

12 November 2021



1 Roger Williams  
University Way  
Bristol, RI 02809

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

## Annual Meeting President's Report

As my final Annual Meeting as President, I would like to briefly reflect on the last 3 years and start by thanking our committee chairs and committee members and our 42,000 (and growing) members and member organizations who we serve.

Over the last 3 years, this Board in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic has redefined our mission, reviewed and embraced our role as the National Governing Body of the Sport, created a strategic plan, strengthened the Athlete Voice with 5 athletes on our Board and endorsed our new Olympic Sailing strategy, Project Pinnacle.

Under Bill Ruh's leadership, we have strengthened the role of the US Sailing Foundation and broadened our philanthropic support. We are grateful for the continuing support of the sailing community and the growing number of donors who have gotten behind our vision for the future.

As the NGB for the sport of sailing, we have the responsibility for a broad range of functions. US Sailing is the only organization that focuses on racing at the highest levels and we are also responsible for education and the development of the sport.

We have committed to 3 strategic pillars:

- Olympic and High-Performance Success led by Paul Cayard and supported by the Project Pinnacle strategy
- Member Experience and Value – where we focus on services and programs on how we can serve our members better
- Organizational Effectiveness – we are empowering our professional staff to lead and to enable our volunteer community of Committee members and all those who volunteer in sailing to be able to give back in a mutually rewarding way

Our Board has accomplished significant culture change. I thank all of our Board members who have always stepped up to participate and be part of this process despite the challenges and not meeting in person until today for nearly 2 years.

Change is disruptive, change is hard and all of us have been impacted by significant changes to our lives in the past 18 months. Our athlete's plans were disrupted with a Postponement of the Tokyo 2020 Games and we all held our breath that this past summer that our team would be able to compete.

The people most impacted by the last 18 months have been our staff. I'd like to thank the staff who have hung in there with us especially two who assumed interim leadership roles last November, Heather Monoson, our CFO, and Jill Nosach, our Chief Development Officer. Both





stepped up in ways they never expected to have to and were invaluable to our Board as we navigated the last year. Thank you to both.

The COVID-19 Pandemic gave us an opportunity to STOP, THINK, LISTEN and reset. This reflection has given us a clarity with which to move forward. We are moving forward collectively as one organization that is focusing on the broad mission to serve the sport.

Thank you to all those behind the scenes and each and every Board member who spent countless hours helping solve each problem. We could not have gotten to where we are without the steadfast support of our Board member, Martine Zurinkas, who has served in the Secretary role for 6 years. Thank you, Martine.

I know the Board's Journey Towards Excellence will continue. I have full confidence that our Board led by incoming President, Rich Jepsen together with our staff team, will continue to establish a culture of excellence in all we do to serve sailors.

I look forward to continuing to help "behind the scenes". It has truly been an honor to serve US Sailing as your President. Thank you for this opportunity.

Sincerely,

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

Cory Sertl  
President

