

Barbara Mehaffey, aka "Charming Barbara" bio for Salty Sisters Election 2026

As a candidate for the Salty Sisters Awards Officer, here is my bio...

Personal:

I'm originally from Pennsylvania and grew up in various places in the Midwest. I married my high school sweetheart, and we welcomed our wonderful daughter and son, who eventually gave us our six beautiful grandchildren. After my husband passed, I moved to Chicago to be near my daughter.

Professional:

My professional career began as an elementary school teacher, 10 years of teaching second grade. Then I moved into Human Resources Management. I worked as an HR Director for the New York Times Company for 25 years with a focus on Employee Relations, Management and Supervisory Training, and Benefits Administration. After retiring from the Times and the move to Chicago, I worked in HR at Northwestern University and the Music Institute of Chicago.

Sailing:

When I met (who would be) my second husband, a life-long sailor, I decided I'd better learn about sailing! I took lessons at Northwestern University and then continued to learn and love to sail with my husband on his Tartan 10, Talisman. I also joined the Chicago Yacht Club Race Committee and have been serving on RC ever since. I've been on the Chicago-Mackinac Island RC for 14 years.

Since joining SPYC in 2014, I've continued to participate in Race Committee and was excited to join the Salty Sisters Class of 2015. I originally joined Salties to hone my sailing skills but soon discovered there is more to being a Salty Sister! I found a community of women who love being on the water and being together, caring for each other, socializing, and loving a good time. It's a way of life!

I've served on several committees, been on the Board of Directors, and the Awards Chair for the 2025-26 term. I would be honored to continue in that position for 26-27.

Thank you