

To:
MHA membership
RE: Corporate status update

Dear MHA members,

It was last year that we discovered that the MHA was actually registered at its conception in 1983 as a “Directorship” organization, as opposed to a “Membership” organization that was in recent history, thought to be the case.

The only difference between the two is that as a Directorship, the Directors have the duty and responsibility to elect board members based on their vetted ability to serve as a capable, resourceful and cooperative asset to the MHA. Conversely, a Membership organization elects board members based on hopefully the same criteria, but often, simple popularity at a potluck dinner becomes a factor. In any case, the MHA has always actually been a Directorship organization. FYI, the Inland Seas Educational Association and most others in our industry function as a Directorship organization.

Because there was interest among the Board and Membership, this matter was discussed over the past winter to determine if switching to a membership organization might be a useful possibility.

The Board sought out opinions from other similar sized organizations, as well as Rotary Charities’ NorthSky for counsel. They suggested an open meeting venue for all involved to discuss the merits of both designations. Which we agreed was a good idea.

At this public meeting on March 11, after discussion, a large majority supported the Directorship designation.

At the April 10th MHA board meeting, it was noted that this matter had been handled professionally with full involvement by all willing stakeholders. The Board then ratified that indeed, our beloved MHA will continue to operate as a Directorship organization. MHA will also continue to function as a 501© 3 non-profit organization. This matter is now officially resolved.

For the past 35 years, the Membership has always been and continues to be the primary component making MHA function and thrive. Recommendations of all kinds may be made to the Board for consideration. Opinions can always be expressed by contacting Board members directly or by attending Board meetings. Minutes and committee reports are now available online at the MHA website.

We all look forward to making the mission of the MHA an even stronger reality in 2017!

Mission statement here: The Maritime Heritage Alliance exists to preserve, interpret, share and promote the maritime heritage of the Great Lakes.

Signed: Doug Roberts, President and for the Board