

**CHNYC General Membership Meeting Minutes**  
**16 OCT 2025**  
Meeting 1900 via Zoom

**Attendees:**

Monica Blanchard  
John Nothacker  
Kim Lyons  
Jeanne Kelly  
Wendy Lang  
Anne Mitchell  
Andy Wittkamper  
Richard Coupland  
Eric Irwin  
Paul Schmitt  
Warren McAuliffe  
Pat Tormey  
Geoffrey Gillespie  
Walter Wasowski  
Ron Oard  
Sandy Takacs  
Rob Schult  
Seth Moyer (joined after quorum certification)

**Board members not present:**

Bill Kneller  
Tripp Alyn  
Mike Incze  
Erin Howe  
MaryBeth Schmitt  
EC Helme

**Proxy Votes:**

-Greg Bader (Monica Blanchard as proxy)  
-Bill Kneller (Monica Blanchard as proxy)

**Specific Agenda Items**

1. Call meeting to order 1858 – Commodore Monica Blanchard

**Certification of Quorum:** Secretary Wendy Lang

-135 total memberships; 125 regular/10 associate; 12 membership attendees required for quorum. (1/10 of general membership per Bylaw 4.7.1)  
Quorum certified – 17 members present, 2 proxy

## General Updates

### 1. Executive Board Updates

- a. Commodore – Monica Blanchard
  - i. Discussed highlights of term as Commodore, including thanking Immediate Past Commodore Kim Lyons for support as well as all who have supported CHNYC during her term. This included Board members and all event and racing attendees and supporters; thanked the MWR Marina staff for their support. Jeanne Kelly, Pat Tormey and Bill Kneller were thanked for financial and administrative support.
  - ii. Rob Schult nominated to assume position as Commodore
- b. Vice Commodore – LT John Nothacker
  - i. Recruited new members to join CHNYC
  - ii. LCDR John Golden nominated to assume as Vice Commodore
  - iii. Will assume role as BZ scholarship coordinator next year
- c. Immediate Past Commodore – Kim Lyons
  - i. Supported Commodore/Vice commodore during term as Immediate Past Commodore
  - ii. Chair of Nominating Committee
  - iii. Managed Wreaths Across America program; last year \$235.00 brought in through wreath sales (47 wreaths sold). Link on website to be restored and December newsletter for this year's wreath sales. \$5.00 return on each \$17.00 wreath sale which is applied to BZ Scholarship. December 13 is National Wreaths Across America day, CHNYC volunteers in Exeter, RI., where there are 42,000 burial sites in Exeter. (Not all have wreaths)
  - iv. Sail instructor
- d. Secretary – Wendy Lang
  - i. Expressed gratitude for support from Commodore Monica Blanchard and all on Board for support during term.
  - ii. Reported on Secretarial duties during term:
    1. Drafted meeting agendas and sent to Board prior to meetings
    2. Kept meeting minutes and posted in Board Business and Members only forums following Board meetings
    3. Tracked new member list in event and member reports on CHNYC website and sent welcome letters and burgee decals to new members (Reported 19 new members this year including 18 regular memberships and 1 associate; of that 13 were family and 6 individual)
    4. Tracked new donors in event and member reports on CHNYC website and sent thank you letters to all donors
    5. Corresponded with reciprocal Clubs in Yachting Club of America affiliation regarding letters of introduction received / requests for reciprocity and provided detailed explanations of amenities that we provide including our moorings and their capabilities; as well as restrictions and unique nature of CHNYC placement on Naval Station Newport and requirements for access.

6. Andy Wittcamper nominated to assume as Secretary

- e. Treasurer – Jeanne Kelly
  - i. Informs of Club's finances: this year CHNYC switched Credit Unions from Greenwood credit union to NFCU for more efficient proximity
  - ii. as of 9/30 current balance \$9,064.22 in line with budget, income \$19,826.31; expenses \$13,189.25 yielding a net income through third quarter of \$6,637.06; in line with current budget; full reports in Member forum
  - iii. Thanked Paul Mankofsky for review of budget; thanked Charles Jenison, previous treasurer, Monica and current Board for support and guidance
  - iv. Will serve another term as treasurer; plans to reach out to Executive Board and Committee Chairs for input to set budget for 2026

**2. Officers & Committees**

- a. Shields Fleet Captain – Ron Oard
  - i. Overview of busy and successful season weeknights and weekend events
  - ii. Navy divested itself of all owned Shields; all have stayed local
- b. Rhodes 19 Fleet Captain – Seth Moyer
  - i. Warren McAuliffe will be appointed as R19 Fleet Captain
  - ii. Racing participation was greater in spring than summer; successful competitions
  - iii. awards to be handed out at Banquet
  - iv. R19 Fleet healthy
  - v. Discussed importance of fleet use including rentals to keep boats with MWR
  - vi. Need for sailing instructors with MWR
- c. Trimaran Fleet Captain -Sandy Takacs
  - i. Goal this year was to integrate into the club and assist with club needs
  - ii. 3 trimaran members supported Winslow Regatta
  - iii. Participated in Fall Series
  - iv. Supported one RC night this summer
  - v. Wrote article for Telltale introducing Club to Trimaran Fleet members
- d. PHRF Fleet Captain / Protest Chair – Tripp Alyn (not present-updates provided by Monica)
  - i. One protest this year in Rhodes racing
  - ii. Tripp stayed informed of PHRF racing and kept Board up to date
- e. Training – Robert Schult
  - i. Several training events held this year
  - ii. Recommends training scheduled as early as possible
  - iii. Planning training for off season
  - iv. Geoff Gillespie nominated to assume Rear Commodore Training
  - v. Monica recommended Board provide ideas for training to Rear Commodore Training
- f. Facilities – Pat Tormey
  - i. Current issue with moorings: City of Newport presents new financing category/fee structure for cost of moorings; plans to pursue details on this

