

Wedgwood Pool News

Volume 45.1

January 2008

Annual Membership Meeting

February 11, 2008, 7:00 PM
North Seattle Friends Church
7740 24th Avenue NE
(Across 25th Ave. NE from Dahl Field)

The meeting is expected to be short. All members are encouraged to attend. Agenda items include:
Secretary's report;
General Report by the President;
Treasurer's Financial Report and 2008 Budget;
Old Business;
Board Candidate Introductions;
Board Candidate Voting; and,
New Business.

Notes From the (Outgoing) President

2007 was a busy year around Wedgwood Pool and your Board of directors were busy as well. After five years of discussions, designing, planning, obtaining permits, and securing bids we launched the south wall construction project this last spring. At the end of the day we ended up with a superb addition to the club, attributable to the planning and oversight of the Boards over the last five years, the members' volunteer help with landscaping, and the hundreds of hours donated over the years by Rick Lippold, Dale Hoff, and Mark Snyder. In addition to the normal Board duties and the south wall project, your Board spent significant time and energy this last year exploring membership ideas and documenting and revising membership-related policies and procedures.

In February four new Board members will replace outgoing board members Patrick Corr, Carolyn D'Albora, Mark Snyder, and myself. As it was when I joined the board, Wedgwood Pool continues to be a very special place for our children and our families to spend their summers. At every home meet I look out over the crowd of hundreds of kids swimming, laughing, playing, and getting nervous and I think of how lucky they are. I wish every kid in America could have an experience like this. Next I look out and see all of the parents working to make it all happen: 8 & under hunter-gatherers, timers, officials, awards folks,

and all the good folks in concessions. Though they are all working, they are also having a good time by being part of a unique summer community. And finally I see Rob Parker and his fine staff keeping the pool in ship shape and making the summer pool experience fantastic. These are all the reasons I joined the Board three years ago, and why I encourage you to consider a position on the Board in the future. Let's keep it going! Thanks – it's been fun.

- Kevin Majeau, President



2008 Board Nominations

As called for in the clubs bylaws, each year a Board nominating committee is formed that is tasked with finding four new Board members. This year's Board nominating committee was comprised of Cindy Loudon, Hugh Spitzer, and Shelly Hurley. The membership owes Cindy, Hugh, and Shelly a big thank you for giving up significant amounts of time in December and January identifying and recruiting the four well qualified candidates. The Nominating Committee has assembled an excellent group of incoming Board members. One voting ballot for each household membership is provided in this newsletter. The ballot is printed on the back of the newsletter cover. Please mail your ballot to Wedgwood Swim Pool or deliver it to the February 11th Annual Membership Meeting. Ballots are counted at the membership meeting, so please mail your ballot early enough that it will arrive at the club PO box by February 8th.

Bylaw Change Proposals

During 2007, as the Board reviewed and discussed membership policies and procedures, they encountered two membership policies that appear to be in conflict with Section 6.2 of the Bylaws. The last sentence of Section 6.2 of the Bylaws states: *The purchaser shall be selected from the membership waiting list in accordance with procedures established by the Board.* The two policies in question involve allowing a membership to be sold with one's home and allowing a membership to be sold to a member's adult child. The only documents the Board has located regarding these policies are two memos dated 1993 and 1996 which contain identical text and call these out as "exceptions" to the use of the wait list. As the Board presumes the policies and the bylaws were enacted separately, the Board decided to submit two proposals to the membership. Two bylaws change proposals are presented in this newsletter for consideration by the membership. The proposals take the form of amending the bylaws to agree with the policy.

If a proposal is accepted by the membership, the bylaws will be changed to match the policy. If a proposal is rejected, the bylaw will stand and the policy will be changed to conform to the bylaws.

Any change to the bylaws requires a two thirds majority of the votes cast and the total votes cast must satisfy the quorum requirements of 15% of the membership (45 votes). The bylaw change proposals, along with statements for and against, are printed in this newsletter. The bylaw change voting ballot is included with the Board member voting ballot printed on the back of the newsletter cover. Please mail your ballot to Wedgwood Swim Pool or deliver it to the February 11th Annual Membership Meeting. Ballots are counted at the membership meeting, so please mail your ballot early enough that it will arrive at the club PO Box by February 8th.

