

US SAILING Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, March 26, 2009

Present: Dick Allsopp, President Jim Capron, Susan Epstein, Vice President Tom Hubbell, Gary Jobson, Leslie Keller, Patty Lawrence, Jerry Montgomery, Dawn Riley, Bill Stump, Jim Tichenor and non-voting Ex Officio members, Secretary Fred Hagedorn and Executive Director Charlie Leighton.

Observers and Guests included Walt Chamberlain, Cory Sertl, Steve Wrigley, Liz Walker, Janine Connelly, Morgan Collins, Jim Walsh, Paul Ansfield, Stan Betts, Gino Bottino, Clark Chapin, Joy Siegel and John Siegel.

- 1) The meeting was called to order by President Capron at 7:02 pm MDT.
- 2) Secretary Hagedorn called the roll and announced that a quorum was present.
- 3) A **MOTION** to approve the Consent Calendar was made, seconded and approved.
 - a) Minutes of the February 17, 2009 meeting of the Board of Directors
 - b) Minutes of the March 2, 2009 meeting of the Board of Directors
 - c) The appointment of new members of the US Women's Championship Committee:
 - i) Alix Han, Area B Representative
 - ii) Sue Senscu, Area J representative
- 4) President's Report – President Capron indicated that he will provide a formal report at the meeting of the House of Delegates on Saturday. An item of significant interest is the USOC Hearing Panel decision. On Wednesday of this week US SAILING met with the leadership of the ISAF and the USOC to discuss the impact of the USOC Hearing Panel decision. Attending the meeting from the USOC were Stephanie Streeter, Acting CEO, Rana Dershowitz, General Counsel, Gary Johansen, Assistant General Counsel and Robert Fasulo, International Relations Director; from the ISAF, Göran Petersson, President, and Jerome Pels, Secretary General; and from US SAILING, Jim Capron, Carol Cronin, Charley Cook and Jeff Benz. President Capron noted that the meeting was very productive in allowing Mr. Petersson and Mr. Pels to express their concerns about the potential impact of the USOC decision on the sport of sailing. Capron also noted that articles will be coming out on this subject in both *Sailing World* and *Seahorse Magazine*, a UK publication.

The ISAF is in the process of allocating the first 80 Elliott 6M boats in support of developing competitors for the Women's Match Racing Event in the 2012 Olympics. US SAILING has approved requests for two fleets, 8 boats in one and 4 in the other. It was also noted that the ISAF is getting some pressure to reverse the decision to include Women's Match Racing in the 2012 Olympics. Our ISAF Delegation will be monitoring this development, however, such a reversal would require a 75% majority vote of the ISAF Council to overturn the previous decision to include match racing in the London Olympics.

- 5) Executive Director's Report - Executive Director Leighton remains concerned with the challenges of the recession our economy is experiencing. Our office staff remains upbeat, but there is both a salary freeze and a hiring freeze in place.

Membership is currently at 33,625. Our Gross membership revenue is up 34% year over year and we have added 1000 new members in the first 3 months of 2009.

Sponsorship is now up 71% relative to FY 2005, the most recent comparable year (first year of a Quad).

Fundraising looks very positive in 2009. We achieved last year's Annual Fund goal and have received 40% toward the current year. We have also already achieved the Olympic program's Medalist goal of \$350,000 in pledges in 2009!

- 6) Treasurer's Report – will be made at a later meeting during the weekend by Treasurer Leslie Keller.
- 7) Championships – A look to the Future. Steve Wrigley, Gary Jobson and Liz walker discussed a 4 year plan. We need to ensure we have “great managers” of the events for US SAILING. Our committees need to be nimble and flexible. The plan that is in the works is focused on improving the quality of the sailing, and where it makes sense, US SAILING is looking to combine multiple championships into single events. Some examples would include the US Men's and Women's Championships and the continued combining of the US Junior Single, Double and Triple handed events into one sailing venue. The philosophical goals include:
- i) Attract the BEST sailors;
 - ii) Make our events more efficient and easier to host;
 - iii) Improve visibility and marketability of our championships;
 - iv) Have at least one committee member be under the age of 30;
 - v) If the event can be used to select international competitors, so much the better;
 - vi) Be in synch with the OSC in developing our youth athletes.

