

November 17, 2014 President's Report, US Sailing

Jack's staff report covers many details demonstrating the work of the staff and volunteers. Combined with the Olympic report there is quite a lot of effort for the sport from the breadth of our organization.

NSHOF: While in Detroit at the NSHOF Induction Weekend, we were well-received by the clubs and leadership. Pat and I went sailing with the Commodore of Bayview, Tim Proffit.

The new DRYA Commodore was appreciative of, and accepted the findings of the Area E youth championship incident review.

Speaking informally with a few NSHOF board members, I shared my interest in exploring some kind of merger between US Sailing and the NSHOF. I believe the Sailing Hall of Fame should be a part of US Sailing.

National Conference: I am pleased with our National Conference this year. I believe that the extended time for informal discussion and socializing produced the desired result, more fun and more work done.

During the formal AGM, I failed to recognize the re-election of Bruce Burton and George Hinman; I am sorry about that oversight. I missed the drama of contested elections, but not much. Again, welcome Cory and Chuck.

Almost half the Area Coordinators are new on the job as of November. Besides hearing from the RSA reps and the Venues Division Chair, Jim Tichenor, I would like the new as well as the established Area Coordinators to hear from a board member. The objective is to start a dialogue as well as an understanding of expectations. We need to support them and help them be effective. We'll send out a list to match up people. I appreciate the work of Harry Foote and Martine Zarinkas taking the RSAC to a new level.

I have high hopes for our new Regional Staff concept. This should bolster the work of the ACs and the RSA leaders. We need to find the funds, recruit good people, and launch a couple of pilot editions.

I think we should explore combining our three arms of fund-raising into one effort (annual appeal, USSF, and Olympic.) It should be led by a person skilled in development who is full-time at that task. Our current process is fragmented, misses opportunities for bigger gifts, and risks going to the well too often because lists are not coordinated.

I enjoyed the Awards Dinner, giving tribute to our heroes in proper fashion. Rolex contributed to that success. Later, in Palma, we were able to personally toast Stan on his Herreshoff Award.

Offshore: Bruce and Benj and the interested parties have spent many hours talking and negotiating the re-invention of our offshore services. While I have a picture of what I believe needs to happen and have had many conversations, my objective is for the offshore community itself to work out this new US Offshore business plan. We're waiting for everyone to come aboard in a way that works for everyone else. That takes longer.

ISAF: Pat and I went to Palma for the first 5 days of the ISAF meeting. I backed up Mark Foster's successful bid presentation for Corpus Christi YC to host the Youth Worlds. I attended Sheila's presentation at the Training and Development Com. I spent a good amount of time talking informally with a wide variety of people and hoping to demonstrate that US Sailing is engaged at ISAF.

We talked with all the ISAF VP's and King Constantine, the President of the Balearic Islands, the President of the Balearic Isl. Parliament, and the Deputy Mayor of Palma. We must be doing something right as for the glittering Rolex iSAF YOY Dinner, the President of US Sailing was assigned table #3, front row center. We congratulated all the winners.

Our delegation is held in high regard and the quiet leadership of Cory Sertyl and Gary Bodie is the glue and wisdom that guides our effectiveness.