

## CIWSA Commodore's Corner - Winter 2025

Welcome aboard everyone!

I am honored to be your CIWSA Commodore for 2025 and am looking forward to sharing an exciting year with all of you on and off the water. Thank you to those of you who have chosen to support CIWSA by continuing your membership for another year, and welcome to all our new members and returning members – you are helping us grow. CIWSA exists and thrives because of each one of you!

As CIWSA members, we share a commitment to our mission to support women and girls in all aspects of sailing and boating. I hope you will feel inspired to volunteer for and participate in our many activities and events and to share your ideas with us about how we can be even better. I personally believe that the more you give, the more you get. Whatever you choose to do as a member this year, make a personal commitment to give it your best. And if what you want to do isn't on our agenda, let's see how we can make it happen.

This is my 10<sup>th</sup> year as a CIWSA member and as Commodore, I intend to lead CIWSA into a year of growth and new possibilities. I am privileged to have Junior Staff Commodore, Captain Jane Thomas, as my mentor. She has been an inspiration to so many of us, and though Jane and I may compete on the racecourse now, we are always friends back at the clubhouse. I am also grateful for the continued support and friendship of our CIWSA Board members, Vice Commodore Denise Braval, Rear Commodore Michele Ackerman and Director/Webmaster Tina Todd. No Skipper could ask for a better crew.

I first met Jane and her all-female crew at the 2016 Lady Driver Race and, like so many others, Jane offered me the opportunity to crew with her on her Tartan 10' *Wailani*. Soon after, I joined CIWSA, continued to race on *Wailani* and joined Jane's crew for the 2016 and 2017 LBYC LEMWOD Regattas. Jane inspired me to develop my skills at the helm and as a racing skipper, and since 2021, I have been crewing, skippering and racing on a J/24 through Fairwind Yacht Club (FYC). Through FYC I also became an ASA Small Keelboat Sailing instructor and I teach adult and youth sailing for FYC and Westlake Yacht Club. I enjoy Skippering for the CIWSA daysails on the FYC Catalina 22's and the J/24. This year I am planning to train and support CIWSA and Channel Islands Yacht Club (CIYC) members on our shared J/24s as well. I have been sailing and racing since childhood and love the opportunities CIWSA offers me to share my passion for sailing and bond with other women sailors.

Some of our most important goals for CIWSA in 2025 are to spread the word about CIWSA, increase our total membership, and have more member involvement in the management of the club and our activities. Any and all ideas about how we can achieve these goals are welcome. I would like to challenge each of us to bring at least one new member to the club, and we would double our membership.

We will be conducting an online Membership Survey which is a great opportunity for you to let us know why you are a CIWSA member, what activities you like most/ least, and what else you'd like to see CIWSA offer. We will also be forming Committees to help manage the club's

monthly operations and activities and to plan special events. By volunteering to chair or participate on a committee, you can become more connected with other CIWSA members and support the club at the same time. Also, please let us know what talents, experiences or interests you have that you'd be willing to share with CIWSA as an activity or presentation for one of our "Get Togethers" or at AdventureSail® Day.

We'd love to hear more about you and your interests through the survey or throughout the year by email to [ciwsa.membership@gmail.com](mailto:ciwsa.membership@gmail.com) or by contacting any board member directly. I can be reached at [lsmithcopus@hotmail.com](mailto:lsmithcopus@hotmail.com) or by text or phone call at 760-670-6762.

Let's make our 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary year our best!

Lauren Copus  
CIWSA Commodore