The full text of the Wedgwood Pool Bylaws can be found at www.wwpool.org.

2008 Annual Dues and Fees Statement

You should have recently received your annual dues statement in the mail. As noted in a postcard that we issued in the fall, we have moved up the dues date and the membership status change date to March 1st. The old date was making it difficult to get everything processed in advance of the pool opening. Also note that we have introduced a late fee escalation.

There are some changes in the census portion of the annual dues statement from last year. In 2007 we requested that members provide us with an e-mail address. This ended up being very valuable to the board as it made it possible for us to communicate with a large percentage of the membership regarding such things as the pool opening date, landscape work party notices, etc. You will note on the dues statement that in addition to requesting your e-mail address we also have an "opt out" box for exclusion of your email address from the directory. If you opt out, please include your e-mail address on the form nevertheless so that the board can communicate with you if needed via e-mail.

Annual dues postmarked after March 1st will incur a \$60 late fee. Dues postmarked after May 1st are subject to a \$100.00 (total) late fee. Contact Janet Cairns if you have not received your *2008 Annual Dues and Fees Statement*.
Janet Cairns: membership@wwpool.org or 522-4849.

2008 Membership Status Change Request

The Board has engaged in a lot of discussion this last year exploring ways to encourage a more active membership. One of the ideas discussed was reducing the number of years required to attain Senior Swimmer Membership. However, after its January meeting the Board decided that more research was needed before proposing such a bylaw change to the membership. As a result, you will not find a proposal in this newsletter for bylaw changes related to Senior Swimmer Membership.

Contact Carolyn Bernhard to initiate membership status changes, such as transferring, selling, modifying or converting your membership. Changes initiated after March 1st incur a \$60 late fee. Changes initiated after April 15th incur a \$100.00 (total) late fee.
Carolyn Bernhard: membership@wwpool.org or 527-3092.

Membership Sale:

Members selling their membership receive \$650.00, less any outstanding balance due to Wedgwood Pool.

Conversion to Senior Swimmer Status:

Consider converting to *Senior Swimmer Membership*. Membership holders who have 12 or more years of active membership may convert to Senior Swimmer Membership. Senior members are not entitled to sell their membership, as their membership is given back to the pool, but they receive 50 swims per season for 25% of the annual dues. Senior members may also

purchase an additional 25 Early Morning Lap Swims for \$75.00.

Leave of Absence Modification:

If you will be gone this summer consider modifying your membership by taking a leave of absence. The cost is \$100 plus the \$25.00 2008 Landscape Fee. Members on leave may not use the pool, but they continue to receive the newsletters.

Swim Team News

Well, we're pretty much at the halfway point between summer swim seasons. Right about now, we start getting closer to the upcoming season than to the past season. That's a cheery thought, right? And while we don't really have any news to report, it's time to think about a very important part of the swim team – FOOD. This year, the issue confronts us on two levels. The first is the all-important post-meet pizza party. While Burgermaster worked last year, it didn't exactly seem to be enthusiastically embraced. We are again investigating other possibilities, and again seeking your input. If you have any suggestions as to places we should investigate, please contact Tom at the email address at the end of this paragraph. The second food issue is sort of a good-news-bad-news situation. Kari Monsen and Hilary Stephens have decided not to seek reappointment as heads of concessions – but luckily they HAVE agreed to continue to do the shopping for concessions. This will greatly reduce the burden of the job. However, we do need new people to step into the remainder of the shoes that they leave unfilled. The remaining tasks are to recruit volunteers (a portion of this job is simply putting up sign-up sheets), set-up and clean-up (which are done with the volunteers), counting the money and making the deposits. These tasks could easily be taken on by one or two people working together. So, please volunteer or grab a pal and sign up. Your work will be greatly appreciated by everyone. There are several regular volunteers to help, the menu is set, and there aren't all that many home meets anyway. Please say you'll do it!

See you at the annual meeting, and at the pool!!

