



# Breezes AND Blows



Ocean Springs Yacht Club

December 2023

100 Front Beach Drive  
Ocean Springs, MS 39564

## Commodore's Report



The love and support from our OSYC members at our annual meeting really showed. The meeting was well attended. The message was given and received well too! Thank you to everyone who participated and a special thank you to Michael Ramsey, who facilitated our financials and bylaw amendments. He is a

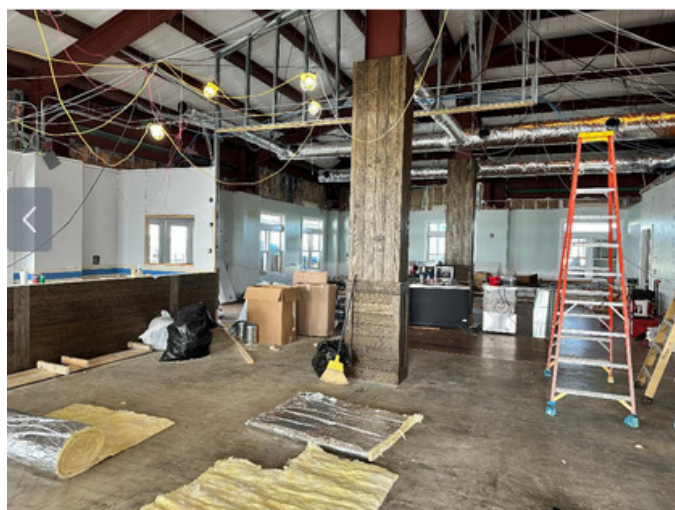
true asset to our board.

We will be upstairs in no time! All our Christmas wishes, I have no doubt, will come true! We have multiple contractors putting in extra time and effort to get the job done. Pictures do not do it justice because there are new improvements with each day. Our fresh new ceiling panels will be installed in the early part of next week and our finish line will be around the corner. The open floor plan and higher ceilings will give the Club a sense of expansion.

We plan to keep our full bar running downstairs to allow families to enjoy the outdoors. In the coming year, I look forward to expanding our children's area downstairs to give our families more room to enjoy. Lots of memories to be made during our holiday season!

XOXO  
Nicole

Nicole McClendon  
2023 OSYC Commodore



View of renovations to the bar and the ceiling from the double doors to the deck into the bar area.

### 2023 Flag/Corporate Officers:

- Commodore - Nicole McClendon
- Vice Commodore - Carroll Kovacevich
- Rear Commodore - Michael Ramsey
- Fleet Captain - Amanda Romano
- Treasurer - Gian Motta
- Secretary - William Buchanan



### Board of Governors

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Board Member - Kristen Grizzard
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Board Member - Dos Hetrick
- 1<sup>st</sup> Year Board Member - Sandra Carter
- 1<sup>st</sup> Year Board Member - Wendie Hilliard
- Past Commodore - Lloyd Hebert



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**P.O. Box 821, Ocean Springs MS 39566 (228) 875-1915**

From the Vice Commodore,  
Carroll Kovacevich



One more month before the end of the year; hard to believe! During parts of this year time crawled, and sometimes it moved very swiftly. So here we are at the end of what can only be described as a very challenging year. Challenging in negative ways, and challenging in positive ways as

well. Through these challenges we have been able to sustain some normalcy as we rebuild from the fire and plan for the future. The fire, as destructive as it was, created a great opportunity to do things to the club that had been on our wish list for years. Now the wishes are becoming a reality.

The new configurations and changes will give the upstairs a different look. These changes will greatly enhance the bar and dining room experience for our members and guests. The decisions made involved a lot of thought and planning, and the decision making was not taken lightly. With a higher ceiling and less wall space, it will be more open and provide a more friendly atmosphere. Improvements to the kitchen and bar areas will create a more viable work environment which will allow our staff to provide better food and beverage service.

