

October 15, 2022



Opening Remarks – New Board Meeting

Welcome everyone! A few remarks to start the session:

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1. Please welcome two returning board members, Henry Brauer and Stan Honey. We are lucky to have your smarts and business savvy helping us lead the organization. Also, welcome our two new board members, Marie Rogers, past commodore of LA Yacht Club and Sheila Tolle, also a board member for USA Rowing. Finally, welcome our replacement for Briana Provancha, chosen by all 10 year and 10 year + athletes, Pam Healy. You've likely read their bios but I'd like you to briefly hear from each one. Marie, please take 30 seconds to tell the attendees a bit about you. Sheila? Henry? Stan? Pam?
2. I'd like to say a few words about our colleagues in SW Florida. Edison Community Sailing, a jewel of the country, was mostly destroyed as it sat in the path of the dangerous semi-circle of Ian. Offshore Sailing School lost its building and some of its boats. You'll be proud to hear that Community Sailing New Orleans leadership raised \$14,000 immediately for Edison and sailors nationwide have donated relief money. Also, US Sailing staffers are organizing a caravan to bring equipment and supplies to the center so they can start operating earlier.
3. Board members, we have a discussion and a decision ahead of us to select the 2022 Herreshoff Award winner. As Board directors, each of you has an opportunity to nominate. We currently have two which will shortly be shared with you. We will discuss in our early December board call and choose. However, now we need to discuss a proposal to change our nomination rules.
4. After this event, the staff leaders and board officers will engage in an evaluation of how well the AGM/Stakeholder Summit model is working to meet our needs and to recommend changes to the board for future events. Right now, Los Angeles Yacht Club is eager to host our next fall event.
5. Let me offer my heartfelt thanks to our termed-out director Clerc Cooper, who has served us wonderfully as a director even as she spun several plates in her professional life and as chair of the Sailor Athlete Council as it reinvents its athlete representative nomination and voting process. Well done, Clerc, and thank you.
6. I'm eager for our Stakeholders' Summit immediately following this meeting, exciting agenda and good turnout of the leaders of sailing on the Gulf Coast. We'll wrap up the weekend with a social event at nearby Community Sailing New Orleans!
7. Let me again thank the leadership of Southern Yacht Club for its hospitality in hosting us for several meetings on Thursday in addition to those on Friday and today. It's a pleasure to work with you. And, thanks to the leadership of Community Sailing New Orleans for the great networking event this afternoon!

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rich Lepsen".

Rich Lepsen
Board President