- *Swim Team Committee*

Kim Prestbo, prestbok@uspioneer.com
Tom Lambright, ldgroup1@qwest.net
Carolyn D'Albora, cdalbora@seanet.com

And the 2008 nominees for Board of Directors are...

Caryn Hopkins:

Hello. I am Caryn Hopkins and our family has been a member of Wedgwood Pool since the summer of 2000, which allowed our daughter, Kat Eads to join the swim team as an 8 & under her first year. As transplant mid-westerner's, my husband, Chuck Eads & I wanted a family summer experience of time at the pool and Wedgwood has been a good place for this. Our daughter, Kat Eads' experience with the swim team up through summer of 2006 was fun and a good way to feel a belonging and welcoming. I work full-time for The Boeing Company as a software application's business analyst. I have enjoyed our association with the swim team and have continued to volunteer at occasional meets even when my daughter is out of town. I also enjoy the opportunity to sit and relax in the sun after a day at work – forced relaxation. As a member of the Wedgwood board, I bring a willingness to work as a team member, an attention to detail, and want to continue supporting efforts to help everyone feel welcome and involved.

Jacque Ives:

Jacque has been a euphoric member of Wedgwood Pool for three years. She is married to Brian and mom to Nathan (soon to be 12) and Wilson (soon to be 10). While she loves to cheer on all of the WW swimmers and water polo players, she'd rather be in the pool herself. In the cold, wet months, Jacque attempts to manage their household and run or walk each day with their dog, BoSox.

Bill Leak:

I'm a UW graduate in Business Administration. My background is in the construction industry (operations management, business partner, marketing and business development) currently with SD Deacon Corp of Washington. My wife Carolyn and I have been full members of Wedgwood Pool since 1976, before kids, and a time when a wait list was not imagined. Both my son Ryan and daughter Jenny grew up taking swim lessons and as Wedgwood swim team competitors through high school graduation. Through 19 years of kids' swim team and meets I've enjoyed timing and other volunteer positions, and adult social events. My wife is a daily swimmer, and we enjoy the many new and old friendships developed at the pool. My interest in serving on the board is to lend my personal and professional experience toward ensuring the continued stewardship of this pool and it's positive influence on so many lives. A few more shade umbrellas would be a good thing, too.

Greg Miller:

We came; we swam; we joined. After several years' wait, our family had at least two summer memberships before we could be full members and join the swim team in summer 1992 (I think). Our three kids were on swim team, one through the U-18's; two through the U-14's. Chris and Tom were both guards for several summers. My wife Sandy was on the Board in the 1990's. The Pool and its unique, welcoming, and unpretentious spirit is very important to keep going strong. As an attorney in private practice for over 20 years, I will be happy to add that perspective and expertise to my enthusiasm for the multi-faceted family-oriented pool community.



Proposal #1 – Sale of Membership with Home

Section 6.2 of the current bylaws state that the only mechanism for sale of a membership is through the wait list. However, dating back to at least 1993 the board has allowed an exception to the wait list rule by allowing the sale of a membership in conjunction with the sale of one's home.

Proposed Text Change

The following are proposed changes to the last sentence of Section 6.2 (new text is bold italic):

With the following exception, the purchaser shall be selected from the membership waiting list in accordance with procedures established by the Board:

- ***Selling Membership with the sale of your home – A member selling their home may offer the membership to the new buyer of the house. If the new house-buyer wishes to purchase the pool membership along with, and at the same time as the house, the member contacts the Membership Chair and the transaction is executed through the regular procedures.***

Statements For the Proposed Bylaw Change

When the club was first established, WW members could sell their membership to whomever they wished. In 1985 a formal waitlist was established to ensure that memberships became available in a fair manner. At the time this restriction was imposed, the member's right to transfer the membership through the sale of their house or by directly transferring it to a family member was retained. The bylaws were subsequently amended in 1987 to set forth the waitlist procedures. The members' right to sell their membership through the sale of their home or to one of their children was not set forth. This amendment to the bylaws is really nothing more than a housekeeping measure.

Statement provided by Muriel Sjoberg

A strong argument can be made that this practice is important for members who live near the pool and who are most impacted by pool activities. The prospect of moving into a house impacted by the pool without the hope of membership for 8 to 10 years could depreciate the home's value upon sale and create otherwise avoidable friction between the club and the new neighbor.

