One of my goals for this year is to improve communication between the Club’s leadership team and our members. Club Policy is that the membership shall be kept informed through the Club’s magazine and website about the direction of the Club, and major decisions of the Board. I have already acted to ensure that the Board Meeting Minutes are posted on the website as quickly as possible. I also plan to increase the frequency of the President’s Messages, and to discuss important issues in more detail. Here is the website link: https://scwdc.wildapricot.org/Presidents-Message

At our annual Election Meeting in April, our members overwhelmingly voted for a substantive change to the Club's Bylaws:  to allow online electronic voting.  In recent years fewer than 10% of our members voted in our annual Election.  This year the turnout was slightly higher, presumably because members were motivated to vote for CHANGE. They got their wish.

Electronic voting will allow more members to have a voice in our Club's plans, policies, and operations.  But we must take great care to implement this change in a measured and meaningful way.

A major concern is the integrity and security of the voting process --- ensuring that each member gets one vote, and only one vote, and that the votes are counted accurately.  Our website provides a feature to enable online voting, and there are also free software applications that provide similar capabilities.  We have a full year to research solutions, make a reasoned decision, and then implement the new voting process.

Another concern is how to improve the ways that candidates for election can communicate with voters prior to the actual election.   Up until now, candidates prepared a biographical summary of their experience and qualifications for publication in the Club magazine.  They then delivered a short 2-minute speech at the annual election meeting.   However, many of our members don't read our magazine, and/or are not able to attend the election meeting. So, how can we better enable our candidates to communicate with voters, and voters to communicate with the candidates?

The answer is to leverage our website by providing a forum for a two-way dialog between the candidates and the voters.   Candidates will have more space to explain their qualifications, goals, and views about topics of interest. Members will be able to provide their comments and direct questions to candidates. This would indeed be a positive and meaningful CHANGE to our elections process. Do you agree? Yes or no --- speak up, make your voice heard, and help improve our Club!