



# ST. PAUL YACHT CLUB

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING Minutes

**Date:** Tuesday, May 12, 2026

**Time:** 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

**Location:** SPYC Clubhouse at 375 West Water Street, St. Paul / [Google Meet](#)

**Video call link:** <https://meet.google.com/rec-pvtw-jhp>

**Or dial:** (US) +1 304-981-5485 PIN: 533 011 671#

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### Expected Attendees

#### Board Members:

Bill Tschohl (Commodore)✓, Bob Smekta (Vice-Commodore)✓, Jim Camery (Treasurer) remote, Bonnie Jean MacKay (Secretary) arr. Late (7:10), Andy Ristrom✓, Fran Potvein✓, Janeice DeLisle (excused), Brian Backes✓, Tom Marrone✓, Mike Gude✓,

#### Board Members Excused:

Greg Jorgenson

#### Staff:

Mike Shimshock (Executive Director)✓

#### Guests:

Lee Pfeilsticker, Geoff Racette (arr. 7:19), Barbara Haake✓

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## INTRODUCTORY RITUAL

7 PM Call to Order: Bill Tschohl, Commodore, to preside

Pledge of Allegiance to the USA Flag

Agenda was approved sans changes.

[SPYC April 2026 Minutes](#) or [PDF on Website](#): were approved sans changes.

Status of ACTION ITEMS from March that were pending in April, and from the April mtg.

1. **Secretary:** Contact past Commodores to ask the most recent two to serve on the Nominations Committee. Continue down the list until two are found willing to serve together.

**STATUS:**In attendance this evening are 2 past commodores: Barbary Haake and Lee Pheilsticker. They were asked whether they would like to serve.



**Barb agreed to serve on the Nominations/ Elections Committee.  
Lee declined.**

2. **Board:** Recruit SPYC Voting Members to serve on the Grievance Committee (need 2 additional members). **STATUS: WE STILL NEED 2 additional members. Assign this to 2 board members to recruit before June meeting. No progress as of the conclusion of this meeting.**
3. **Board:** Recommend a review of the Bylaws with attention to who will be qualified to serve on the Grievance Committee in future. Consider whether it would be valuable to engage Associate Members or even non-member stakeholders.  
**STATUS:** The board consensus at the April meeting was that the entire Bylaws and Standing Rules documents should be reviewed by one committee - Bill said the Strategic planning committee could take that on. Bonnie Jean said that she had done a preliminary review. Bonnie Jean intended to present that to the Strategic Planning Committee on Thursday, May 7, 2026, but no one else showed up for the scheduled meeting. **Bonnie Jean will provide a link to the review document.**
4. **Board:** Address the tabled motion regarding Past Commodore position and potential Bylaws revision at a future meeting.  
**STATUS: This was from the March Action Items and addressed at the April meeting as part of a more comprehensive decision. Fully addressed as noted in the April Minutes.**
5. **Andy R. & Mike S.:** Develop a workable rate plan to address boats remaining in the yard during the summer boating season, with specific attention to boats on trailers.  
**STATUS: Completed - ready for Board approval. It is titled "Summer Storage Policy" Item 2 in Old Business for today's meeting.**

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## OPEN COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

*(Up to 3 minutes per member)*

*Secretary was not present for any open comments from the floor.*

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## Flag Officer Reports

I joined the meeting just after the Commodore Spoke about his report at 7:11 PM.

1. Commodore ([Link to Commodore's Report for May 2026](#))
2. Vice Commodore
3. Treasurer ([Link to Treasurer's Report](#))
4. Secretary ([Link to Secretary's Report](#))

## Board Member-Led Committee Reports

1. Operations Committee, Chair: Andy Ristrom
  - o Met on: May 5, 2026; [See Operations Committee Report - May 2026](#)
  - o Oral discussion notes:



2. Social Committee, Chair: Janeice DeLisle
  - o Meeting Schedule: 1st Tuesday of the month @ 6:00 PM
  - o Met on: May 5, 2026; [See Social Committee Report - May 2026](#)
  - o Report notes: See Social Committee Report
3. Finance Committee, Chair: Jim Camery, Club Treasurer
  - o Meeting Schedule: Last Wednesday of the month @ 6:00 PM
  - o Met on: ?
  - o Report notes: Addressed in Treasurer's "report".
4. Strategic Planning Committee, Chair: Bill Tschohl
  - o Meeting Schedule: 3rd Thursday of the month @ 6:30 PM
  - o Met on: no one showed up on the third Thursday or last Thursday
  - o Report notes:
    - i. Wanted to start working on the ByLaws...
5. Marketing and Membership Committee, Chair: Bonnie Jean MacKay
  - o Meeting Schedule: TBD
  - o Met on: Did not meet.
  - o Report notes: **Joe De Larico submitted a membership application - sponsored by Jimmy Layer and Kristina Cummings.**  
**We approved his membership**
    - i. Chair sent a couple emails seeking a time to meet and listing potential topics for discussion, no response. Did not follow up with a phone call.
    - ii. Chair considered the role of this committee in bringing those who were permitted to live aboard boats over the winter for the past 1 to 3 years into compliance with the Club ByLaws and standing rules, but prior to taking action talked to Mike S. to find out what he has done thus far in addressing those who are non-compliant.  
Background: 2 boaters were granted permission to live aboard their boats beginning in the winter of 2023.
    - iii. An additional individual was permitted to live aboard his boat in the winter of 2024-2025, unvetted, and against club rules. Also in 2024-25, an additional non-voting-member slip holder was permitted winter water storage. (I am not sure what the ByLaws or standing Rules say about Winter Water Storage.)
    - iv. 3 additional boats were occupied over the winter in 2025-2026 by non-vetted individuals without Voting Memberships. One of the 2024-25 boats/boaters did not return to the Lower Harbor for the winter of 2025-26.
    - v. This is a total of 7 deviations from the Rules governing the living aboard boats docked in the SPYC harbor over the winter.
    - vi. Upon speaking with **Mike Shimshock** about the need for compliance, I learned that:
      1. He is considering unoccupied water storage the same as live-aboard status for the boat and the person responsible for it.
      2. He has spoken to some of the non-compliant boaters and has yet to broach the subject with others.



3. With regard to the role of Membership committee members in encouraging non-compliant individuals to apply for membership, I think we need to maintain close communication with Mike, our Executive Director, deferring to his preference in how the people who are presently not voting members will be approached.
  6. Amenities Committee, Chair: Brian Backes
    - o Meeting Schedule: Last Wednesday of every month
    - o Met on: 29th - Jeff, Janeice and Diane Backes showed up
    - Report Notes:
      - i. Mike S. wants the place to look nicer as he brings people in.
      - ii. Touched on who will provide Ice
      - iii. There are 2 new picnic tables by the fire pit. One is glass-topped, and the other is solid, used and adequate.
  7. Human Resources Committee
    - o Flag Officers
    - o Meeting Schedule: As needed - no meeting has been held thus far this year.
  8. Elections Committee 2026
    - o This Committee has not yet been fully populated. No Chair.
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## OLD BUSINESS

### 1. Code of Conduct for Staff and Board Members ([See Document](#))

- a. A proposed Code of Conduct document for Staff was forwarded to all Board Members.
- b. The drafters of this Code of Conduct document intended for it to apply to all board members as well, but the wording needs to be tweaked a little to apply to Board Members.
- c. Board members are asked to read through the document provided and be ready to discuss it in the April 14 meeting. (This was tabled to be addressed in the May 12 meeting.)
- d. **(new as of 5/11/2026)** Mike Gude drafted a Code of Conduct document that could be used for both Staff and Board members as we expect both to adhere to the same code of conduct.
- e. Mike's sample is a [Google Doc here](#). He added some wording about sexual harassment. He sent this to all Board members on Monday and asked members to feel free to add comments directly to the Doc.
- f. Mike Gude also found this [sample code of conduct from the National Council of Nonprofits](#). It is very comprehensive and is intended to apply to board members of non-profit organizations, in case we want to refer to it.
- g. Motion 1A is to approve the Staff version of Version 1 or discuss and recommend edits to Version 1.



h. Motion 1B is to edit the document to apply it to Board Members.

**1A. Motion to adopt [Code of Conduct version 1](#) for Staff as drafted**

This motion was not seconded and thus died.

