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## April 2021 President's Report

### April on the water highlights

Congratulations to Randy Draftz and his event organizing team and race officials for executing a successful **Charleston Race Week**. Randy is nominated as the Seahorse Magazine Sailor of the month: "Over the past 15 years Draftz has stuck at it, making each edition of Charleston Race Week better than the last and building it up into the biggest and best keelboat regatta in the USA. No event offers as good a mix of excellent racing and plain, simple hassle-free fun ashore. And to pull off a 2021 entry of 178 boats with the virus still in the headlines was a result your whole team should be incredibly proud of." Click [here](#) to vote.

Congratulations to Paul Cayard and Luke Lawrence for winning the Star Western Hemisphere Championships that concluded yesterday on Biscayne Bay.

### US Sailing Team Sailors in the news

We are following our US Sailing Team sailors in Sailors in Europe notably [Paige and Charlie's](#) top ten finishes as they checked back in to racing against their international Olympic competitors.

Also note the publicity for Nikki Barnes and Sailing from [Stars and Stripes](#) recently highlighting Nikki and Lara's making our Olympic team as a first for a Coast Guard officer.

### Upcoming Olympics-

- No spectators
- Limitations, Covid testing
- We are all monitoring next steps for our team heading to Tokyo and the everchanging challenges. Paul is gaining greater understanding of these challenges in his new role.
- Disruption and change are a part of sailing, our sailors are equipped to adapt.
- Stay tuned for ways we can support our athletes from afar





## **USOPC interaction in April**

- Call with Sarah Hirschland (USOPC CEO) with leaders of all the NGBs sending the message of working together, better together as part of the Olympic movement, as all sports work together on projects and supporting Olympic values. Looking ahead to commercial opportunities for 2028.
- NGB Council provided an opportunity for NGB Board leadership to hear from experienced Board chairs and the USOPC Board Chair, Susanne Lyons, in a panel discussion. Helpful hints about board leadership and best practices working with the CEO and professional staff were shared.
- International Relations Task Force webinar- our World Sailing delegates attended a webinar that focused on key elements about being effective internationally by listening carefully and understanding cultural differences. The USOPC has a priority of shifting the dynamic of European influence to be more broadly shared across the globe and in support of the values we support in the USA.

## **Athlete Town Hall**

- Thank you, Clerc Cooper as chair of SAC (Sailor Athlete Council) for chairing our recent Athlete Town Hall
- Athletes serving on our Board and representatives to USOPC AAC (Athlete Advisory Council)
- Format- hear from President- reinforcing our one team philosophy and commitment, CEO, Paul Cayard- honesty with the financial situation- what we can do and what we hope to do next as we are able to attract and generate additional resources
- Transparency, conveying info- a forum to ask questions and give feedback
- Topics: fundraising, understanding athlete selection, funding

## **Fundraising**

I have been pleased to support volunteers from the US Sailing Board and US Sailing Foundation Board in our “quiet phase” to drum up support for Project Pinnacle both for our immediate priority of supporting Team USA in Tokyo and for Paris 2024 and LA 2028.

## **St. Francis Sailing Foundation supports US Sailing Team Athletes**

Pam Healy, President of the SFSF called me over the weekend to share that the St. Francis Sailing Foundation granted \$40,000 to the 13 individual athletes on the team at their recent quarterly meeting. Pam, bronze medalist in the 470 in 1992, has been a great supporter of Olympic sailing and has worked with Beth DeAtely to support athletes individually, most recently aiding Nikki and Lara with a significant donation. The continued support for our athletes and rallying behind





them is inspirational for all of us and it really does take all of us supporting our sailors in a variety of ways as a sailing community and as fans. Thanks again to St. Francis Sailing Foundation!

## **World Sailing**

### **IOC letter re: 2024 Doublehanded Mixed Offshore Olympic Event**

World Sailing received a letter from the IOC indicating that it is unlikely that the IOC will approve the Doublehanded Mixed Offshore event for the 2024 Olympics. The US has firmly supported the inclusion of this Offshore event for the 2024. There is significant interest and sailors starting programs.

