

Jim Brennan

The presence of the LICCB has added a very rich dimension to the waterfront area in Long Island City, especially as the neighborhood has grown during the last five years. Many people are pleasantly surprised to see kayakers paddling up or down the East River on a given summer's evening. A bit of disbelief can be seen in their faces, but also a sense of optimism as they realize what the neighborhood is now and ponder what it can become in the future.

I have been an LICCB volunteer for three seasons, mainly for the Sunday Hallets Cove program. While "Hallets" is not always light duty, especially on a busy, hot summer afternoon, it is rewarding especially when a passerby inquires: "what does it cost to go kayaking?" When the answer is "it's free, just sign a waiver" even hardened New Yorkers have been known to smile.

During 2010 I also participated as a volunteer working the Fundraiser party, in the Boathouse clean-up work-party and in the season-end waiver tabulation work.

On a personal note, I have been married for 12 years to my wife Joan. It was Joan's own enthusiasm that brought me to the Boathouse the very next day after she experienced her first Friday night Chill Paddle.

I hope that there will be many interested candidates to seek election to the Steering Council. It is my view that a good team should be balanced and one in which different skills and strengths form the basis for a well rounded approach to planning, organization and execution of the team's mission.

My skills are rooted in my career training: I am a graduate of St. John's University, a Certified Public Accountant, and I am currently employed as the Director of Finance and Human Resources - Region Americas for Scandinavian Airlines. I think my communication and organization skills would make me an asset to the Steering Council team.

I believe that the way forward for LICCB is to continue to cultivate a strong and diverse volunteer base. By engaging a sufficient number of committed individuals LICCB programs will be able to flourish without creating an undue burden on the core volunteer base. I think LICCB can also create some new energy and excitement by holding education sessions, using some of our own homegrown talent or inviting guest speakers to speak about safety, maritime practices, kayaking techniques, etc.

I regret that due to an overseas assignment I am not able to make my request for your support in-person. I hope that you will consider my candidacy.

With respect and good wishes to all my fellow candidates, thanks for a great season and let's get moving together for next season!