

Proposed changes to HRC Member Database – 24 June 2020

The old “HRC-Live” membership database has been in use for our club for nearly ten years, serving as the primary source of member information during that time. I still have data conversion files from the first half of 2010. It is getting a little tired and might not be as serviceable soon.

Lacking anyone else showing any interest in revising the old system or building a new one, I have been thinking about how I might re-invent an information repository for our club. It seems to me that some of the reasons for making a change include:

- Current system cannot be accessed by anyone not in the Retiree Office, on the PC in that office.
- The Retiree Office may vanish within the next few months.
- The PC in the office is over 6 years old, and I have had some trouble running the system on newer hardware and software.
- Many of the old system design decisions are no longer appropriate.

Given those reasons, I have been spending some time looking at what I would change in building a new system. One thing in particular is the set of data that we maintain about our members. The table below shows the fields of data in the old system and a proposed new set of data for a new system.

Right at the start, let me explain some of the data types:

- Text fields are just that, a string of alphanumeric characters. Text fields in the old system are fixed length, meaning that they can hold only a fixed number of characters. In the proposed system they will be variable length, holding as much data as the user wants to enter.
- Date/time fields in the old system hold the date and time. Date fields in the proposed system would be a form of text capable of holding any kind of date we choose.
- Boolean fields hold one of two values, true or false, represented by a number. Those fields in the proposed system would hold the words Yes or No, making it easier to understand the data.

You will also notice that what were identified as “retiree” field names are now called “Mbr”, indicating the data relates to the “Member”.

The table follows on the next page. I have some more notes following the table.

<----- Old System ----->		<----- Proposed New System ----->	
Data Name	Data Type	Data Name	Data Type
ID	integer	id	integer
retiree_last_name	text	MbrLastName	text
retiree_first_name	text	MbrFirstName	text
retiree_middle_init	text	MbrMiddleName	text
retiree_nickname	text	MbrNickname	text
retiree_suffix	text	MbrSuffix	text
retiree_status	text	MbrStatus	text
retiree_birthdate	date/time	MbrBirthDate	text
retiree_deceased_date	date/time	MbrDeceasedDate	text
retiree_deceased_card_sent	boolean	MbrCardSent	text
retiree_join_date	date/time	MbrJoinDate	text
retiree_birth_month	number	MbrBirthMonth	text
		MbrNewsletter	text
		MbrEmailAddress	text
		MbrPhone	text
spouse_last_name	text	SpsLastName	text
spouse_first_name	text	SpsFirstName	text
spouse_middle_init	text	SpsMiddleName	text
spouse_nickname	text	SpsNickname	text
spouse_birthdate	date/time	SpsBirthDate	text
spouse_status	text	SpsStatus	text
spouse_deceased_date	date/time	SpsDeceasedDate	text
spouse_deceased_card_sent	boolean	SpsCardSent	text
spouse_birth_month	number	SpsBirthMonth	text
		SpsNewsletter	text
		SpsEmailAddress	text
		SpsPhone	text
newsletter_paper	boolean		
newsletter_email	boolean		
primary_address_line	text	AddressLine	text
primary_address_city	text	AddressCity	text
primary_address_state	text	AddressState	text
primary_address_zip	text	AddressZip	text
primary_address_bar_code	text		
primary_phone	text	AddressPhone	text
second_address_line	text		
second_address_city	text		
second_address_state	text		
second_address_zip	text		
second_address_bar_code	text		
second_phone	text		
second_address_start	date/time		
second_address_end	date/time		
mobile_phone	text		
email_address	text		
tray_code	number		
record_revised_date	date/time	RecordRevisedDate	text
record_revised_by	text	RecordRevisedBy	text
do_not_call_flag	boolean	MbrDoNotCall	text
do_not_call_flag_spouse	boolean	SpsDoNotCall	text
newsletter_web	boolean		
newsletter_subscribe_date	date/time	PaperSubscribeDate	text
newsletter_subscribe_amt	number		
newsletter_subscribe_flag	boolean		
newsletter_temp_hold_flag	boolean		
newsletter_expire_date	date/time	PaperExpireDate	text

50 lines above

38 lines above

Additional Notes

- You will see three new fields for both the member and the spouse. The “newsletter” field will contain Yes or No indicating whether the person wants to be notified of the next newsletter. The “Email Address” will allow for a different email address between the member and the spouse. And the “Phone” item will allow a different phone number between the member and the spouse.
- References to bar code and tray code are removed because we no longer do bulk paper mailing.
- The second address is removed. This allowed paper mail to be addressed to a second address based on a start and stop date, for mailing paper newsletters. We currently have only 47 members with a second address, with one member having dates in 2019, one member in 2018, and the rest in 2014 and earlier. There are currently only 9 members receiving paper newsletters.
- The old single email address and cell phone fields have been split and are now associated with the member and the spouse.

As indicated in the email, I would like to hear your thoughts about this proposal, especially if there are data fields that I have not included in my list, or data fields that you feel are no longer needed. Also, if you wanted to, you could describe features of the old system that you like, as well as those you think could be implemented better. I look forward to your replies.

George