### **Objections to Offshore event-** from IOC letter

- too expensive to present at the Games
- too difficult to secure the field of play,
- have not yet been able to run a World Championship (note, due to COVID the event scheduled for last fall had to be cancelled)

## **Background**

December 2020- IOC confirmed 9 out of 10 events. For the 10<sup>th</sup> event they requested further information which WS, French organizers and French Navy has provided re: safety of field of play and broadcast requirements.

IOC also decreased the # of sailing athletes for 2024, specifically referred to as the athlete quota across all 10 events. Note the history of quota decline 17%: 2012- London-400, 2016-Rio-380, 2020- Tokyo-350 and 2024- Marseilles-330.

Note also the gender equality requirement that WS approved along with IOC guidelines for gender equity across events and # athletes and the guideline to provide either 2 or 4 mixed events in accordance with IOC indication of support for mixed events.

## **US Sailing position**

USA continues to support the inclusion of the Offshore event.

Just like all MNAs (member national authority) we are looking for stability in our events so we can plan ahead. The option that allows for the most stability re: an alternate for the 10<sup>th</sup> medal if the IOC presses ahead to deny the Offshore event is one that has the least impact on current athletes competing and takes into account the pressure caused by reduced athlete quota. The most obvious option appears to be changing the Kite relay (currently involves a team of one male and one female athlete) into separate Men's and Women's events and the opportunity to win a medal





in each. We are aware of other choices we could easily get behind such as Match Racing or Team Racing but the quota challenges make either of these difficult to see as options that will be supported more broadly.

On Friday, Council reviewed and approved some emergency changes to the Regulations so the Federation may legally meet the deadlines that the IOC have created for the sport to submit one or more prioritized Plan B(s) to the IOC by May 26. The overall goal for World Sailing is to preserve the 10<sup>th</sup> medal and if the IOC can't be convinced to include the Offshore, provide an option that will allow for the 10<sup>th</sup> medal.

Emergency submissions are being accepted by WS in accord with these updated Regulations via an approved template. The last day to make such a Submission was noon today, Monday 26 April. Although the overall issue is of critical importance to the USA, after some discussion, I believe that the USA should neither make a submission on this topic, nor should add our name to any one specific proposal. The reasons are many and include the fact that the USA is still a strong proponent of the current plan A, and is quickly followed by the fact that it is often more effective to listen and give 1 on 1 support to an idea rather than brandishing that we are the USA and this is what we believe. This is a time for smaller nations to advocate to us, as universality is a critical part of the 6 guidance points presented to WS by the IOC in their request for an alternative, rather than the other way round.

All of the Submissions for the WS Midyear meeting will be published on Friday, 30 April, and our US Sailing WS-Delegation will review all of them and make recommendations on what positions the USA should lean towards as the Events, Equipment and Council enter into their discussions. These discussions are dynamic, and so starting points for our representatives may not be the ending points as we listen to our colleagues from around the world.

The Board will be kept updated and we will receive guidance from our Olympic staff leadership, the Sailor Athlete Council and the World Sailing Delegation prior to the Council meeting on May 14<sup>th</sup> when the decision will be made as to how to respond to the IOC request for alternate options.

### **Refocus**

This last year has given us a reset opportunity to look inward and form the best structure. We are focusing on our primary resources: our highly talented people, our professional staff who have developed and continue to develop great expertise along with our tremendous community of volunteers that represent significant brain power and volunteer energy powered by a give back spirit that has driven our sport at local clubs, community programs and at major events.





We are starting to focus on delivering the elements of Project Pinnacle as we continue to strengthen the sport at all levels.

I look forward to getting out on the water in May, participating in a few events myself as well as attending some in my role as President.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cory Sertl". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Cory" and the last name "Sertl" clearly distinguishable.

Cory Sertl

