylaws revision. Evaluate first the potential for willingness to serve in order of service most recent to least recent.  
We need 2 former commodores to agree to serve on the Elections Committee at the very least.
- **Proposal 3:** Ad Hoc Committee to review and make revisions to the Bylaws to address the current gap in protocol for resignation or unavailability-to-serve of Immediate Past Commodore
- **Proposal 4:** Selection of Lee Pfeilsticker as Acting Immediate Past Commodore for 2026

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## NEW BUSINESS



## Proposal 6: Conferral of Honorary Membership Status

**MOTION:** To make Lori Maumann (MN DNR), Thomas Demma, Bonnie Johnson, and Brenda Scandin (photographers) honorary members of the St. Paul Yacht Club.

**Background:** These individuals were critical and helpful in establishing the MN DNR wildlife camera that monitors the bald eagles nesting in the park. They also work to maintain the system or photograph and share the bald eagles on our river. Though it doesn't directly support boating, it aids the club's efforts to partner meaningfully with the public beyond our fence.

**Details:** Each of these individuals will be provided a SPYC parking pass and treated as any social member would be. No payment will be requested or required for this honorary membership status.

**Made by:** Bill Tschohl

**Seconded by:** Janeice DeLisle

**Status:** **APPROVED** Unanimously

## Proposal 7: Conferral of Lifetime Membership Status to Bill Tschohl

**MOTION:** It is hereby proposed that the Board of Directors of the St. Paul Yacht Club grant Lifetime Membership status to Bill Tschohl, in accordance with the Club's governing bylaws.

**Background and Rationale:** Bill Tschohl's distinguished record of service to the St. Paul Yacht Club is exemplified by his five terms as Commodore. No one can argue that this 5-time Commodore hasn't earned this honor. Bill has worked harder and devoted more time than anyone to the Yacht Club. He has guided the club through perilous times and kept it afloat. His unwavering commitment and leadership have been instrumental to the Club's success and stability.

### Relevant Bylaws:

- **Article VI: VOTING MEMBERSHIP** - Voting Membership is comprised of two categories: Voting Members and Life Members
- **Article VI, Paragraph 2: Life Membership** - Life Membership may be granted to a Voting Member by decree of the Board in accordance with Standing Rules. A Life Member shall be exempt from the payment of annual dues. Life Members shall have the same privileges as an SPYC Voting Member.

**Made by:** Greg Jorgenson

**Seconded by:** Tom Marrone (and others)

**Note:** Bill Tschohl abstained from voting

**Status:** **APPROVED** Unanimously

## Question: Protocol for Meeting Minutes Approval



**Question to the Board from the Secretary:**

It has been the practice of the secretary to send the minutes to all members of the Board for approval in the days following the meeting documented. Once approval is granted, the minutes are sent to the Office Staff for posting to the Club's website.

Do we want to change this practice by instituting a new practice of reading the last month's minutes in the current month's meeting and taking a vote to approve or revise?

**Resolution Post Discussion:**

The Board discussed the value and efficiency of different approaches to minutes approval.

**Protocol Established:**

- Draft minutes will be released to the Board within 3 days of the meeting
- Draft minutes will be posted to the public website as "Draft" within 1 week
- Motion to officially approve minutes will occur at the next Board meeting

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## CLOSED SESSION

**Topic:** HR planning for marina manager replacement (per agenda submitted by Commodore)

**Note:** No closed session was held. BJM asked whether there was still funding in the budget to pay an additional office staff person. JC said not at present. This inquiry and response were made in open session.

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## ADJOURNMENT

**Motion:** To Adjourn

**Made by:** [Not recorded]

**Seconded by:** [Not recorded]

**Status:** Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

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## APPENDIX 1: PAST COMMODORE POSITION ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### BOARD MEMBERSHIP

**Bylaw Reference:** Article III, Section 4

At the expiration of the Commodore's term of office, the retiring Commodore shall remain a member of the Board, replacing the previous past Commodore. As long as the Commodore serves, the immediate past Commodore continues to serve on the Board.

