

## **Mission**

The mission of the Squadron is to promote and facilitate sailing and related activities. Our squadron is dedicated to carrying out this mission through reliance on our individual members' talents and efforts whenever possible. Because of our members' willingness to give generously of their time, TSS has prospered and grown in spite of a modest fee structure. The Squadron intends to continue the direction that is the basis of today's success: a wide variety of sailing activities, outstanding facilities, planned growth, and "hands-on" membership participation.

Our members' deep commitment to work for the common good of the Squadron is the essence and strength of this organization. This involvement takes many forms and all are encouraged. Members support Squadron racing and cruising activities. A few serve in elected or appointed posts and are actively involved in Squadron planning. Many others participate in meetings, work parties, and special projects.

**Our members are justifiably proud to be part of the Tampa Sailing Squadron, both for what has been accomplished and for what the future promises.**

## **TSS FAQs**

### **What's Tampa Sailing Squadron about?**

As our Bylaws state: "The object of the Squadron shall be to conduct and operate boat regattas of all kinds upon the waters of Tampa Bay, Hillsborough Bay, the Gulf of Mexico, and the Atlantic Ocean; to promote the interest of members of the Squadron in boating, sailing, and yachting generally..."

### **Where is TSS?**

1250 Apollo Beach Blvd., Apollo Beach, FL

### **When are the membership meetings? Are they open?**

Membership meetings are open to prospective members. Usually, they are held at 7:30 p.m. on the third Monday of the month. However, if there is a recognized holiday, the meeting may, at the discretion of the COMMODORE, be canceled or moved to another day.

### **What are the membership dues and initiation fee?**

The initiation fee is \$400.00 for regular members, and for junior members, ten percent (10%) of that figure, or \$40.

The dues for regular members shall be \$164.03, plus applicable government taxes and fees per year or pro rata share. The dues for junior members shall be fifty percent (50%) of the dues for regular members.

A significant portion of membership dues is attributed to the following Club expense categories: real estate taxes and insurance. If costs to the Tampa Sailing Squadron increase in either or both of these categories, the Board of Directors, by majority vote, without the necessity of a Bylaws amendment, may pass increases in that portion of the dues attributable to those costs. The percentage share for each category may be detailed on the dues invoices and adjusted annually.

### **Who is eligible to be member?**

Any person of good moral character and financial responsibility interested in sailing and the furtherance of Tampa Sailing Squadron is eligible for membership. No person shall be excluded from consideration for membership on the ground of race, color, sex, religious creed, or national origin.

### **What are the benefits of membership?**

The regular member and that member's spouse have the use of the TSS facilities, subject to all rules and regulations. Family members are guests of the regular Member.

Either a regular member or that regular member's spouse is eligible to serve on the Board of Directors and is entitled to cast one vote. A regular member is construed as the individual who signs the original membership application.

### **What is a junior member?**

A Junior Member shall be of the ages from 18 through 21, or 22 and 26, if attending a college/university on a full-time basis. Proof of enrollment at a college/university is required for a Junior Member between the ages of 22 and 26. A Junior Member shall follow the Regular Membership process and have all of the duties, responsibilities, and privileges of Regular Membership. Upon reaching age 22 or 26, if attending college/university on a full-time basis, a Junior Member shall become a Regular Member without payment of the initiation fee, upon payment of Regular Member dues.

### **How do I apply for membership?**

Obtain an application form from the Membership Committee. Your completed application must be signed by two sponsors. Your application must include a check for the initiation fee. The initiation fee is non-refundable after your application is accepted by the Board. The completed application, with the check, is submitted to the TSS Secretary.

An applicant shall attend club functions as coordinated with sponsors and the Membership Committee. Attendance at club functions for approximately three (3) months is required.

After approximately three (3) months, the Membership Committee will submit the application to the Board with a recommendation for Regular Membership. A two-thirds

vote of the directors present will be required for approval. Upon approval, the Board will direct the Treasurer to invoice the new Regular Member for the balance of the year's dues.

### **What is a sponsor and how do I find two sponsors?**

A sponsor is a member who wishes to bring a prospective new member ("person sponsored") into the Club. The sponsor works with the Membership Committee to explain the mission of TSS and the expectations of the membership. Since there are two sponsors required, the duties will be shared as agreed to by the sponsors and approved by the Membership Committee.

The best way to find sponsors is to attend membership meetings and introduce yourself!

### **What does TSS expect of its members?**

You are invited and encouraged to become active and involved. Join in our races, cruises, youth programs, socials and work parties and lend a hand with the events and functions we enjoy. Our facilities, operations and programs are built and maintained by TSS members for TSS members. A proud TSS tradition calls this "sweat equity" in the Club. Your skills and interests are appreciated, and of value to our "self help" Club, and we count on your help and participation. TSS is a working club and membership participation is required.

### **What does TSS expect of its wet and dry slip renters?**

TSS provides slips for the convenience of its members. A slip is a privilege. Our slip rates are below the market rent. TSS's wet and dry slip renters are expected to attend a minimum of four membership meetings per calendar year and render service to the Squadron each calendar year. Opportunities for service include the following: Officer, Board of Directors, chair or member of a Standing Committee, chair or member of a Special Committee, work parties, Race Committee, leadership of Youth Sailing or Sea Scouts, sponsor club cruise, sponsor potluck dinner, write newsletter article, assist with special event, assist with squadron regatta, other service as approved by the Board of Directors or Dockmaster.

**We appreciate your interest in TSS and welcome your application for membership. It is our sincere desire that you understand the process and expectations during the application period. The Membership Chairperson ("MC") will give you a Membership Process Checklist to chart your course. The MC, the Membership Committee, your sponsors and TSS members all wish you smooth sailing and will stand by to help you learn the ropes. When you have completed the membership process, the MC will present your Membership Process Checklist to the TSS Board of Directors for consideration. With the Board's approval, you will be invoiced for your annual dues, or pro rata share, and the Board's conferral of your TSS membership is effective upon your dues payment.**