

Joan Stephenson – 2026 Candidate for Board of Directors

I have been a long-time resident of St. Petersburg. When my husband and I moved to St. Pete we were fortunate enough to find a small home on the water where we raised our two children. I loved the water and we bought a small runabout and spent weekends exploring, skiing and fishing. When my son and daughter were in their early years I participated in many PTA events, chaired a successful fund-raising carnival at their elementary school, was a Brownie and Girl Scout Mom and a Little League Mom.

In later years I worked with my husband in his Real Estate, Building and Development business. I was the office manager and scheduled my husband's appointments and meetings, did the bookkeeping and all the behind the scenes jobs. After his retirement we bought a bigger power boat and spent lots of time cruising the Florida coast and the Bahamas.

I became a part of Salty Sisters at the suggestion of my friend and long-time gym buddy, Betty Proper. I was always interested in sailing but never had learned. My class of 2017 (Four Sheets to the Wind) had two amazing and patient instructors, Barbara Watson and Diane Fowler. I was definitely a novice but I was participating and it was fun and I did win the Grandmothers Race in 2018. I was terrified when our class was planning and executing our Salty skit. Maybe you don't remember but all four of us simultaneously threw a line and each created a bowline knot. I'm not sure if we didn't look more like cowboys than sailors.

During my years as a Salty Sister I have held a number of committee positions. I served as Co-Chair of Stores (2019-2021), Awards Chair (2022-2023), Safety Ashore (2023-present), and Hospitality Chair (2025-2026). I have served on the Nominating Committee, volunteered my help with the FWSA Holiday Regattas, several Rainbow Regattas, Christmas Boutique and one season of Twilight series. I have taken the U.S. Powerboat Skills class and am a certified powerboat driver.

Someone once told me you have to keep moving if you want to live to a ripe old age. I took that seriously and in my life away from Salties I have played tennis for 30+ years with a wonderful group of women. I also enjoy gardening, reading and travel.

Since joining in 2017 Wednesdays have been my "Salty Sister Wednesday" and I always look forward to it. I have made some amazing friendships and have enjoyed fun activities. The Sisters are a diverse group of women and everyone is talented and accomplished in one way or another. Salties has enriched my life and rewarded me with good learning experiences and given me lots of good memories. I am always proud to say "I am a Salty Sister".

I believe in giving back and it would be my honor to serve you on the Board of Directors if you elect me.

