

US SAILING Board of Directors Meeting

April 2, 2011

Chicago, IL

Present: Ed Adams, Dean Brenner, John Craig, Susan Epstein, Secretary Fred Hagedorn, Stan Honey, Vice President Tom Hubbell, President Gary Jobson, Treasurer Leslie Keller, Maureen McKinnon-Tucker, Dawn Riley and non-voting Ex Officio members Executive Director Jack Gierhart and House of Delegates Chair, Jim Walsh.

Guests: Janet Baxter

- 1) The meeting was called to order by President Jobson at 5:00 pm CDT.
- 2) Secretary Hagedorn called the Roll and announced that a quorum was present.
- 3) Past President's Study Group Report on Structure Review – Discussion was led by Tom Hubbell, chair of the review team of Leslie Keller and Fred Hagedorn. The Past Presidents, chaired by immediate-Past President Baxter, were thanked for their efforts in considering how the new organizational structure is working after 5 years of experience.

The Report essentially had six areas of comment which the Board has taken notice of and the organization will adapt as it moves forward with these comments in mind:

a) Volunteer Involvement

- i) The Board agrees that we need to find ways to make large meetings more interesting so new volunteers are interested in coming and participating. The Yacht Club Summit is an example of one method of doing so, and it has been very successful.
  - ii) In terms of communication, we need to look at this as a two part issue. How to reach the “as yet not engaged” and how to best provide information to those who are already involved.
  - iii) The Board agrees that the entire association needs to work to suggest potential candidates for Board positions. We stand ready to assist the Nominating Committee with this task as they see appropriate.
  - iv) In terms of the Staff/Volunteer relationship and balance, the Board believes that we have a creative and highly-engaged staff who have good ideas and need empowerment to act within the parameters set by the board. Sometimes the staff's idea should prevail. However, both Staff and Volunteers are integral to moving the organization forward, and each should listen to and engage each other in an open and constructive manner.
- b) Improve Membership reports – this has already been accomplished and is in the Executive Director's Report which the Board , House of Delegates Members and Committee Chairs receive each month.
- c) Allow a current Board Member to Chair the Sailor-Athlete Council
- i) This, in and of itself will not solve the issue of under-engagement by the SAC and our athletes in this sport. We need to reinvigorate the SAC:

- (1) Consider requiring grant recipients to serve on committees;
  - (2) Ask current and past SAC leaders for ideas to boost Sailor Athlete engagement;
  - (3) Help Sailor-Athletes to understand that having the OSC Chair on the Board does not adequately provide them with enough of a voice in the overall organization.
- d) Adjust the limitations on campaigning for election to the Board
    - i) This is primarily an issue for the Nominating Committee to make recommendations about, however, we agree.
    - ii) We think that the President and the Nominating Committee should discuss the candidates and that a position other than on the Board be found for each candidate, so that if they are not elected, they are immediately engaged in another important way for the association.
  - e) Remove the vote for the Secretary
    - i) The Board does not believe that the Secretary's position should be disenfranchised. However, we do recognize the concern regarding the size of the Board. One approach may be to have the Secretary selected from among the Directors who are elected, or the Designated Director. This will necessitate a change to the Bylaws, and should be contemplated for implementation in October of 2012 at that AGM.
  - f) Concern regarding how the House of Delegates and Councils are functioning  
We agree.
    - i) We should develop both live and on-line presentations to describe how these parts of the overall organization work.
    - ii) We should look at how our meetings are scheduled so that the flow is better for both of these parts of the organization.
    - iii) With the addition of more data about members in the database, the opportunity to provide direct access for Councils to members who are interested in that part of the sport will become available. This should permit the Councils to become much more engaged with the overall membership and hear what the grass roots sailor is thinking about.

4) The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 pm CDT.

Respectfully submitted,

Frederick H. Hagedorn  
Secretary