

Vista properties. This distinction may have mattered at the time the Class II membership was defined, but it appears to be much less of an issue today. One other rights distinction should be noted. The Board has the right to set upper limits on the number of members in the Club. If we reach that limit, and a family in a Class II area applies for membership, their application can be turned down. However, if a family living in the Class I area applies for membership, they cannot be turned down because of membership limits. (Please understand, I am trying to lay out the rules as I understand them so you will know the issues - however, many of these specifics have never arisen in history and are unlikely to in the future.) In recent years, the boundaries of the Class II eligible area were expanded slightly. In addition, we attempted to avoid the second-class connotation of Class II member by using the terms owner/member and member, respectively. (However, with the addition of sponsored members, the terms became confusing and I will use Class I and Class II in this discussion.)

Sponsored Members

Some members have expressed that a goal of the Club should be to eliminate the distinction between Classes of members. While I agree with this as a goal, unfortunately we are heading in a different direction.

We recently decided to add a new class of membership - sponsored members. This arose for two different reasons. First, and foremost, the level of membership was well below the capacity of the facilities, and below a level consistent with financial health. Second, there were some members who had moved slightly outside the Class II membership boundaries but still wished to

remain members of the Club. Consequently, we created the sponsored member. This includes families living in Avon who could find a current member (Class I or II) to sponsor their membership.

The Board established a limit on the number of sponsored members and accepts members on a first come-first served basis within these limits. We are currently at the limit for sponsored members and we have a waiting list. These members can use the facilities in the same way as any other member, but their continued ability to remain a member is less secure than other members. Should we have a large upsurge in Class I and Class II membership applications, it may be necessary to reduce the number of available sponsored slots.

A few years ago, we were seriously concerned about the long-term financial viability of the Club. At that time, we were concerned about ways to improve the attractiveness of Club membership to increase the number of members. I am gratified that those efforts paid off and we now have the luxury of an adequate membership. But if we do get additional applications for membership, we have to think very carefully about how to handle them. (More on this later.)

Class I (special)

Unfortunately, we have managed to create one more class of membership. When we were concerned about our financial health, we decided it was fair to charge an initiation fee to new members. (Those of you who were members at the time recall that our financial problems required us to issue an assessment of \$150.00 to all members. The initiation fee was established at \$150.00 in the subsequent year, so all current Class I and Class II members have made a \$150