Statement provided by Kevin Majeau

Statement Against the Proposed Bylaw Change

In practice, this kind of membership transfer or sale almost never happens; in the past 10 years it has occurred twice as far as the present Board can learn. In determining the dollar value of a house, the availability of a pool membership would account for 1/300 or 1/500 or less of the total value. In addition, creating this exception gives some lucky homebuyer an unfair advantage over all the Seattle families currently enrolled on the waitlist, some of them for 10 years or longer. Since the benefit to individual members is negligible, and since the exception treats all other people who want to join Wedgwood Pool unfairly, we should honor the bylaws and use the waitlist as the vehicle for transferring memberships.

Statement Provided by Pete Kelly

Proposal #2 - Direct Descendent Sales

Section 6.2 of the current bylaws state that the only mechanism for sale of a membership is through the wait list (Section 6.2). However, dating back to at least 1993 the Board has implemented an exception to the waitlist rule by allowing a member to sell their membership to one of their adult children.

Proposed Text Change

The following are proposed changes to the last sentence of Section 6.2 (new text is bold italic):

With the following exception, the purchaser shall be selected from the membership waiting list in accordance with procedures established by the Board:

- ***Direct Descendent*** – ***A member wishing to sell (or give) their membership to their adult child may contact the Membership Chair to start the transaction. The normal transfer fee is paid to the pool, and all the papers are handled in the regular procedure. However, the pool does not reimburse the seller in this case, as the membership fee is left between the family.***

Statement For the Proposed Bylaw Change:

When the club was first established, WW members could sell their membership to whomever they wished. In 1985 a formal waitlist was established to ensure that memberships became available in a fair manner. At the time this restriction was imposed, the member's right to transfer the membership through the sale of their house or by directly transferring it to a family member was retained. The bylaws were subsequently amended in 1987 to set forth the waitlist procedures. The members' right to sell their membership through the sale of their home or to one of their children was not set forth. This amendment to the bylaws is really nothing more than a housekeeping measure.

Statement provided by Muriel Sjoberg

Statement Against the Proposed Bylaw Change:

The issue at the heart of this debate is fairness and equal access to all who would like to join the Wedgwood Swim Club community. Why should a grown child of a member be able to bypass the waitlist ahead of all the other parties on the waitlist who have been waiting as many as ten years to join?

There are also side effects that are introduced as a result of this practice: inactive members end up choosing to retain their memberships longer than they would otherwise for the sole purpose of reserving a membership for one of their children. During those years of inactivity, the club is denied the contributions that an active family with young children might bring to the club. The health and the vitality of the club depend on the membership being active and involved in the pool's activities. Having inactive members retaining their membership so that they can give it to an adult child years later, deprives the club of new active families.

Statement provided by Kevin Majeau, Pete Kelly & Peter Brunner

Wedgwood Pool 2008 Official Ballot

NOTE: ONLY FULL ACTIVE MEMBERS ARE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE
(Membership types including Seniors, Golden Oldies, and Summer are NOT eligible to vote)

Nominees for 2008 Wedgwood Pool Board of Directors

Vote for up to four candidates from the following nominees (circle choices).

Caryn Hopkins

Jacque Ives

Bill Leak

Greg Miller

Bylaw Change Proposals

Bylaw Change #1

Should the bylaws be amended to allow sale of one's membership with one's home thus bypassing the waitlist (circle choice)?

YES

NO

Bylaw Change #2

Should the bylaws be amended to allow for the sale of one's membership to one's child thus bypassing the waitlist (circle choice)?

YES

NO

Please mail your ballot to Wedgwood Swim Pool, P.O. Box 15104, Seattle WA 98115. Ballot may also be delivered to the annual meeting on Monday, February 11, 2008. Mailed ballots must arrive by Friday, February 8th in order to be counted. Wedgwood Pool bylaws require that the proxy ballot include a membership holder signature. Only one vote per household membership.

Membership Name (Please print): _____

Signature: _____

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(206) 523-8211

Visit Wedgwood Pool
on the web
at
<http://www.wwpool.org>

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