**1B. Motion to edit [Code of Conduct version 1](#) (for Staff) to apply to Board and Staff and present in June 2026 for approval:**

Moved by: Bonnie Jean

Seconded by: No Second.

No vote.

Result: Died

**1C. Motion to have Board members Review [Code of Conduct version 2](#) for Board Members and Staff alike as drafted and shared by Mike Gude. Move this to new Business for June 2026 Board Meeting. All further discussion will be tabled until next month's meeting.**

Moved by: Andy Ristrom

Seconded by: Tom Marrone

Result: Approved to table.

**2. Summer Storage Policy ([SPYC Summer Storage Policy 2026.docx \(1\)](#))**

[Link to PDF from Mike S.](#) (I cannot place this into this agenda document directly and keep it formatted as is without Adobe Acrobat Pro, so you will need to view it via the link.)

**From April 2026 Action Items:**

**Motion to Approve the Summer Storage Policy Document prepared by Operations Chair and Executive Director.**

Discussion: 90% of this is really very specific implementation, administrative clarity around what was already published on the existing rate sheet. That part doesn't need approval per se.

The part about the escalating rates is new so should be voted on by the board. There is no immediate rush on that so this can wait to approve the whole document during the May board meeting.

Moved by: Bonnie Jean

Seconded by: ANDY

Vote: Yes   8   OR   7  ; No   0  ; Abstain     

Result: APPROVED

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## NEW BUSINESS

Summer Festivals Hosting of Transient Boaters:

Most (if not all) transients are docked in the Lower Harbor. Here are some suggestions and questions from Lower Harbor Residents based on experience over the last 2 years' festivals:

1. We need a plan for trash removal. It needs to be clear and workable. It cannot be based on the expectation that we can force visitors to comply beyond what we have experienced.  
**WE WILL PUT TRASH BINS ON THE DOCKS. A TRASH PICKUP is under discussion.**
2. We need a parking plan for SPYC boaters with summer slips in the Lower Harbor that is more difficult to abuse.
3. Lower Harbor Liveboards would like comp tickets to the event in compensation for the inconvenience of displacement and related disruptions.
4. We need to be very clear with Transients on what amenities they can reasonably expect:
  - a. Showers? Restrooms? Pumpout?  
If we offer these things, we need to make them logistically feasible and at least marginally convenient.
5. Ice in the Ice chests: It needs to be stocked and monitored frequently.  
**NO ICE CHESTS THIS YEAR, per Bill - but a giant Ice machine has been placed on the Shoreside dock near the Raspberry Island bridge dock underpass..**
6. Anything else?
7. Can we assume that the gate code will either be changed immediately following the event or that transients will be provided with a different, temporary, code that also works?  
**TRANSIENTS WILL GET SEPARATE CODE**
8. We need to inspect and test the electrical hookups prior to arrival of our guests to be sure there are no surprises when they attempt to hook up.  
**BOATS ARE MATCHED WITH AMPERAGE.**
9. Water hook-ups need to be verified to be in good condition.  
**Mike Shimshock reported that all utilitarian amenities have been checked for function status and bad outlets have been replaced.**

**MIKE SHIMSHOCK HAS PUT TOGETHER A TRANSIENT WELCOME PACKET  
FIRST CONCERT JULY 10TH 11TH, SECOND CONCERT JULY 28, 29 ETC.**

## ADJOURNMENT

**Motion:** To Adjourn

**Made by:** ANDY

**Seconded by:** BOB

**Status:** Meeting adjourned at \_\_\_8:11\_\_\_ PM



**Minutes submitted by:** Bonnie Jean MacKay, Secretary

**Date Prepared:** 6/1/2026

**Status:** Pending Board approval at June meeting

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## Flag Officers' Reports

### Commodore's Report – May 12, 2026

#### A New Season of Opportunities

No two boating seasons ever begin quite the same way. Weather patterns shift, river conditions change, staffing evolves, and member needs continue to evolve. The strongest organizations are the ones that adapt, invest wisely, and keep moving forward with purpose. That is exactly what the St. Paul Yacht Club is doing.

This spring has brought a somewhat slower pace to launches, while at the same time giving us an earlier opportunity to focus on dredging and harbor improvements. As warmer weather finally settles in, so does the energy, optimism, and anticipation that define the beginning of every boating season. There is nothing quite like seeing the harbor come back to life.

