

Proposed Amendment to the PRSA Constitution

To be voted on at the 2015 PRSA Annual General Meeting and Awards Ceremony
(21 November 2015)

Proposal

Amend Article V, Section 1 of the [PRSA Constitution](#) ("Dues") by striking the current Section 1 and replacing it with the following:

Section 1

- A. Active Membership: the dues for active membership in the Potomac River Sailing Association shall be as follows:
- a. Skipper of a multi-person boat: \$100
 - b. Skipper of a single-person boat: \$70

A new skipper joining PRSA after the beginning of the membership year will pay prorated membership dues calculated from the 1st day of the month in which the new skipper joins.

- B. Associate Membership: the dues for associate membership in the Potomac River Sailing Association shall be \$30.
- C. Junior/Student Membership: the dues for Junior or Student membership in the Potomac River Sailing Association shall be \$25.
- D. Sea Scout Membership: the dues for Sea Scout membership in the Potomac River Sailing Association shall be \$25.
- E. The annual membership year shall be December 1 through November 30. Membership dues payments are due by December 1 each calendar year. A late payment fee of \$25 will be assessed for dues paid on or after January 15.
- F. After the 2016 membership year the PRSA membership fee will increase by \$10 for active members and by \$5 for associate members every third year. The PRSA Executive Board will revisit the dues structure in 2025 and report back to the membership at that time.

Background & Rationale

The PRSA dues structure was last adjusted in 2001. Since that time, PRSA has lost 25% of the purchasing power of the current dues structure. For reference, an inflation adjustment to 2014 rates would incur the following increases:

- A. Renewing skipper, multi-person boat: \$90 → 120.31
- B. New or renewing skipper, single-person boat: \$65 → 86.89
- C. New skipper, multi-person boat: \$60 → 80.21

The PRSA Executive Committee, in consultation with the PRSA Advisory Committee on the PRSA Dues Structure (Aaron Boesenecker, Jim Graham, Jim Lane), has identified a number of additional factors to consider in justifying the proposal detailed above:

1. Equipment maintenance and replacement: maintaining the purchasing power of the dues paid to PRSA is essential for the maintenance of our equipment and for our ability to safely conduct races. In order to remain fully operational, PRSA will also need to consider major equipment repairs or replacements in the next 5 years (e.g. engines for RC boats) as well as the potential purchase of a 3rd committee boat.
2. Reliance on volunteer labor: over the past 10+ years we have relied on a select few individuals who have expert knowledge on technical matters such as inboard engine maintenance, outboard engine maintenance, fiberglass repair, and other maintenance issues large and small. We cannot assume that such willing and qualified individuals will be a part of our membership in the future.
3. Increasing visitor participation in major regattas: we have seen the largest turnout (in both the PRSA Spring Regatta and the PRSA President's Cup. The growth in visiting boats has been noteworthy within this overall category of growth. As this growth continues we will need additional resources to host high quality regattas.
4. Increases in base costs: annual increases in basic costs for annual PRSA expenditures such as insurance, slip fees, and maintenance, increase annually, and often greater than the increases in inflation.

The PRSA Board and the Advisory Committee on the PRSA Dues Structure (Aaron Boesenecker, Jim Graham, Jim Lane) have determined that although the current dues structure must be updated to maintain PRSA's ability to conduct safe and competitive one-design racing, a full increase to current inflation-adjusted rates is not necessary. The adjustments to the dues structure as described above should be sufficient to cover or fiscal obligations in the near term and to ensure sufficient funding for major equipment purchases and/or repairs.

Voting

A vote by show of hands will be held on the proposal detailed above at the 2015 PRSA Annual General Meeting and Awards Ceremony on 21 November, 2015.

As per Article IV (Voting) of the PRSA Constitution, Section 1, "Voting membership is described as follows: Each sailboat shall have one vote, which shall be cast by its owner, or the part owner designated by the other part owners, or by its regular skipper who has been so designated on the records of the Association. A member who has more than one boat shall not be permitted to cast more than one vote."

As per Article XI of the PRSA Constitutions (Amendments), "This constitution may be amended, altered, or repealed at any meeting by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present in person or by proxy, provided that notices of the proposed changes are mailed to the entire voting membership fifteen days in advance of such meeting."

As such:

- The proposed amendment will require a 2/3 vote of those members present or voting by proxy at the meeting in order to pass.
- To appoint a proxy, an active member must complete and deliver a proxy form to another active member in order to allow that member to cast a proxy vote. The member authorize to cast the proxy vote must bring the signed proxy form to the meeting in order for the proxy vote to cast.