- soon; requests assistance from anyone who might be able to help with Newport fee structure.
- ii. Regarding #2 buoy that returned to our Marina recently via currents – Board agreed that Monarch was to sell it which they did; and we were credited \$100.00 for the sale. Current #2 was hit by prop and damaged, however Monarch has another buoy that was returned that they can sell to us and replace damaged #2.
- iii. States that he will restore missing Wreaths Across America link on website
- g. Race Chair – Mike Incze (not present-updates by Monica)
  - i. Planned Winslow Regatta
  - ii. Coordinated RC volunteers for Wednesday night racing
  - iii. Held safety standdown at beginning of year; educated the Fleet
  - iv. Will continue next year as Rear Commodore Racing
- h. Cruising – Walt Wasowski
  - i. Reported few cruising events this year; one event was Bristol Harbor 4<sup>th</sup> of July and Mitchell Regatta, Memorial Day cruise
  - ii. Working on discount days for CHNYC at West Marine; this year’s discount days were not very successful
- i. Telltale Coordinator – Joe Gabriel (Not present; updates by Monica)
  - i. Telltale Newsletter provided to CHNYC quarterly
- j. Social Director – Anne Mitchell
  - i. Total of 10 social events, 8 have occurred, 2 upcoming
  - ii. Fall Banquet and awards ceremony Saturday at Green Valley Country Club; Navy Band and Color Guard may not be present due to Government shutdown
  - iii. 12/13/25 Army/Navy watch party at Topside Officer’s Club; appetizer buffet and drinks to purchase; Jeanne Petersen is event Captain
  - iv. One of goals this year was to increase number of events which was achieved; 2 in winter and one in early spring to have members gather during off season: comedy show/trivia night and dinghy crawl
  - v. Turning over as Social Director; position currently remains vacant
  - vi. Ron Oard mentioned Nautical Trivia to start November 3, 2025 at The Helmway (several club members attended last year)
- k. NBYA Delegate – EC Helme (not present)
  - i. Attending NBYA annual meeting Nov 6 on behalf of CHNYC and will share report of that meeting
- l. Web Publishing – Pat Tormey
  - i. Wreaths across America link to be restored on website
- m. Webmaster – Bill Kneller (not present-updates by Monica)
  - i. Website running well
- n. Social media – Erin Howe (not present) and Kim Lyons; Monica requested that any desired posts for Instagram be sent to Kim Lyons
- o. BZ Scholarship – Mary Beth Schmitt (Not present; updates by Monica)
  - i. Raised \$1,500 for BZ scholarship and 4 awards were presented this year
  - ii. John Nothacker nominated to assume BZ Scholarship role

**VOTE:**

1. Approval for continuance of 2025 dues structure (\$50/individual, \$60/family) – Monica Blanchard
  - Motion: Monica Blanchard
  - Second: Kim Lyons
  - All in favor, unanimous
  - Motion approved to keep current dues structure
  
2. Approval of October 23, 2024 GMM Minutes: Wendy Lang
  - - See minutes on CHNYC “Members Only” and “Board Business” forums, posted November 6, 2024.
    - <https://chnyc.us/forum/viewtopic.php?t=561>
  - Motion: Monica Blanchard
  - Second: Jeanne Kelly
  - All in favor, unanimous
  - Motion approved
  
3. Approval of June 2, 2025 GMM Minutes: Wendy Lang
  - - See minutes on CHNYC “Members Only” and “Board Business” forums, posted June 16, 2025.
    - <https://chnyc.us/forum/viewtopic.php?t=577>
  - Motion: Monica Blanchard
  - Second: Pat Tormey
  - All in favor, unanimous
  - Motion Approved
  
4. Approval of 2026 Executive Board nominations: Kim Lyons
  - - The following nominations are submitted by the CHNYC Nominating Committee.
      - **Commodore:** Rob Schult (to relieve Monica Blanchard)
      - **Vice Commodore:** LCDR John Golden (to relieve LT John Nothacker)
      - **Executive Rear Commodore:** Monica Blanchard (to relieve Kim Lyons)
      - **Treasurer:** Jeanne Kelly, to serve another term
      - **Secretary:** Andrew Wittkamper (to relieve Wendy Lang)
  - Motion: Kim Lyons
  - Second: Ron Oard
  - All in favor: unanimous
  - Motion approved

### **Appointments:**

o In accordance with Bylaws 4.3 and 4.4, the Executive Board makes the following new appointments for Rear Commodores, Fleet Captains, and Special Assistants:

§ *Rear Commodore of Training*, Geoff Gillespie (to relieve Rob Shult)

§ *Rhodes 19 Fleet Captain*, Warren McAuliffe (to relieve Seth Moyer)

§ *Social Director*, TBD (to relieve Anne Mitchell)

§ *BZ Scholarship Coordinator*, John Nothacker (to relieve Mary Beth Schmitt)

### **· Remaining Vacant Board positions:**

o Social Director

### **Discussion:**

-Kim Lyons mentioned importance of sailing instructors from among the CHNYC Membership; Seth Moyer and Kim only instructors currently. Kim mentioned that MWR is willing to hiring more flex hire sailing instructors.

-Monica mentioned including sailing instructor information as well as Wreaths Across America information in next newsletter.

- Motion to commend Kim Lyons by Walt Wasowski for her 12 years of service to CHNYC in Board positions.

Second: Monica

All in favor: unanimous

### **3. Adjourn General Membership Meeting at 1943– Commodore Monica Blanchard**

### **4. Next General Membership Meeting: Fall 2026**