**Summary:**

The Past Commodore serves as a voting member of the Board of Directors. This position ensures continuity of leadership and institutional knowledge within the club's governance. The Past Commodore remains on the Board throughout the tenure of the current Commodore, at which point they are replaced by the newly retiring Commodore. This creates a structured succession of leadership on the Board, with the most recent past Commodore always serving alongside the current leadership.

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE SERVICE

**Bylaw Reference:** Article III, Section 1

The Nominating Committee oversees the election of officers. The Nominating Committee is comprised of two immediate past Commodores and one other Voting Member in good standing who is elected by the Voting Members through nominations from the floor at the Annual meeting in February.

**Summary:**

A primary duty of the Past Commodore is service on the Nominating Committee. The committee is composed of two immediate past Commodores and one additional voting member in good standing. The Nominating Committee holds significant responsibility for overseeing the election of club officers. The additional voting member is elected by the general membership through floor nominations at the Annual Meeting held in February. This structure ensures that experienced former leadership guides the selection of future officers while maintaining member input in the process.

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## ACTION ITEMS SUMMARY



1. **Secretary:** Contact past Commodores to ask the most recent two to serve on the Nominations Committee. Continue down the list until two are found willing to serve together.
  2. **Board:** Recruit SPYC Voting Members to serve on the Grievance Committee (need 2 additional members).
  3. **Board:** Recommend a review of the Bylaws with attention to who will be qualified to serve on the Grievance Committee in future. Consider whether it would be valuable to engage Associate Members or even non-member stakeholders.
  4. **Secretary:** Finalize format of January 2026 meeting minutes and submit to Executive Director for posting to SPYC website.
  5. **Board:** Address the tabled motion regarding Past Commodore position and potential Bylaws revision at a future meeting.
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**Minutes Prepared by:** Bonnie Jean MacKay, Secretary

**Date Prepared:** [3/24/2026]

**Status:** Draft pending Board approval

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## WRITTEN REPORTS

*This section contains the full written reports submitted by Flag Officers, Staff, and Committee Chairs for the March 10, 2026 Board of Directors meeting.*

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## FLAG OFFICERS' REPORTS

Commodore's report 3/4/2026

### Spring Anticipation!

Spring is that time of year when our anticipation of the boating season begins to peak. What new gifts did you get for your boat over the Winter? What will you need to pick up yet this Spring? The St. Paul Yacht Club is ready to serve your boating needs and will be launching boats as soon as the harbors thaw out.

The SPYC Board and Staff have been working on plans for social events and operations planning. Our committees have or will be holding their first meetings of the year soon and structure work for 2026. If your interested in joining any of the committees please reach out to the committee chairs, they'd all love a hand!



In the fall of 2025 we created and submitted a proposal to manage Watergate marina. While we did not get the contract to manage that marina, we developed some new analytical skills that we've been using to review and improve our operations here at the SPYC. Some of the items you have or will see very soon are a refreshed website and billing processes. The new website includes much of the previous information in a better format, but also a member portal you can use to view your statements, make payments and view account activity.

Of course March is never a good time to be guessing on Spring river levels, but it's always the top of my list of concerns. We will be doing the normal work of launching boats this Spring of course, but need to keep an eye on the river level. We could have a normal pool of 3' which is perfect for launching or 15' which would be significantly disruptive. The mighty Mississippi could prove even more challenging to us if the river level goes over 17' which pretty much stops us from launching boats and pivots us into flood operation mode. We'll be ready for any of those scenarios.

As our anticipation keeps building, keep an eye on what your boat needs, whether it's a new VHF radio or a new toy. The SPYC staff and Board will stay focused on delivering the best boating experience to our members.

#### **Relevant River level impacts:**

8' is a lot of current and we recommend staying off the river. That's also the point where the current starts to bring in extra volumes of silt and debris.

14' is considered the first "flood stage". This shuts down Lilydale road and parts of Harriet Island Park. The ramps down to the docks start to have problems.

17' the discomfort starts. There is water on the cement rails of the travel lift and closes large sections of the park. At 17' we would have to look at the forecast and determine if we need to get boats launched or onto the levee. Launching is the better option, but it all depends on the weather and how the yard looks with ice, etc.

18.5' closes the lift and puts the water into the lot down by the gas dock. We pull fuses on at least some of the electrical feeds.

