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President's Report



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### Postponement of NSPS

Due to the uncertainty surrounding the Omicron Variant last November, we made the difficult decision to postpone the event until 2024 as the Sailing Leadership Forum is scheduled for Winter 2023 and the venue is already under contract. However, staff and volunteers are working on a spring package of virtual

While I'm very disappointed that we had to postpone NSPS, yet again, I'm grateful to board members for keeping this date and times free for the important work of the organization.

Immediately ahead for US Sailing is one of the most urgent tasks facing us, raising \$5MM to match Tom Siebel's generous challenge match for the dramatic national expansion of the Siebel Sailors Initiative. This is a heavy lift and will require persistent effort through this year to execute. In addition to helping grow the entry funnel for the base of the performance pyramid, it will help bring sailing to previously underserved demographics critical to sailing participation and US Sailing's membership growth. Please consider supporting our effort to turn \$5 million into \$10 million. Give generously; we will be making sailing better but, more importantly, shaping and molding youth like sailing can uniquely do. That's good for sailing and good for America.

I proposed a board meeting schedule that makes us more effective and meetings more budget friendly, while still doing the work of the association. We will reduce the frequency of staff reports that become big time sinks for staff as they work hard to ensure the presentations are thorough, defensible and 'ready for primetime. Due to our 'every month except August' board calendar, often insufficient time has passed to offer any really useful data in presentations, so requiring them wastes time and money. In this digital age, we can keep our membership and volunteer communities informed with fewer public meetings leaving time for us to employ executive sessions to grapple with, discuss, debate issues and get the work of the association done better and more quickly.

We are continuing the conversation about growing US Sailing through outreach to diverse communities and individuals – We are taking board level trainings, getting advised by experts from multiple DEI organizations from without and within. You can be reassured that the Board will ensure this remains a front burner topic and display some real progress toward making sailing and US Sailing look a bit more like America.

We are working with staff on our volunteer organizational structure, to try to better harmonize it with the myriad staff structure changes of the last five years or so. There are many parts of that – What do we do with divisions? What should a board liaison do? A staff liaison? Where can we streamline our committee structure? Which committees would benefit from board guidance as to their terms of reference? To put our committee structure in context, US Sailing has more than double the number of committees of any other National Governing Body.





We have started a volunteer/staff task force organized by Andrew Clouston that will create a plan to slowly improve our organizational structure that makes us more efficient and effective.

Let me take one moment to call out, for the record, some volunteers who have gone above and beyond, this year and last.

- Matt Gallagher – From the challenges of handicapping for the Mac to bylaws research to marshaling the Safety Equipment Regulations to writing important and needed legal documents, Matt has made US Sailing better at its job while saving us thousands of dollars.
- Charlie Arms – She’s one of the few people I know capable of filling the very large shoes of Martine for the toughest volunteer job at US Sailing. Charlie took random ideas and desires from me and coalesced them into a great agenda while fielding late requests for time ON the agenda too important to postpone and shoehorning them into our day.
- Paul Cayard, Bill Ruh and Jill Nosach – While they would be the first to say we have a long way to go, their success in fundraising is unprecedented in US Sailing history. They set gaudy goals and have made incredible progress on those goals. The final script is yet to be written but it is such an encouraging start.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Jepsen", written in a cursive style.

Richard Jepsen

Board President

