



2014- 2015 US Sailing Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
November 17, 2014
WebEx 7:30 PM EST

In attendance: Board: Josh Adams, Steve Benjamin, Vice President Bruce Burton, JJ Fetter, Executive Director Jack Gierhart, Chuck Hawley, George Hinman, President Tom Hubbell, Secretary Patty Lawrence, Sheila McCurdy, Maureen McKinnon Ben Richardson, Cory Sertl, and Treasurer Taran Teague.

Regrets: Maureen McKinnon and Dave Ullman

Guests included Rich Jepsen, Gary Jobson, and Bill Lee

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm EST and a roll call established a quorum.

1. Announcements: Tom Hubbell will be in Portsmouth, RI December 11, the ISAF Development Conference Jan 21 and NSPS Jan 22-24 New Orleans. The Olympic Team Dinner is January 24 in Miami and the in-person Board meeting Sunday at 8:00 AM Jan 25 in Miami, FL.

2. Consent Calendar, consisting of:
 - Meeting Minutes: October 25, 2015, October 25, 2015 AGM, October 25, 2015 new Board
 - Committee Chair and Member List
 - Strategic Initiativeswas moved seconded and approved.

3. In his President's Report, Tom Hubbell noted that he enjoyed the National Hall of Fame inductions in Area E. And he reported that all comments involving the Area E junior qualifiers investigation were positive thanks to Shannon Bush and her team and their thoughtful analysis of that event. Tom also thanked everyone for their support for making the National Conference successful.

4. Cory Sertl submitted a written ISAF Report and thanked Lee Parks for all her support and behind the scenes work. Both Jack Gierhart and Tom Hubbell attended the November meeting in Palma Mallorca, Spain and Cory remarked that their presence is important. All of the US delegates made a report and those are available in a Dropbox file for anyone who would like to read them. She noted that the 2018 Youth Worlds are being hosted by Corpus Christi YC and there is excitement about the event.

Gary Jobson thanked the US delegates for their support. He noted that the US needs more judges and umpires on the ISAF committee. There is a discussion about amateur and professional sailor status and Gary favors the existing rules. Tom thanked Gary and Cory on behalf of the Board for all their hard work.

5. Executive Director Jack Gierhart submitted a written report but highlighted a few items:
 - The staff has been working hard on the 2015 budget. Everyone is very mindful of expenses.
 - The annual appeal is underway with this year's theme of "First Sail."
 - The Grow Sailing Initiative is humming along with an initial meeting planned for February.
 - The Race Administration Division, including Matt Hill, Hank Stuart and committee chairs, meet to define expectations and goals for 2015.



6. Treasurer Taran Teague noted that we are a bit behind budget but the staff is doing a great job of controlling expenditures. The finance team addresses liquidity and cash flow weekly. The Budget Committee is meeting on December 7th.
7. Olympic Report Josh Adams is delighted that Corpus Christi YC is hosting the 2018 Youth Championships as that is good for the county and classes. The ISAF Sailing World Cup final is in Abu Dhabi and the US will send nine athletes in six classes. Some boats will be bought there and then shipped to Miami.
8. Staff Connection and Division Reports
 - Offshore Division Chair, Bill Lee reported that Bylaw 4.05 is making progress and is currently being vetting by the Bylaws Committee. He expects the final version to be on the December agenda. He also noted the offshore boats often have large crews which should be an incentive for a US Sailing crew membership. The Offshore business plan is in development and there is a meeting this week with the goal of having is finalized in a few weeks.

Tom and Bruce Burton thanked Shelia McCurdy, Steve Benjamin and Bill Lee for leading the Offshore initiatives.

- Charlie Arms submitted a written Education Division Report, and Rich Jepsen was on the call for highlights Charlie was travelling.
 - ISAF has decided to hold its Education and Development Conference immediately in advance of the NSPS in New Orleans.
 - Powerboat Program is going well.
 - The Instructional Design team, are working hard on several projects, including the re-writing of Teaching Fundamentals.
9. Old Business:

There were three governance issues be voted on under old business.

 - A motion was made and seconded to amend Bylaw 303 so that exceptions to the prohibition against a Director being a Committee Chair may be allowed. The motion carried.
 - A motion was made and seconded to amend Regulation 16.01, revising the Harman Hawkins Award to include Umpiring and Classification. The motion carried.
 - A motion was made and seconded to approve the renumbering of Regulation 15.01 and 15.02 as this corrected an error. The motion carried.

There are several other Bylaws and Regulations changes in the pipeline.

Shannon Bush wrapped up the Area E junior championship qualifier event investigation. As a result of this investigation, Race Administration and Championship Divisions are reviewing their regulations. There was a break down at the Area level which will hopefully not happen again.



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Parents provided thoughtful feedback and were grateful that the investigation was handled well. Area E is holding safety seminar. Shannon is optimistic that all parties emerged stronger.

Bruce Burton updated the board that the Olympic Review is underway and thanked Josh and his staff for their help. Questions may be sent privately to Bruce and this will be on the January meeting agenda.

10. New Business

Please send your board liaisons for Divisions wishes to Tom.

Board members are requested to liaise with specific Area Coordinators and that list will be circulated.

Susan Epstein has been working on the US Sailing Area Map and is turning that project over to the RSA Committee.

11. The Board share reflections of the organization.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15.

Respectfully submitted,
Patty Lawrence