



"Your voice for the boating community"

State of the Association

Dear Members and Followers

As you may be aware, the Illinois Boaters Association is approaching its first anniversary. We hope you have visited our web site to see the growing list of resources to protect and enhance the rights of all Illinois boaters (www.ILBoat.org). This organization was founded through the efforts of a small group of volunteers who rallied against state legislation that would have negatively affected boating on the Chain, and throughout the state of Illinois. Since our inception in Jan 2014, we have accomplished a number of items pertinent to boating in Illinois; successfully lobbying against several legislative efforts to diminish boaters' rights, a comprehensive web site, candidate endorsements, a draft of the Boater's Bill of Rights, to mention just few. In that spirit we need your help. Members are the life blood of any organization and we need everyone's efforts to find new members-individual, family and businesses. To that point we have established the membership year as Jan 1-Dec 31. Your bonus for supporting us in our inaugural year of 2014 is that we are extending your membership through Dec 31, 2015. This will also include any new members who join during the remainder of 2014.

We also need your involvement. Join us at our board meetings (second Wednesday of the month), get involved in one of our committees, help us find new members, sponsors, affiliates. This is your organization!

Our legislative efforts will be stepped up in 2015. We have drafted a Boater's Bill of Rights which we will propose to the legislature in 2015. A draft of that proposal is on our web site (www.ILBoat.org). Please take a look and feel free to give us your input. We will also monitor all proposed legislation and rule changes to keep you informed of any potential infringements on your rights to freely enjoy boating in Illinois.

This January we will be holding elections for 8 board positions. Some current board members will most likely run for the board again, however there is always room for new people and ideas. Please take this opportunity to get involved. If you have any interest in serving any of the committees or to be a board member please contact us via the website or our Facebook page. We would love to have you!

Once again thanks for your support and we hope you enjoy our holiday gift of extending the inaugural membership year. If you can give us a gift in return, we would love for you to find at least two new members of the Association and/or volunteer for a committee or board position. Thank you for standing up for our favorite passion....boating.

Sincerely

Rob Hardman

President

Illinois Boaters Association

Ed Haag

Vice President

Illinois Boaters Association