



## **ZENA THOMAS**

- **A boating member of Newport since 1996**
- **Board Member since November 2018 as Director of Membership and Vice-Commodore of Membership**

### **Commodore - 2021 Season**

In his quest to guarantee qualified succession planning, I have been nominated to be our next Commodore by Michael Rushton.

Our growth over the past 2 years has been substantial and I look forward to continuing that growth and member engagement by working with the new Board on several initiatives:

- Continued growth of our member base, enhanced member engagement and member involvement through volunteering.
- Continuing on with the successes of our current Commodore, Board of Directors and Committees (new clubhouse, member approved pool, new dredger, etc.)

In my role of Membership, we have been able to increase our membership exponentially in the past 2 years.... we had 33 new boating members in 2019 and over 60 this year so far. With very little available to our members during our extensive renovations, they still managed to say "I am proud to be a member of Newport" .... "Yes, I definitely want to come back next year" ... "This club is everything that we hoped it would be...friendly environment and a feeling of camaraderie".

I have also been fortunate to be a part of the clubhouse committee, a group led by Chair Shirley Rushton, which allowed us to have a vision for our members, and then execute that vision.

In my time with the club, I have developed a deep understanding of how our club works...everything from property maintenance, including our new dredger, to the solid financial state we have attained that will provide long-term sustainability for our members.

As a long-time members of Newport, I am also committed, through our Board and members, to the continued growth and prosperity of our club...which means NEW members and retention of existing members, and providing a first-class facility to attract and retain members. We were members at the beginning when there were very few slips available...and those were exciting times. When the future of our club was jeopardized, we invested in the club by becoming an EMR and still maintain that status today. We believed in the club then...and still do today, but also see the huge potential that still lies ahead for us. That growth will ensure the revenue we need to continue with the club's goals and ensure a long lasting, financially sound club...as it is today.

Except for a little consulting work recently, I am retired so am fully available to support this role and the time that is required.

I bring almost 40 years of Executive Management experience to this position. Within that time, I was responsible for opening almost 20 branch locations for 2 companies which involved everything from finding space, to securing leases, to design and staff development. As well, my goal was to ensure all locations turned profits within a very short period of time. I have been involved with developing budgets from scratch (for new locations), managing P & L's, quality initiatives,

change management and performance management. I also have a personal track record of fast, steady and ongoing financial/sales revenue and growth. This was accomplished 2 ways...by securing new contracts and business not previously associated with the operations...and ensuring satisfied existing customers. I have also volunteered on several Boards as a Director including the BIA (Brain Injury Association), Canada Council for Aging and Infrastructure, Staffing Initiative Board with the CCAC.

I am excited to continue on as part of a Board that realizes the principles and values of growth and sustainability. We have such huge opportunities for membership growth. Our previous Board members have done an amazing job of growing and promoting our new non-profit club to other marinas and clubs around the lake. I am hoping for your support to be part of the team that carries on these visions and contribute personally to the future growth of our club.

Thank you, Zena