Over the past year, we have made some of the most significant operational investments our Club has seen in decades. Two decisions in particular will continue to strengthen the long-term independence and sustainability of our marina operations: bringing on an Executive Director and expanding our in-house dredging capabilities.

Our Executive Director, Mike Shimshock, has already made a tremendous impact. He has taken many of the Club's existing systems and modernized them with a focus on efficiency, usability, and member experience. The redesigned website maintains the familiar look of our Club website while delivering greatly improved functionality behind the scenes. Members can now access billing, launch requests, transient reservations, and work order forms through integrated systems that are far more streamlined than what we previously had in place.

The unexpected departure of our Marina Manager to Watergate created challenges, but it also provided an opportunity to thoroughly evaluate every aspect of our operations. Mike has embraced that responsibility fully, and the result has been a thoughtful review of procedures, communication, and operational workflows that is already leading to measurable improvements.

One of the most noticeable advancements has been the increased clarity and transparency in member billing. Giving members direct online access to their account information is a substantial step forward in improving communication and accountability. Like many marina management platforms, our Sharper Marina Management software still presents some limitations for a club with operational complexities like ours, particularly in reporting and customization. However, Mike continues to work closely with the Sharper team to improve functionality and help tailor the system to better fit our needs moving forward.



Operationally, our crew has been making excellent use of the slower launch schedule by focusing heavily on harbor maintenance and dredging operations. Using the Smalley dredge appropriately named “Digger,” the team has been locating and removing significant submerged debris throughout the marina — including old steel barrel floats and larger tanks buried beneath slips. In just the past month, at least eight barrels and two large tanks have been removed from the harbor.

At the same time, our MudCat hydraulic dredge has been improving depth in areas where boats have historically struggled to float at normal pool elevation. Additional hard piping is expected to be installed later this spring or early summ

er, allowing dredging operations to extend farther east into the upper harbor where additional improvements are needed.

With our limited staff, this is an ambitious workload. Yet it also reflects something I have always believed is the foundation of successful marinas and yacht clubs: strong communities built through shared ownership and shared effort.

I encourage every member to look for opportunities to contribute where you can, when you can. Whether it is helping with a small maintenance project, volunteering for a workday, assisting with events, or simply stopping in to ask what is needed, every contribution matters. An hour of volunteer time can make a meaningful difference, and larger group efforts can help us accomplish projects that otherwise take weeks.

If you are looking for ways to get involved, please visit the volunteer opportunities page on our website: <https://www.stpaulyachtclub.org/volunteer-opportunities/>

Every improvement we make, every slip we fill, and every member who steps forward helps strengthen not only this season, but the long-term future of the St. Paul Yacht Club. We are not simply maintaining a marina — we are building a stronger organization, a stronger community, and a lasting legacy for future generations of boaters.

