

Paddle Manitoba

“Your Recreational & Wilderness Paddling Community”

Motion: BIRT the Constitution and By-Laws of Paddle Manitoba be amended as outlined below.

Mover: Eric Gyselman

Seconder: Tim Wintoniw

The current By-Laws Section 1 point a, which reads:

1. Membership:

a. Classes of Membership:

- 1) Individual and Individual Life;
- 2) Family (Two or more individuals living at the same address);
- 3) Instructor and Instructor Life. (Paddle Canada Instructors);
- 4) Affiliate (Group or club). The principal representative of an Affiliate (club) membership shall be 18 years of age or over;
- 5) Corporate and Corporate Life. (Individuals or organizations engaged in the rental or sale of canoes, kayaks and related products or in the provision of related services);
and
- 6) Honourary. (An individual or organization who by history of service to paddling in Manitoba is deemed to merit such recognition, or a Paddle Manitoba member who has achieved great distinction in paddling). Nominations may be made by any member, shall require the endorsement of the Board and the approval of the membership at any membership meeting.

Be amended to read:

1. Membership:

a. Classes of Membership:

- 1) Individual;
- 2) Family (Two or more individuals living at the same address);
- 3) Instructor (Paddle Canada Instructors);
- 4) Affiliate (Group or club). The principal representative of an Affiliate (club) membership shall be 18 years of age or over;
- 5) Corporate and Corporate Life. (Individuals or organizations engaged in the rental or sale of canoes, kayaks and related products or in the provision of related services);
and
- 6) Honourary. (An individual or organization who by history of service to paddling in Manitoba is deemed to merit such recognition, or a Paddle Manitoba member who has achieved great distinction in paddling). Nominations may be made by any member, shall require the endorsement of the Board and the approval of the membership at any membership meeting.

Motion: BIRT the Paddle Manitoba board be empowered to alter the Policies document to bring it in line with this amendment to the By-laws, recognizing that this work must be complete by March 12, 2011, and adopted by a majority vote of the board.

Explanation:

The Board of Paddle Manitoba is recommending the membership categories 'Individual Lifetime' and 'Instructor Lifetime' be discontinued. There are a couple of reasons for this initiative.

At the AGM last year, the response of the membership to the proposal to move Paddle Manitoba back towards a member-driven and member-involved organization was clear. Our members wanted PM to be inclusive. The Board feels that to encourage member participation, we must actively persuade each member to make an annual commitment to the club. One way of doing this is to ensure they fill out their membership form and make a modest financial pledge. Remember, half the membership dues from an 'Annual Individual' membership go towards the subscription to Kanawa. The contribution to Paddle Manitoba is very small (only \$15 for an 'Annual Individual' membership).

The second reason the Board is proposing this change is fiscal. The dues paid towards an 'Individual Lifetime' or an 'Instructor Lifetime' membership are only beneficial in the year they are collected. Ever after, the lifetime members are a financial liability to the organization – as long as they live. Paddle Manitoba has the responsibility of providing services to lifetime members even if they no longer have any interest in paddle sports.

Paddle Manitoba must honour existing lifetime memberships. These memberships were made in good faith at the time they were issued. The Board is not proposing that these be revoked. However, it is proposing that Paddle Manitoba no longer issue any new lifetime memberships.

The Board believes Lifetime Corporate memberships are still viable and reasonable. Corporate Members continue to support our members through contributions to our programs such as PaddleFest, and through discounts on goods and services.

These changes are not unique to Paddle Manitoba. Many organizations, including Paddle Canada, have realized lifetime memberships are a liability and have moved towards annual memberships only. The Board urges the membership to support the proposed changes to our Constitution.

Motion: BIRT the Constitution and By-Laws of Paddle Manitoba be amended as outlined below.

Mover: Catherine Holmen

Secunder: Charles Burchill

The current Constitution Section 8, which reads:

8. **Amendments.** Amendments to the constitution shall require at least 15 days notice of motion to the membership and a 2/3 vote of the members voting at a membership meeting.

Be amended to read:

8. **Amendments.** Amendments to the constitution shall require at least 15 days' notice of motion to the membership and a 2/3 vote of the members voting at a membership meeting including absentee ballots cast in accordance with the Paddle Manitoba Policies.

AND the former By-laws Section 9, which reads:

9. **Amendments to By-laws.** By-laws may be amended at any Membership meeting. Motions to amend shall require a two-thirds vote to carry.

Be amended to read:

9. **Amendments to By-laws.** Amendments to the By-laws shall require at least 15 days' notion of motion to the membership and a 2/3 vote of the members voting at a membership meeting including absentee ballots cast in accordance with the Paddle Manitoba Policies.

Motion: BIRT that the Policies of Paddle Manitoba be amended to include the following section:

Mover – Catherine Holmen

Secunder – Charles Burchill

Absentee Voting

Eligible Motions: Absentee voting is permitted only on motions to amend the Constitution and By-laws of Paddle Manitoba.

Voter Eligibility: Any member in good standing of Paddle Manitoba is eligible to vote by absentee ballot.

Voting Procedure: Should a member wish to vote on an eligible motion by absentee ballot, he or she must email the Paddle Manitoba Secretary stating so. The Secretary sends a return email with a ballot personalized by a ballot number. The member then prints and completes the ballot, returning it to

Paddle Manitoba through the regular mail. It must be received by Paddle Manitoba by the last business day prior to the meeting. Any ballots received after the meeting will not be counted.

Counting Procedure: All ballots received must be brought un-opened to the meeting where the eligible motion is to be discussed, along with a list of all absentee ballot numbers. At the time of voting on the motion, two Paddle Manitoba Board members or their representatives open the absentee ballots, checking that the ballot number on each one appears on the list of registered absentee ballots. When counted, they give the total count (numbers of ballots, those in favour, those opposed, and abstentions) to the Chair. If 2/3rds of the total number of votes cast are in favour of the motion, it carries; otherwise, it fails. After the motion is adopted or defeated, all absentee ballots must be destroyed by the Secretary.

Explanation:

Paddle Manitoba is noticing a trend of increased contact with paddlers in other parts of the province. To take steps towards being an organization that is more provincial, and less focused on those paddlers located within or in proximity to the Perimeter Hwy., we need to make participation in the decision-making process more accessible to more of our members.

By proposing absentee voting, the Board would like to adopt policies and procedures by which members unable to attend Member Meetings would be able to request and mail in a ballot recording their vote on amendments to the Constitution and By-laws. Absentee voting is limited to those motions as Robert's Rules of Order requires their wording to be circulated to members at least 15 days before any meeting, and because they are not amendable from the floor. All other motions may be changed before voting, and nominations for elections may be made from the floor, rendering members unable to accurately and fairly vote ahead of the meeting.

It is important to note that absentee voting is very different than proxy voting. Voting by proxy allows a member to sign his or her vote over to another person and that person, present at a meeting, then counts for two (or more) votes. Similar to voting by mail in elections, absentee voting allows a member to register his or her vote directly with Paddle Manitoba prior to the meeting where the motion is to be discussed.

Voting on this concept comes in two parts. The changes to the Constitution and By-laws refer only to the idea of absentee voting, and allow for it to happen. That motion may not be changed during discussion at the AGM, and needs a 2/3rds majority vote to be adopted. The specific procedures for absentee voting fall under the Paddle Manitoba Policies, may be discussed and changed as the members deem appropriate, and require a simple majority to be adopted. Please keep these two steps separate when discussing and voting.