19' shuts off all the dock utilities, closes all the ramps, water into the paved parking lots, and about up to the garage in the boatyard. Start thinking about moving boats.

20' we're taking boats out to Water St. and other local roads. Water is into the garage and close to the entrance gate. Pool & Yacht Club is flooded.

22' boat yard is closed and mostly underwater. It actually becomes part of the river. Docks are reachable only by boat. The garage has 2' of water in it. Clubhouse is subjected to current.



23' the water is up to the office and is out on Lilydale Road in front of the entrance gate. That's as high as we've seen it.

If you're interested in checking current river level:

<https://water.noaa.gov/gauges/stpm5>

Bill Tschohl

**SPYC 2026 Board contact information:**

You can email the entire board at this single address: [board@stpauyachtclub.org](mailto:board@stpauyachtclub.org)

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**Vice-Commodore's Report**

Bob Smekta, Vice-Commodore

*No written report was submitted for this meeting.*

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**Treasurer's Report**

**Oral Report Summary by:** Jim Camery, Treasurer

**Financial Status Update**

Jim Camery provided an oral report on the club's financial position. Key highlights include:

**Cash Flow Improvement:** The cash pinch experienced earlier has been resolved through negotiated due date delays on approximately \$21,000 in outstanding bills.

**Current Cash Position:** The club currently maintains \$24,000 in bank reserves.

**Utilities Billing Structure:** Utility bills will be line-itemed at the accounting level and paid directly to utilities providers and club users as appropriate.

**Capital Projects:** The HVAC upgrade for the clubhouse was not included in the current budget and will require separate consideration.

**Year-End Projections:** The budget projects a positive position of \$77,000 in black at year-end (December 31, 2026).

**Accounts Receivable:** The club may need to write off unrecoverable accounts receivable in the coming period.



**Balance Sheet Development:** A plan has been initiated for balance sheet development and tracking.

*Note: Detailed financial statements were not available at this meeting and will be provided at the next Board meeting.*

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## Secretary's Report

Bonnie Jean MacKay

This is my first Board meeting as Secretary. I am committed to maintaining accurate records of our proceedings and ensuring transparent communication with our membership. I look forward to working with the Board and supporting the club's mission throughout the year.

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## Executive Director Report

**Submitted by:** Mike Shimshock, Executive Director

### Slip Occupancy

- Reference to [SPYC Slip Occupancy 2026.xlsx](#)

### Sharper Software Update

- Waiting on them to solve one bug with existing A/R. As soon as they do that invoices will go out. Invoices are ready to go, and double checked.

### Website and Calendar

- Website and Calendar is up to date - new event request form posted on the website, anyone wish to have an event at the clubhouse should fill out the form.

### St. Paul Saints Partnership - Yacht Rock Night

- **Event Date:** Friday, May 15, 2026 (with fireworks night)
- Twice the exposure of the boatshow for 1/3 the price
- Directly to downtown St Paul users
- Would like to offer a free transient night at this event (N/A during the festivals)
- Tickets are \$35 and a yacht rock hat is included, purchased through the Saints
- Link will go on website when they have it ready

### General Reports



- A Boat in the Lower Harbor sank and was raised 2x
  - Community clean-up April 25th - Saturday. Incentive Lunch here and breakfast at pool and yacht club.
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## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Operations Committee

**Chair:** Bob Smekta, Vice-Commodore

**Meeting Schedule:** Third Thursday of each month at 6:00 PM

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### Social Committee

**Chair:** Janeice DeLisle

**Meeting Date:** Tuesday, March 3, 2026

**Participants in Attendance:**

Geoff Racette, Janeice DeLisle, Bill Tschohl, Mike Shimshock, Tom Marrone

**Meeting Schedule:**

The intention is to hold Social Committee meetings on the first Tuesday of each month. All are welcome.