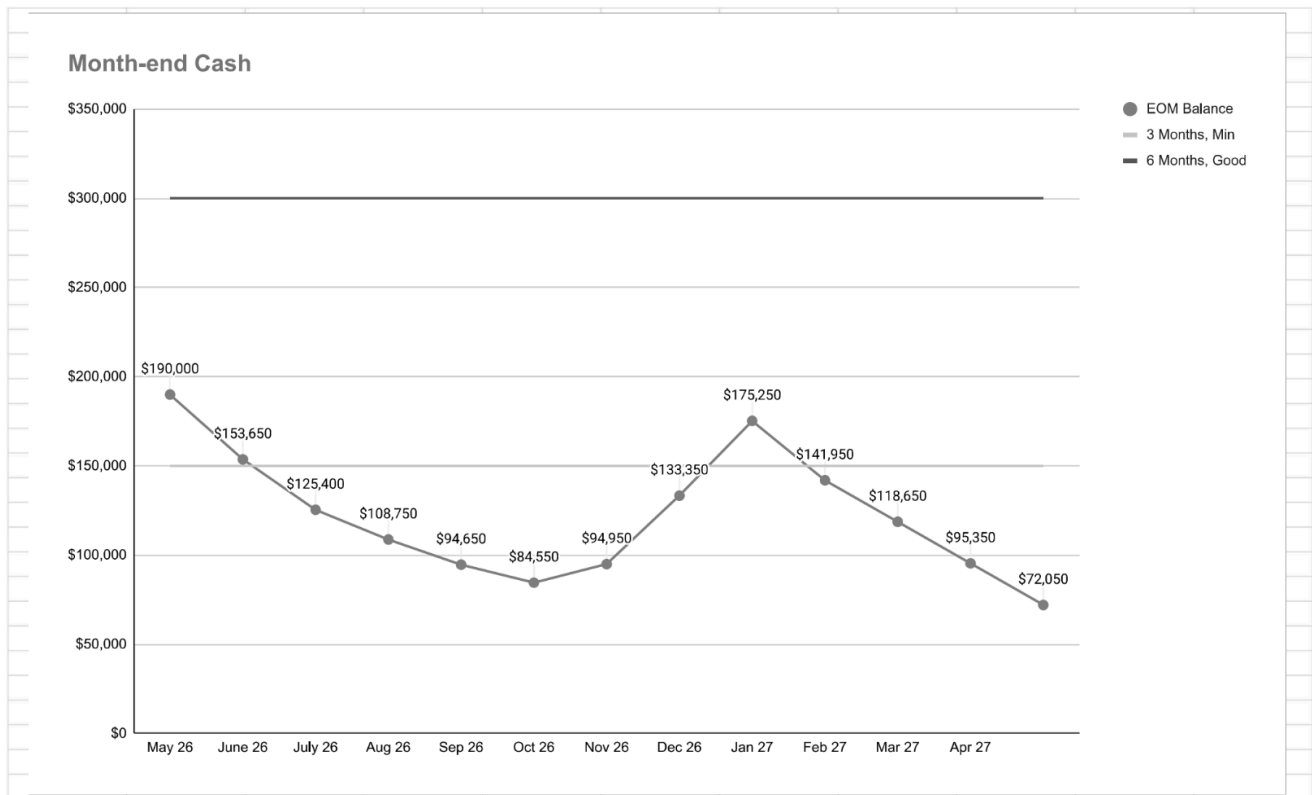
Here’s to a successful season ahead and to everything we can accomplish together.

**Bill Tschohl**  
Commodore  
St. Paul Yacht Club  
651-335-1719

You can always email the entire board at: [board@stpaulyachtclub.org](mailto:board@stpaulyachtclub.org)

## Treasurer’s Report:

Cash Balance Estimates as of May 12, 2026



This shows current bank balance and figuring expenses throughout the summer then a bump in the balance when winter storage fees come in followed by winter expenses.  
 About 600 feet of slips rented @ \$85 = \$51,000.

**Secretary’s Report:**

A Member Roster with contact information for all Members is to be prepared and published by the secretary. I spoke with Mike about getting the opt-in information from the contracts last week. He said that he thought maybe he could come up with a way that people can self-manage their roster entries. I will check in again with him soon.

**Committee Reports Submitted in advance of the meeting:**

**Operations Committee meeting report 5/8/26**

The operations committee held our May meeting on May 5th, 2026 at 11am.  
 Attendees: Andy Ristrom, Bob Smetka, Brian Koskie, Mike Shimshock

Dredging update: Mechanical dredging occurred the week of April 27<sup>th</sup>, A lot of progress was made and many items that had obstructed the mudcat hydraulic dredge in the past were removed (pictured here).



Dredge spoils bag laydown area is poly'd and ready to deploy geo-bags.  
Mudcat dredging to start later this week (May 7<sup>th</sup> or so)

Waste oil tank (for used engine oil) is about 80% full. Pumping this oil will be scheduled later this week (Brian)

Electric testing is going well and people are scheduling tests properly.  
Only three failure issues so far; One was a shore power cord, one was a space heater, and one was a water heater. No major issues.

New (reconditioned) fuel dispenser has been ordered and is expected to be installed late this month.

Slip covers to be rolled out late this week. (Hoping for new covers to be finished next week. We have been in touch with Paul he will have a delivery update on the new covers prior to the board meeting on May 12<sup>th</sup>)

We do have some abandoned boats in the yard, sorting through the issues with them and will likely have a number to dispose of later this summer, post festivals.



