

2016 Sail Chicago Candidate Fact Sheet

Name: Sarah Pellegrino

Sail Chicago member since: 2015

Personal/ Professional skills and interests:

Professionally:

- Public Relations & Social Media Specialist at Huron Consulting Group in Chicago
- Media Relations, Press Releases, Social Media Planning & Execution, Social Media Advocacy, Internal Communications, Branding

Personally:

- Baking
- Health & Wellness

Sailing experience:

I have been sailing for about 3 seasons. The first two years I casually learned how to sail with family friends by helping out and gradually learning more about the sport. I wanted to continue learning and found Sail Chicago where I took the intermediate sailing course with Bob Lapin. I thoroughly enjoyed it and plan on taking the advanced class summer 2016.

Involvement/experience with Sail Chicago:

Throughout my first season of Sail Chicago (2015), I was able to take the intermediate class, join tiller times, enjoy member cruise outings and attend social events. I have continually been impressed by the instructors' sailing expertise and teaching abilities. Recently, I organized the volunteer schedule for Sail Chicago's booth at Strictly Sail show. I hope to continue to build our presence at that event.

Why would you like to be on the Sail Chicago Board?

Sail Chicago has given me a unique, enjoyable and flexible way to learn how to sail and spend time on the water with like-minded people. I would like to be on the Sail Chicago Board to help our organization grow, provide the Sail Chicago experience to others looking to learn about sailing and foster the sense of community within our organization. It's also affordable – which is an important factor as a young person living in Chicago. As a Sail Chicago Board member, I would provide a unique perspective as a student of the sailing school and a young professional.

What is your vision for the future direction of Sail Chicago?

While I still have much to learn about the organization, one thought is clear: the advantage to being a part of Sail Chicago is that we all come from different backgrounds and sailing experience – thus a network from which we all can learn whether it's storm-sailing experience, tiller/wheel, six crew on board or single-handed. Sail Chicago is an impressive example of how passionate individuals can grow something together for a common benefit. I'd like to see members learn from each other, reach out to meet new people to have new experiences, and challenge themselves. Additionally, I envision a stronger online presence where members can connect, perhaps a junior instructor component, among other ideas. I hope to serve you over the next three years in making some of these ideas a reality and also continuing to support the Sail Chicago "community" and volunteer structure that has made it so successful.

Signature: *Sarah Pellegrino*

Date: January 19, 2016