Speaking of our staff ... our staff have always been the backbone for the success and stability of this club, especially since June 29, 2023. They have worked under some very trying conditions since that date, first the heat and humidity, and now the cold, enduring cramped working conditions plus limited resources and equipment. They have had to improvise many times to maintain the "business as usual" attitude. Their commitment towards the operation and success of this club has been unwavering. Most are experiencing financial hardships because of the lack of business, yet they come to work and give our membership their best efforts. They do their best to provide us with the services that make OSYC such an enjoyable place. They are a very important members of our Ocean

Springs Yacht Club family. In the spirit of the season of giving, I would ask that if you choose to contribute to the Employee Christmas Fund be as generous as you can (there is more information on this at the end of this newsletter). I promise you it will be greatly appreciated.

Wishing all a Happy and Blessed Christmas!!

Carroll



Photo credit: Sadzak Vladimir, Pinterest





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From the Rear Commodore,  
Michael Ramsey



Ahoy!

I want to thank everyone that attended the Annual General Membership Meeting. The feedback that I have received regarding the Meeting has been overwhelmingly positive. Many people have thanked me for presenting the financials in a thorough and efficient

manner. I will work to ensure that the Board continues to provide transparency regarding the financial condition of the Club and the progress of the repairs. The main takeaway for those of you who were not able to attend the meeting is that the Club is in strong financial shape to continue to repair and improve the Club while we are waiting for our insurance claim to be satisfied. I am confident that when we reopen upstairs, the repairs and improvements that we make will provide greater satisfaction to our members and guests. In short: the future of the Club is bright and I am confident that the incoming Board will continue to build on our Club's recent success.

On another note, as we celebrate this holiday season my mind is on our employees. Since the fire, they have been incredibly resilient and have really done a tremendous job in keeping the Club running. With that being said, it is no surprise that the cold weather has slowed down business at the Club and many of our employees rely heavily on your tips for their income. Our membership has always been generous towards our employees – especially during the holidays – but I kindly ask that you consider being a little more generous towards the people that help make our Club special. There are forms at the club to donate to our employees, and also included in this newsletter.

I look forward to seeing you at the Club!

Mike Ramsey,  
Rear Commodore



Photo credit: Getty Images, Copyright: Lise Gagne

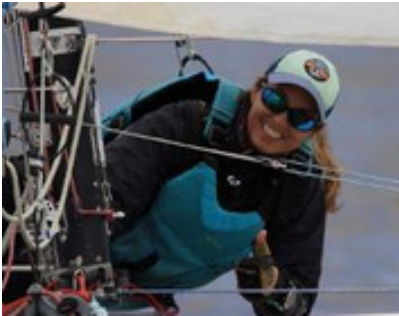




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From the Fleet Captain, Amanda Romano  
FleetCaptain@OSYC.com



Dear OSYC  
Members,

As we steer into  
the winter months,  
I hope this  
message finds you  
well and filled with  
the spirit of  
giving. There are

only a couple of updates I'd like to share  
concerning our boat yard capacity and a delightful  
bugee exchange with another yacht club.

The love for sailing has been overwhelmingly  
fantastic to witness within our club. However, due  
to the limited space, we now have a waiting list for  
boat yard slots. Speaking on the spirit of giving, for  
those of you who might not sail next year, I kindly  
request that you consider offering your spot to  
another member who's eager to make the most of  
the upcoming sailing season. If you foresee a  
period of inactivity, please let us know so we can  
accommodate those on the waiting list.

On a more celebratory note, I'd like to thank John  
Barber, who recently had the pleasure of  
representing our club during a bugee exchange  
with our friends at Port Madison Yacht Club. John's  
relatives live on Bainbridge Island which is on  
Puget Sound just across from Seattle,  
Washington. The stories and experiences gained  
from these interactions are what make our love for  
sailing an ever-evolving journey. Your initiative in  
fostering connections beyond our waters is highly  
encouraged and welcomed.

I hope everyone is enjoying the holiday season!

Cheers!

Amanda Romano  
Fleet Captain



Photo credits: John Barber and friends (October 2023)



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From Your Club Manager, David Danna  
[Office@osyc.com](mailto:Office@osyc.com)

Greetings OSYC'ers!

The colder air, omnipresent Christmas decorations, holiday music, and the pervasive and unrelenting barrage of “great savings” and holiday sales commercials are unmistakable signs that holiday season is officially upon us!

