



## Proposed PIYC Constitution Revisions

### Introduction

At the October 13, 2019 membership meeting, the committee created by the Officers and Board to review the Presque Isle Yacht Club Constitution presented its proposals for revisions.

Three reasons have prompted the review of the club’s Constitution. They are to:

- give the Associate member more of a voice at PIYC,
- obtain more participation and utilization of talents from the members’ spouses/partners,
- bring the constitution in line with prevailing societal norms and laws.

Currently, PIYC has three membership categories. They are:

1. Active Member
2. Associate Member
3. Inactive Member

The third category, namely Inactive Member, is a member who has accrued 25 years or more of continuous membership and who wishes to now become Inactive. An Inactive Member pays dues but does not pay assessments or other fees and does not perform work hours nor will he/she accumulate additional points.

The chart below illustrates the current differences between the three membership categories.

	Current State of Membership Rights		
	Active Member	Associate Member	Inactive Member
Pay Dues	✓	✓	✓
Pay Tax and Lease Assessment	✓	✓	
Performs Work Hours	✓	✓	
Vote **	✓		
Lead Committee **	✓		
Can run for Board **	✓		
Can run for Bridge **	✓		
Gets 1 Point per Year	✓	✓	
Gets 1 Point per Year for Boat	✓		

\*\* If the member is In Good Standing - attended 4 out of 8 membership meetings per year and all fees are paid to date

## Proposed revisions

After thorough study and comparison with the constitutions of other yacht clubs, the committee has proposed two revisions. They are as follows.

**The first revision** is to allow an Associate Member to have all the same rights as does an Active Member *except for receiving a second point each year for the boat in a slip.*

At this time, an Associate Member is required to pay dues and all tax and lease assessments just as does an Active Member. However, unlike an Active Member, an Associate Member cannot vote on issues that could impact the club nor can the Associate Member be an Officer or be a board member. Hence, this first revision seeks to change this as illustrated by the following chart.

	Proposal for Future Membership Rights		
	Active Member	Associate Member	Inactive Member
Pay Dues	✓	✓	✓
Pay Tax and Lease Assessment	✓	✓	
Performs Work Hours	✓	✓	
Vote **	✓	✓	
Lead Committee **	✓	✓	
Can run for Board **	✓	✓	
Can run for Bridge **	✓	✓	
Gets 1 Point per Year	✓	✓	
Gets 1 Point per Year for Boat	✓		

\*\* If the member is In Good Standing - attended 4 out of 8 membership meetings per year and all fees are paid to date

**The second revision** is to allow an Active Member's Spouse or Domestic Partner (as defined by anyone in an unmarried, committed relationship with a member) to also become an Associate Member *without paying an additional initiation fee.*

We live in a society that has dramatically changed within the last several decades. The traditional understanding of marriage and family have been reshaped. New terms such as "domestic partners" and "partnership unions" have been coined to recognize these realities. Additionally, societal norms, a growing number of employers as well as Federal laws support these changes. Hence, these proposed revisions are designed to bring the club's Constitution into compliance with the societal norms, corporate practices and changes in Federal laws.

## How the revisions will appear in the Constitution

With this explanation, then, below are the details to be changed throughout the PIYC Constitution:

- ✓ Associate Members will have the right to vote (if considered "In Good Standing" as in the case of Active Members).
- ✓ Associate Members will be able serve as a committee chair.

- ✓ Associate Members will be able to serve as board member.
- ✓ Associate Members will be able to serve as a club Officer.
- ✓ The spouse/domestic partner of any Active Member may join as an Associate Member and not pay additional initiation fee.
- ✓ No points accrued by an Associate Member can be combined with Active Member spouse/domestic partner.
- ✓ Neither an Active Member nor an Associate Member spouse/domestic partner can serve on the board / bridge concurrently.
- ✓ When joining together, the couple must decide who will be the Active Member and who will be Associate Member – this agreement by the couple must remain that way throughout the term of their membership.
- ✓ If an Active Member passes away and has a spouse/domestic partner as an Associate Member, the Associate Member spouse/domestic partner will assume Active Membership status and obtain points from Active Member spouse/domestic partner but will relinquish any points accumulated as an Associate Member.
- ✓ No more than 49% of the membership can be Associate Members.
- ✓ No more than 49% of the board or bridge can be Associate Members.
- ✓ If Associate Member decides to become an Active Member, he/she must pay Active Member initiation fee.

### **What stays the same in the Constitution**

- Associate Members will receive 1 point per year.
- Associate Members will pay tax & lease fees.
- Associate Members will complete work hours.