**Past & Persistent Questions and Their Resolutions or Status:**

- **Firestick or Chromecast for a slideshow on side TV?**  
Mike S. will set up firestick on TV
- **TGIF (Thank God It's Floating) Every 1st Weekend New Banner?**  
Follow up later – a good idea but not a priority
- **Budget about 1k for ice and 1k for memorials, 15k total for the year:**  
Social budget to be figured out at financial meeting in March
- **Commodore's Ball:**  
Bill to decide among Rowing Club, Padelford, Pool & Yacht Club, SPYC Club House, or some other venue, or Boat ride (Magnolia Blossom, Stan Dickenson, Watergate, or Padelford)
- **Free or discounted rate pay if no RSVP Commodore's Ball??**  
"Presale vs door pricing" - \$60 if at Padelford – will adjust pricing according to venue

**Social Committee 2026 Insights:**

- **Volunteer campaign for social committee** - Janeice made a volunteer sheet, will share soon!



- **Marketing plan** – Event scheduling and publicizing logistics under discussion  
Social@stpauyachtclub.org; Login details under development  
Janeice to work out Email link to website, Facebook, Instagram
- **Directory** – Consult Bonnie Jean; Do we want to use a third party app?; Is the opt-in check box on the contract?

#### **For Feedback and Input:**

- Boot Hockey to be scheduled for an earlier date next year
- Boot Hockey potential name change to "BH & Yard Games" or "BH & Chalet"
- Hours discussion: 12pm shutdown vs. 2-6pm timeframe
- Explore using event revenue to fund future clubhouse maintenance
- Photobooth for Commodore's Ball under consideration

#### **Upcoming Events:**

- **March 6 or 13:** TGIF March – Craft Night (Potluck BYOB)
- **April 3:** TGIF April – Game Night: Hawaiian Shirt Edition
- **April 7:** Social Committee Meeting
- **April 25:** Lillydale Clean Up
- **May 1:** TGIF May – Full Moon May Day Bonfire
- **May 5:** Social Committee Meeting
- **May 15:** Yacht Rock Saints Game
- **May 16 or 23:** Commodore's Ball (Masquerade theme)

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#### **Human Resources Committee**

**Composition:** Flag Officers (Commodore, Vice-Commodore, Treasurer, Secretary)

#### **Marina Manager Position Discussion**

No meeting was held; BJM asked whether a marina manager position was in the budget. JC said he had removed it as he works through options to keep the club financially afloat.

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*End of Written Reports*



## APPENDIX 2: COMPLETE LIST OF PAST COMMODORES (1913-2026)

The following is a comprehensive list of Saint Paul Yacht Club Commodores from the club's founding through the current year:

Name	Begin	End
John D . O'Brien	1912	1913
Edwin M. Parish	1913	1922
George E. Taylor	1923	1926
Merle Potter	1927	1929
Frank A Marko	1930	1935
Arnold R. Holmen	1936	1937
Paul Peterson	1937	1939
Charles L. Govern	1940	1941
John W. Kessler	1942	1943
Homer Hill	1944	1945
Vincent R. O'Brien	1945	1946
Lucien D. Sinclair		1948
Homer K. Kaupp	1948	1951
Authur	1952	1953
Rutherford G. Reiter	1954	1955
Edward A. Keyes	1955	1956
Phillip F. Cormican	1956	1958
John D. Spencer	1959	1960
Nels Lundell	1960	1961
Alvin M. DeYoung	1961	1962
Joseph A. Walthall	1962	1963
William Wolf	1963	1964
Ned Sternal	1964	1965
Thomas Nihil	1966	1967
Phil Pfeilsticker	1967	1968

Name	Begin	End
Philip E. Cormican	1968	1969
Marvin L Grow	1968	1969
Charles Stanley	1969	1970
Marcel Vax	1971	1972
Thomas Zastrow	1972	1973
Patrick Crowe	1974	1975
Frank Kline	1976	1979
James Thompson	1980	1981
Howard Dahlgren	1982	1985
Robert AP Jones	1986	1989
Fred Nimtzt	1990	1993
David Engfer	1994	1995
Neil Den Bleyker	1996	1998
Truman Howell	1999	
Peter Kramer	2000	2001
Barbara Haake	2001	2002
Greg Den Bleyker	2003	2004
Lee Pfeilsticker	2005	2006
Peter Cramer	2007	2009
Gordy Mergens	2010	2012
Patrick Boulay	2013	2014
David McKusick	2015	2016
Denny Sando	2017	2019
Steve Nelson	2020	2021
Greg Jorgenson	2021	2022
Bill Tschohl	2022	Current