



1 Roger Williams
University Way
Bristol, RI 02809

P 401.342.7900
F 401.342.7940
info@ussailing.org
www.ussailing.org

September 23, 2019

President's Report

Dear Board Members,

I am writing this waiting for wind at the Lake George Club, a beautiful setting in the Adirondack mountains north of Albany. I am racing my J-22 with my husband Mark and son Nick. Being here, seeing old friends and participating in a sport that we all love. People ask me how being President of US Sailing is going and tell me how they are seeing all the different things US Sailing is meaningfully involved in and giving me positive feedback. All are concerned about the decline in participation and are talking about solutions and understanding that US Sailing is part of that and so are they. This is a credit to our dedicated staff and volunteers executing many of the elements in our strategic plan.

In August, I participated as a celebrity tactician during the 15th Annual IOD Celebrity Invitational Regatta, a component of Nantucket Race Week that benefits Nantucket Community Sailing. This is a successful fundraising model where Yacht Cubs, sailors and sponsors come together to support a community sailing organization.

Pan Am Games

Since our last call in July I have had the privilege of being with our Pan Am Sailing Team in Paracas, Peru and being part of Team USA, a well-orchestrated effort by the USOPC (US Olympic and Paralympic Committee) supporting athletes at the Pan Am Games. I saw first hand the dedication and USA spirit from our sailors there and was out on the water with our coaches cheering on our gold medal teams: Riley Gibbs and Anna Weiss in the Nacra 17 and Ernesto Rodriguez and Hallie Schiffman in the Snipe win races on their way to the podium. In my role as President, I had the opportunity to meet with my counterparts from South America and the Caribbean and represented the US at the Pan Am Sailing Federation quadrennial meeting.

Sailor Athlete Council

Elections for the Sailor Athlete Council conclude on Monday 23 September. Clerc Cooper is focusing on next steps which will include nominating and holding an election from among eligible A and B athletes for a Board position beginning November 15th.





USOPC Annual Assembly

I had the opportunity to travel to Colorado Springs to attend the USOPC Annual Assembly and the meetings of the NGB Council (National Governing Body) a large group of CEO's and Presidents of up to 50 different sports, some headquartered in Colorado Springs. These were well run meetings designed to share best practices and hear concerns. Alongside the meetings that Jack and I attended were meetings of the USOPC Board of Directors, the Athlete Advisory Committee and the US Olympian and Paralympians Association (Alumni group with chapters all over the US). There was a Town Hall with the opportunity to ask the Board questions. The USOPC is coming off of a couple of years of regrouping after the Larry Nasser/ USA Gymnastics scandal and the resulting reaction by the Federal Government. The changes made in response over the last year are impressive and hearing from the leadership of the CEO, now in her role 1 year, Sarah Hirschland and the President of the Board, Susanne Lyons is inspirational and confidence building moving forward.

Journey Toward Excellence

The theme of "Journey Toward Excellence" is woven throughout. Being part of the Olympic Movement is powerful and something we can continually draw on to motivate everything we do as staff, volunteers, and for our US Sailing Team, the athletes and the coaches.

In my visit to the Bristol offices last week and in my time with our Olympic staff, along with Jack and Bruce, I shared my inspiration that we are all on this "Journey Toward Excellence" and that we value everyone's dedication. These ideals of the Olympic movement and Sailing's role in it, motivate me to be the best I can be and I see this in every member of our team supporting our athletes as well as the broader team at US Sailing and the dedicated volunteers each working hard in their area of expertise.

Last week, I informed each member of the Board about the leadership changes in our Olympic Program. Jack is focusing our staff team to continue executing the plans in place to maximize support of our athletes and coaches towards achieving their Olympic dreams in 2020. We have the responsibility to ensure our future is bright and to provide the environment for our current athletes to continue improving and to provide the pathway for the next generation. We have a huge opportunity with the Olympics in LA 2028 and I continue to express urgency to focus in on that vision and create a plan to maximize success in Long Beach in 2028.

With this spirit of urgency and opportunity we need to take the next steps.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cory Sertl".

Cory Sertl
President of US Sailing

