May was a busy month for us! We welcomed our newly elected Directors, closed the books on FY18, and started work on finalizing the budget for FY19.

The good news is that we finished FY18 on a positive financial note, mostly due to the success of our ski flight trips and other destination travel events. However, there were a few disturbing trends that raise concerns. One is that our credit card processing fees were almost twice what we budgeted, exceeding $31K. The Club absorbs these fees as a cost of business, and so far we have been successful in keeping our trip prices and membership dues as low as possible. But, there is a limit.

Revenues from membership dues continued to drop, even though our membership numbers have stabilized over the past few years. This is partially due to our recent decision to eliminate the $10 membership initiation fee for new members, as well as the healthy percentage of our existing members who have opted for multi-year memberships. Directors Rene’ Thierry and Foster Stolte have volunteered to revitalize our membership recruiting and retention efforts and are working hard on addressing membership related issues.

Last month an incident occurred at an SCWDC activity that involved multiple violations of SCWDC's Personal Conduct Policy, including inappropriate touching and physical assault.  As a result, the SCWDC Board voted to revoke the perpetrator's membership.  This action was based on the recommendations of the cognizant Program Chair and Activity Leader, prior history of the individual in question, and extensive review and deliberation by the Board and myself.

The vote was followed by a constructive discussion of how to improve the Club’s handling of future incidents.   The Board agreed to review the Club’s existing Personal Conduct Policy to better define inappropriate behavior and to ensure that Club activity leaders have the necessary training regarding immediate response to such incidents and how to report and document them.  I also updated the Terms and Conditions statement that all members must agree to when joining the Club as a member, to include a more comprehensive description of objectionable behavior.

Finally, almost all digital media sites, including our website provider ***Wild Apricot*** and our newsletter publisher ***Constant Contact*** recently published updates to their Privacy Policies and Terms of Use. These updates were necessary to increase transparency and to comply with the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). SCWDC fully complies with to these Polic[ies](https://www.constantcontact.com/legal/privacy-statement). Our members and guests can be assured that we do not share their names, email addresses or other personal information with any external organizations.