

1. The Board is responsible for coordination between the LBRA and its lessee organizations, the CSULB Crew, Long Beach Junior Crew, CARP and Powerhouse Fitness. As a Board member how would you help to coordinate use of the facility and equipment between these organizations?

That would depend on the status of the agreements that are in place. First and foremost I would adhere to the lease that is in place with the City of Long Beach and LBRA. Working within the parameters of the LBRA Bylaws and reviewing existing agreements between LBRA and its lessee organizations. I would analyze the data and make sure I did not put the club in a position of liability. Changes cannot be made that would violate existing agreements. Until I am armed with that information I will make no false promises. I can say that I am a good negotiator and have been doing so in my own business for the last 30 years. I am fair and my responsibility would be to represent the LBRA membership at large and do what is in the majority's best interest within the allowable parameters.

2. Membership in the club is growing by leaps and bounds primarily due to Learn to Row Day and the new lesson programs that have grown out of that effort. How do you propose to keep those new members happy and continue their development as rowers and effectiveness to the club as new members?

Lets make the goal to try to keep all members happy not just the new ones. More classes like the beginning and intermediate sweep or sculling, that take place during less populated dock times would be my suggestion. Newer rowers get intimidated because some of the experienced rowers just don't have the patience to deal with them and it tends to drive them off. The solution is to keep them separated so that beginning and intermediate rowers can learn and not get in the way of the competitive rowers. Also we should consider having a coxswain camp, if the club wants more people to cox then we need to provide some structured lessons so we can have more boats going out. I would like to investigate having more fitness/stretching classes in the evenings that focus on our needs as rowers, the feasibility of this would of course be dependent on liability issues and cost effectiveness. Our website needs an overhaul, it needs to be more interactive with members log in and have access to getting signed up for more rowing classes and coaching, volunteer hours, and events. There should be a committee formed to analyze and research what we need and discuss how encompassing we want the website to be. Consult with a few different Web designers and get quotes and have some of our own people trained in maintaining it.

3. As the club continues to grow so does the need for space and ongoing issues over boat storage, use of ergs and other equipment. How can the club continue to manage its existing storage and needs in the future?

There is a finite amount of space in our boathouse and given the current City of Long Beach Administration and Coastal Commission issues the chance of expansion is not on the horizon anytime in the near future. The bottom line is that within the allowable boundaries of existing agreements and the bylaws, members need to start discussing whether or not we need a membership limit based on our current square footage and/or how can we increase our usable space. I know that additional movable boat racks are being built to allow us more boats so that should solve some problems. I have spent most of my life dealing with boats and trying to maximize dock space to have the greatest number of boats possible. I understand the concept that not every boat can be stored in just any location, configuration, size and rigging will dictate where and how certain boats can be placed.

4. What is your perspective on paid staff? Should or shouldn't the club hire a manager or regular coaching staff? Why or why not? Pros and cons?

We have a wonderful asset in Sarah MacKenzie in Membership and she is very under-utilized. I think her role could be expanded to a full time position that encompasses a few different jobs, she is qualified to coach, she could supervise the management of the website, assist our Boat Captain with repairs and manage the day to day operations of the boathouse.

5. The LBRA fleet is aging and new boat purchases are ongoing and will continue. How should boats be prioritized for purchase in the future? What would you suggest we do with our older boats?

It should be based on the needs of the membership, with input from the members. Sell the older boats and earmark the funds for new boats.

6. LBRA has typically hosted 2 -3 regattas per year (Christmas, Spring/Solstice and Beach Sprints). There have been concerns with the organization of the events by prospective officials and other clubs who might participate in our events. What are your suggestions or thoughts on how to improve our regattas?

Look at which regattas historically had the greatest success as far as turn out, timeliness and profitability, then make that the standard for how your regattas are put together. Problems and misunderstandings are a fact of life and you cannot keep all the people happy all the time, you just have to use a winning formula and have the flexibility to solve problems when they crop up.