MN Yacht club festivals: Most available transient spots are booked. We will be requiring full payment be made 30 days prior to the reserved dates. If reserved transient slips are not paid in full 30 days prior, the slips will be available to other transient boaters. (The goal is to not have last minute cancellations and end up with unrented transient slips).

Clubhouse utility truss that supports the water and sewer lines may need service/ modifications after some freezing issues this winter.

This will be examined and a repair/ improvement plan will be implemented late summer/ early fall.

This concludes the operations committee report.

Respectfully submitted,

Andy Ristrom

### **Social Committee Meeting Report**

- Chair: Janeice DeLisle
- Meeting Schedule: 1st Tuesday of the month @ 6:00 PM, clubhouse and virtually
- Met on: May 5, 2026
- Report notes:
  - We need help!! Volunteers are always welcome!!
  - We need extra hands on deck for the commodores ball as early as 10a THAT DAY to complete food prep and decorations.
    - Since there is a private party the day before, we cannot do prep beforehand
- Upcoming events:
  - May 16, 6p - **Commodore's Masquerade Ball**
    - 2 comp tickets per slip, + \$40 per additional ticket
      - Bring family and friends!
      - Ticket prices will be applied to your account - no money handling at the event.
    - Dress code is costume / creative
    - Masks required upon entry
    - Agenda:
      - 5p - Reception
      - 6p - Happy Hour
      - 7p - Hors D'oeuvres
      - 8p - Entertainment
      - 9p - Prizes
      - 10p - Unmasking



- June 5, 6p - **TGIF (Thank God It's Floating!) HH Book Exchange!**
  - Every 1st Friday of the month
  - Potluck and BYOB
  - Bring a book, get a book!
- June 6, 6p - **SPYC Annual Steak Fry**
  - \$10 per ticket
- June 13, 8a-3p - **Coast Guard Seminar Class**
  - Register online with the coast guard
- June 13, 4p-5p - **New Boater Orientation**
  - Welcome to SPYC's Summer Season 2026, new and old members!!
  - Get updated information on processes and procedures at SPYC
- July 3, 6p - **TGIF (Thank God Its Floating!) HH America F YEAH!**
  - Every 1st Friday of the month



- Potluck and BYOB



## Proposed Code of Conduct [\(↑\)](#)

### St. Paul Yacht Club – Employee Code of Conduct

As representatives of the St. Paul Yacht Club, employees are entrusted with upholding the values, reputation, and welcoming spirit of our community. This Code of Conduct establishes standards of professionalism, respect, and integrity that apply to all employees in all interactions—with members, guests, fellow staff, and the public.

#### 1. Professionalism and Integrity

- Employees must conduct themselves in a courteous, honest, and professional manner at all times.
- Personal behavior—on duty or representing the Yacht Club—should reflect positively on the organization.

#### 2. Respect for Members

- Members are the foundation of the St. Paul Yacht Club. Employees must treat all members with dignity, courtesy, and fairness, regardless of personal opinions.
- Employees are strictly prohibited from insulting, undermining, gossiping about, or speaking negatively of any member in conversations with:
  - - Other employees
  - - Other members
  - - Prospective members
  - - Guests or the public

#### 3. Workplace Conduct

- Employees are expected to work cooperatively with colleagues, fostering a culture of teamwork and mutual respect.
- Gossip, rumors, or disparaging remarks about members, employees, or the Yacht Club itself are unacceptable and considered unprofessional conduct.
- Concerns about members or colleagues must be reported directly to a supervisor or the Executive Director—never shared informally with others.

#### 4. Confidentiality

- Information about members, staff, or Yacht Club operations is confidential. Employees must not share private details outside of professional necessity.

#### 5. Public Representation

- Employees represent the Yacht Club whenever interacting with the public, whether on-site, by phone, online, or at events.
- Communication must always be respectful, accurate, and aligned with the Yacht Club's mission and values.



**6. Accountability**

- Violations of this Code—including gossip, negative remarks, or disrespect toward members—will result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination.
- Employees are encouraged to raise concerns about violations of this Code with management promptly.

**Acknowledgment**

All employees are required to read, understand, and sign this Code of Conduct as a condition of their employment.

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Employee Name (Print)

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Employee Signature

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Date