

What is considered a “year” by RILA?

There are school years, fiscal years, lunar years, weather-related years (Thailand and Laos celebrate the new year in April at the beginning of the six-month rainy season by throwing water at each other to ensure good luck in the coming year. The recipients of the water poured on their heads politely say “Thank you!”), and, of course, the calendar year. For quite a few years, RILA's year for membership purposes was not really defined. People, including those of us on the board, were often confused about whether we were up-to-date on our membership. Consequently, when RILA obtained 501(c)3 status several years ago, and the board was advised that the books should kept on the basis of a calendar year, they decided to go with a calendar year for membership purposes. (How many times can I use “year” in one paragraph?!)

There certainly are reasons for having the membership year start at the beginning of summer, which is what was in place last year. In spring people's thoughts turn to Rock Lake. For that reason the membership brochure is usually sent in March, rather than January. But for the reasons explained in the paragraph above, the new board last fall re-instated the calendar year as the RILA membership year.

This issue had never been addressed in the bylaws, so the bylaws committee (Jan Jenrich, Barb Smith, and Johanna Chworowsky) and the board are proposing to include it, hopefully eliminating the flip-flopping. This is one of the items to be decided by the general membership meeting on May 2, 2011, 7:00 p.m., in the Community Room of the Municipal Building. Term limits and staggered terms are the other significant changes proposed. The entire document is on the website, rocklake.org.

MAKING WAVES
Johanna Chworowsky
April 18, 2011