For continued discussion, the Championships Committee asked the Board to consider how the Board wants to finalize and initiate such a plan, and to what extent the Championships Committee Chair and the Staff director are able to drive these changes? What options do the Chair and the Staff Director have when a championship committee chooses not to align itself with an agreed upon strategic plan?

The positive support of the Board is greatly appreciated.

- 8) In support of the efforts associated with the USOC Hearing Panel decision, a **MOTION** to create a sub-committee for this purpose was seconded and APPROVED. The following members were nominated and approved:
- i) Jim Capron, Chair
 - ii) Jeff Benz, legal counsel
 - iii) Charley Cook, legal counsel
 - iv) Carol Cronin
 - v) Tom Hubbell
 - vi) Gary Jobson

vii) Jerry Montgomery

This sub-committee is intended to provide focused support in these discussions, and will provide recommendations to the Board of Directors on any decisions that may come to be made on this front.

- 9) A **MOTION** was introduced to consider suspending the spring meeting in 2010 and 2011, and utilized a sequence of Conference Calls and other technology enhanced communications approaches. The hope is that this will be discussed over the course of this weekend. A number of individuals noted the value of observation, our need to ensure breadth of information flow. It was asked how many NGB's have more than one face-to-face meeting per year – Charlie Leighton will take this question to the other NGBs and will bring this information back to the association. An idea was put forward that some committees lend themselves to Regional Meetings, and that this may be a way to reach out and attract new, younger members to participate. It was also noted that if this does become our approach, we will need to provide guidelines of communication expectations.

No decision was made, and continued conversation was encouraged.

- 10) The initiated bylaw change to Bylaw 525 was reviewed based on comments from the Bylaws Committee and the Nominating and Governance Committee. The discussion resulted in a **MOTION** that was made, seconded and APPROVED by a vote of 7-2-2 to initiate the following change to Bylaw 525:

BYLAW 525

Section 1. Composition. The committee shall be composed of thirteen (13) individuals as follows:

- (1) The most recent past president who is available to serve.
- (2) Three individuals appointed by the Sailor Athlete Council.
- (3) One individual each appointed by the following councils: Council of Sailing Associations, One Design Class Council, National Offshore Council, Community Sailing Council, Coach and Instructor Council, Cruising Council, Multihull Council and US Windsurfing Council..
- (4) A current member of the Board of Directors, appointed by the Board of Directors.

The President, with the approval of the Board of Directors, shall appoint a legal advisor as a consultant to the committee.

Section 2. Terms. Individuals appointed to the committee by councils shall serve three-year terms based on a schedule set forth in the regulations. The member of the committee appointed by the Board shall serve a one-year term.

- 11) OLD BUSINESS – none.

- 12) NEW BUSINESS

- a) Jerry Montgomery presented a hat to President Capron, celebrating the Newport to Encinada Race.
- b) Keller brought up the fact that there are submissions to the ISAF to re-initiate an 11th medal for sailing. When the Board has had an opportunity to see the submissions and get the recommendations of the Olympic Sailing Committee the Board will then take a formal position.
- c) A **MOTION** was made, seconded and APPROVED in recognition and the expression of best wishes to Olympic Sailing Committee Chairman, Dean Brenner, on the occasion of his 40th birthday today. Brenner is not at this meeting as he is one of the sailors on the USA Nation's Cup team competing in Brazil this week.
- d) It was agreed that the Bylaw Committee is encouraged to review the Bylaw change initiation process and bring back recommendations to the Board of Directors.

13) The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm MDT

Respectfully submitted,

Frederick H. Hagedorn
Secretary