

## Letter from the Commodore,

Dear OYC members,

2020 has, so far, proved to be a year for the record books and we still have half of it to go! We face an uncertain future as our anticipated and beloved Okoboji summer has become anything but typical. The executive committee has been meeting regularly during this challenge and have been carefully and thoughtfully working through different state guidelines and scenarios. We have been looking at possible approaches, new communication alternatives and planning and instituting new practices, all in order to maintain our special bonds formed through the sport of sailing and Okoboji summer life. In the midst of all the uncertainty, we want OYC to remain an oasis of familiarity and support, to be a safe harbor for some sort of community and companionship.

With this as our goal, we really wanted to give you, the members, a season that would be memorable in a good way. The reality is that it will be different, extremely different for most of us. The Yacht Club feels we need to remain cautious and err on the conservative side especially considering the recent sad news of our uptick in cases here and all around our area. This has dampened our hopes of even a low-key "Lite" social calendar. **So it is with regret, we have decided to suspend (hopefully temporarily) our summer social calendar** and encourage each of our members to be very thoughtful and careful in deciding how to navigate safely in these rough waters of Covid 19 spread in our community.

Though we love each other, and love to share stories and news over a nice bite to eat and cocktails, we don't at this time need to share our germs! No one wants to be the cause of someone else's illness. I can't say this with too much urgency; though we want things back to normal, the truth is - they aren't yet! We must not be, or even appear to be, reckless and too casual about the seriousness of the spread. Not many love big changes, especially when it's to something we know and enjoy, but this new framework we are forced to adopt has created an opportunity to start some things afresh, to try some ideas that challenge the status quo. This situation has really forced all of us to look much further than our own special group, our own needs, our own goals. So, I hope you all will look with me at the positive differences that can be and have been implemented, the increased awareness and considerations we take with each other, the cleanliness and health preserving habits we are gaining.

In essence, we are going head to wind, luffing our sails as we look up the lake, formulating our new plan for getting around the race course. In this big, shifty, unpredictable wind (with less than optimal crew weight) we are trying to remain flexible and smart about our decisions. Moving forward, sheeting in our sails carefully and slowly. I know we'll be able to keep the boat upright and make it safely around, and perhaps not do it in record time, but still enjoying the ride where we can and coming back for the next race with even more preparation and determination to succeed.

Stay tuned, keep in touch, monitor the website [www.okobojiyachtclub.org](http://www.okobojiyachtclub.org) as much as you can and perhaps as the summer goes on we'll see more favorable conditions and steadier winds filling in. We haven't abandoned ship yet, we'll continue to take wind readings, analyze the forecasts, and make repairs along the way. I've always felt that the Okoboji Yacht Club is my extended summer family, and like you, I look forward to those connections each season. Even though they aren't year-around, they're nonetheless cherished and important to my life and sense of community as I am sure it is with all of you.

We will continue to live and play with hope that the new atmosphere we find ourselves in, will bring out our best, fostering new habits, caring for our neighbors with new fervor, cherishing our families with renewed love and appreciation. I know the Okoboji Yacht Club will continue to be rooted to our connections and shared love of sailing whether it be a passion or a past time. I eagerly look forward to seeing all of you sometime before fall again finds us winding down our summers and almost immediately looking forward to the next summer "soft water" season at Okoboji.

Sincerely,

Kelli Farrar – OYC Commodore 2020