

April 10, 2023

President's Report



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Olympic Department

Board Members Henry Brauer and Sarah Lihan have put their lives on hold on behalf of the Association to lead the Olympic Department as we rebuild its capabilities. They are doing a wonderful job in the face of difficult circumstances and have my deep appreciation.

Sailing as a Lifetime Activity Task Force

This task force is being refreshed under the leadership of Geoffrey Emanuel. He has capable help from youth sailing advocates from around the country, working on proposals to the staff leadership to encourage improvements in youth sailing that are more likely to create lifelong sailors. Please contact me at richardjepsen@ussailing.org if you have ideas or questions on our project.

DEI intern project

The USA has a large contingent of comparatively diverse sailing clubs and associations, half of which have little to no contact with US Sailing. To solve for that, Renee Wetterland and Breanne Boatwright of HR have employed three college students as interns for a research project to identify these organizations and build an outreach plan for staff leaders and volunteers to execute. In the coming weeks we will reach out to these dozens of organizations, offer to help them however we can, and welcome them to a closer relationship with US Sailing to share best practices, get a more diverse perspective of our sport and develop our organizational membership rolls. Marie Rogers and I attended a great briefing from the team yesterday and left it energized and optimistic that another step toward inclusion in US Sailing for all sailors is being taken.

Listening session in May

Looking to build on the success of listening sessions around the country, CEO Alan Ostfield and myself will invite New England leaders to visit us in Bristol, RI on May 10 to share their feedback, ask questions about how we are serving sailors and advocate for those parts of the sport they are passionate about. If you are close to Bristol, RI and would like an hour with Alan and me, please contact me at richardjepsen@ussailing.org.

Article for RRS 68, Judges' Newsletter

Per the request of Sarah Ashton, editor, I collaborated with Matt Hill, Race Admin Director, to submit an update on US Sailing changes and improvements and what those mean for judges. We rely on judges, race committee volunteers and umpires as a prerequisite to any sort of competitive sailing and they often dip deep into their own pockets to travel to regattas to volunteer their time so we can enjoy a level playing field. The skills and knowledge required to serve in these volunteer roles are very high and require days and days of formal training, study and practice. We are taking steps to demonstrate respect and appreciation for judges' contributions to the sport of competitive sailing we all love. In the interim, please look for opportunities to say thank you, whether sailing by the signal boat before racing or after a





protest, win or lose. Finally, consider whether taking a turn as a race volunteer is in your heart. Race official work is one of the quickest ways to improve your own competitiveness.

Great conversation with our new Senior Vice President Development, Blaine Pedlow

I had an introductory call with Blaine this week and came away extremely impressed with his grasp of the art and science of fundraising and development. He has impressed everyone who has met him, most notably, those leaders who, themselves are knowledgeable about the philanthropic world. Welcome, Blaine, we're looking forward to working with you.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Jepsen".

Richard Jepsen

Board President