At OSYC, the month of November saw a flurry of activity administratively, physically and operationally. Administratively, I am excited and proud to announce that we hired Gina Welch as our new administrative assistant. Gina has a wealth of experience in customer/member relations and bookkeeping/office skills. In the brief time that she has been here, she has already proven herself as an invaluable addition to our staff. Gina will handle routine member issues and general administrative functions. Please welcome Gina into to our OSYC family!

Physically, as quite a few of you have seen, the upstairs has undergone a massive and quite visible transformation. For example, the brand new HVAC units have been delivered, the wall divider has been removed, the bar has been rebuilt, and the kitchen is being renovated.

Operationally, our new software system, Clubessential, has shifted from planning to the pre-implementation stage. Our wonderful, dedicated staff also have been engaged in numerous training calls as well as practicing with the new software. The system is about 75% complete and implemented. The only section that is still undergoing revisions is the private, members-only website. This module is a new feature that will allow members to see the club calendar and events, access monthly statements, and manage your method of paying your monthly bill.

Excluding the private website, we are scheduled to have the system “go live” on December 1st. The members-only website should be live in mid-late December. We will keep you apprised and updated as we progress in that process.

This holiday season at OSYC is exciting for additional reasons. In addition to the always fun gift-giving and family gatherings, we are inching closer and closer to reopening. The light at the end of the tunnel is becoming bigger and brighter each day!

*There's a shadow on the road behind. There's sunlight on the road ahead.*

David Danna

General Manager

[office@osyc.com](mailto:office@osyc.com).



**2024 Flag/Corporate Officers:**

- Commodore - Carroll Kovacevich
- Vice Commodore - Michael Ramsey
- Rear Commodore - Dos Hetrick
- Fleet Captain - Amanda Romano
- Treasurer - Meade Tyler
- Secretary - Vince Smith



**Board of Governors**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Board Member - Sandra Carter
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Board Member - Wendie Hilliard
- 1<sup>st</sup> Year Board Member - Nancy Duckett Allen
- 1<sup>st</sup> Year Board Member - Bruce Small
- Past Commodore - Nicole McClendon



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From Your Social and Future Sailor  
Committee Chair, Wendie Hilliard



Dear OSYC Members,

November flew by and December has arrived. Even with limited space for events and unpredictable weather, we are trying to spread holiday cheer.

A few things planned for this month includes our annual Holiday Bazaar on

the 9th. Please, join us and our local vendors to shop for little happies and holiday gifts. The event is 10:30am-5pm.

Please, stop by the Yacht Club to pick up an Angel Tree kiddo tag and help a local Ocean Spring child this Christmas. All gifts need to be returned by December 8th, unwrapped. Please, see management for drop-off.

December 10th, join us at 1pm for Cookies with Santa. We will have more details soon for all parents.

Our mini annual holiday party will be December 16th. A little ugly sweater contest, a little karaoke, a little DJing and A LOT of laughs and fun.

Remember you can find the employee holiday gift forms at the bar. Thank you to all that have continued to support us and stand by us through this rebuild.

Thank you to all volunteers.

Happy Holidays!  
Merry Christmas!  
Happy Hanukkah!

Wendie Hilliard, Board Member  
[social@osyc.com](mailto:social@osyc.com)



*There will be a Food Buffet plus Bloody Mary and Mimosa Bars the day of the Bazaar, along, with a hot chocolate bar for the kiddos and kids at heart.*





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## "RING IN THE HOLIDAYS" FOR OUR OSYC STAFF!

Please help our OSYC staff members to have a very merry Christmas season by donating to our OSYC Staff Holiday Fund. Your generous contribution will be divided among all of our OSYC staff members to help them make their own families' holidays a little bit brighter. Think of this as a special way to thank each and every one of them for everything they do all year long for us. Your name will be added to a holiday card that will be presented to our staff, along with the total donations received. Thank you!

Member Name(s)  
(Please Print): \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation Amount {please circle):

\$5      \$10      \$15      \$20      \$25

\$50      \$100

Other Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Method (please circle):

Cash      Check      Charge to Account

**Again, thank you!**

**Happy Holidays from your OSYC Staff and your OSYC Board of Governors!**