

NMTA BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
December 17, 2025
Hybrid Microsoft Teams & NMTA Office

Present:

Mike Kirshenbaum, Chair
Nick Buck-Niehaus
Tony Bulpin
John Dumas
Bryce Hansen
Kelly Hawley
Nick Graf
Katie Malik
Paul Zimmer

George Harris, President
Katie Groseclose, Executive & Programs Manager
Katie McPhail, VP Boat Show Director
Jay Jennings, VP Director of Government Affairs
Susan Geiger, NMTA Legal Council

Absent:

Scott Anderson
Elizabeth Bohling
Jeff Messmer
Paul Sorensen

MINUTES

The Board members received access to copies of the following documents electronically on the Board's website in advance of the meeting, and these documents were referred to during the teleconference meeting:

- Board of Trustee Minutes for November 19, 2025
- Consolidated Financial Report for November 2025
- NMTA Dashboard
- Boat Show Committee Minutes for December 9, 2025
- New Members for December
- Government Affairs Committee Minutes for December 12, 2025
- Grow Boating Committee Minutes for December 9, 2025

Welcome

Chair Mike Kirshenbaum called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM.

Financial Report

George Harris presented the year-to-date financials for the period ending on November 30, 2025.

The Board reviewed the November financial reports.

Government Affairs Update

Jay Jennings gave the following Government Affairs highlights:

- Jay reported the Committee met on December 12 and discussed the January 2026 legislative session. Jay discussed the bills that NMTA should be concerned about in the upcoming legislative session, including a proposed income tax.
- The 2026 NMTA Lobby Day will be held on January 29. Jay is working with RBAW to produce the event. He encouraged all Board members to attend.
- Kevin Ritz from ABYC attended the meeting and discussed marine electrical code compliance.
- Jay attended Boating BC in Vancouver last month and discussed super yacht traffic, the World Cup coming to the northwest, and future boat shows.
- Jay said he met with representatives from Department of Transportation about issues on Westlake.

Approval of Minutes

It was moved, seconded, and carried to approve November 19, 2025 Board of Trustees meeting minutes without changes.

Additional Items

There were no additional items to add to the meeting agenda.

Membership

George Harris presented eight new member applications for December. **It was moved, seconded, and carried to approve the following eight applications assigned to the category of membership listed:**

- Alexseal Yacht Coatings – Active
- Gig Harbor Yacht Club – Active
- Ignition Marine – Active
- Marina Puerto Escondido – Active
- Pacific Power Group – Active
- Premiere Yachts LLC – Active
- Remigo Electric Outboard Motors - Active
- Stek Marine – Affiliate

George reported this brings the membership count to 561 with the goal of 587 by June.

Officer Nominating Committee

George Harris reported that the bylaws require Paul Sorensen as Past Chair to select two non-retiring Board members to join him on the Officer Nominating Committee in December. Paul would like to recommend Nick Buck-Niehaus and John Dumas.

It was moved, seconded and carried to approve Nick Buck-Niehaus and John Dumas on the Officer Nominating Committee with Paul Sorensen.

Grow Boating Committee

Karsten McIntosh gave the following Grow Boating Committee highlights:

- The Committee met on December 9 to review all the grant request forms.
- There are currently \$88,058 of unspent designated Grow Boating funds and expects to receive an additional \$55,000 in February from the 2026 Seattle Boat Show.
- There were 23 grant applications that the committee reviewed with a decision matrix and decided to award 10 of the applications, \$1,000-2,000.
- The committee approved continuing summer 2026 public relations work with Samuelson Communications.
- George Harris shared a recap of the 2025 Discover Boating & Seattle Boat Show ticketing promotion. The committee approved spending \$25,000 on the Discover Boating & Seattle Boat Show ticketing promotion for 2026.

It was moved, seconded, and carried to approve the December 9, 2025, Grow Boating Committee minutes.

Boat Show Committee

Katie McPhail described these highlights from the December Boat Show Committee meeting:

- Emily & Laurie from AdMark presented the advertising plan for the show.
- Total space requested by 273 members to date is 224,674 sq ft
- There are around 6-10 additional exhibitors to add to the exhibitor list during the one round of revisions. Katie will send layout revisions Friday, December 19.
- 54 boats are registered for Bell Harbor and there is a waitlist.
- George Harris shared the ticket sales graph from 2022 to 2026.
- The jungle gym outside of WaMu Theater went up December 11 so it was up for the last two home Seahawk games.
- The Exhibitor Dashboard is up and running, and the digital guest tickets were added last Friday.
- The potential for home NFL Playoff games impacts staging plans. If the Seahawks host the NFC Championship at home in Lumen Field, there will be no staging or move-in allowed the Sunday before the show. This game would not impact show dates.
- The Committee continued the discussion on promotional ideas for the 2026 Seattle Boat Show. Katie said ARC Boat is going to sponsor Sip & Sketch on the first Saturday of the show.

It was moved, seconded, and carried to approve the December 10, 2025, Boat Show Committee minutes.

Boat Show Updates

Katie McPhail reported that a North Hall exhibitor, Bullfrog Boats has expressed having a hiatus year and Katie has thought instead of reassigning the space using it as a park space/seating space. Katie reported the space is highly desirable and lots of exhibitors have expressed interest in taking the space, but Katie wonders if for the good of the show adding the rest space in the middle of the show.

It was moved, seconded and carried to approve allowing Bullfrog Boats to have a hiatus and having NMTA use around \$10,000 worth of space as a park/seating space for the good of the show.

Anacortes Boat & Yacht Show

Katie McPhail reported the 2026 Anacortes Boat & Yacht Show will be May 14-16 and applications will be available at the end of January.

President's Report

George Harris showed the Board the new Digital Guest Ticket platform. Joan Collins previewed all of the new features of the site and briefly explained how the website works.

George thanked the Board for everything they do for the Association and wished everyone a happy holiday.

There being no further business, it was moved, seconded, and carried to adjourn the meeting at 1:55PM. The next meeting of the NMTA Board of Trustees will be held on Wednesday, January 14 at noon on Microsoft Teams.