

United States Sailing Association



## July Board Meeting

Mon Jul 31, 2023 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM EDT

### I. Welcome

#### a. Call to Order

##### 1. Conflict of Interest statement

Charlie Arms recused herself from voting on the Race Officials BAR

#### b. Attendance

In Attendance: Rich Jepsen, Henry Brauer, Alan Ostfield, Marie Rogers, Sheila Tolle, Charlie Arms, Stan Honey, Judge Ryan, Sarah Lihan, Brian Keane, John Schoendorf

Excused: Pam Healy, Russ Lucas, Tony Rey, Justin Shaffer, Maggie Shea

Guests: 8 including staff

#### c. Consent Calendar

##### 1. Approval of Meeting Minutes

May 11, 2023 Meeting Minutes Approved

##### 2. BAR 2023 0702 RRS WS Submission

Passed by E-vote

##### 3. BAR 2203 0707 Appeals Committee WS Case Submission

Passed by E-vote

##### 4. BAR 2023 0629 World and Continental Championships Approval

Passed by E-vote

Vote #1: Motion to Approve, unanimously Approved.

#### d. Presidents Report

President's report stands as submitted. The report can be viewed, [HERE](#)

30 seconds of silence was observed for the safe return of Captain Donald Lawson.

### II. Reports

#### a. CEO

The Association Report stands as submitted. The full report can be viewed, [HERE](#).

Alan Ostfield, CEO, gave the following updates:

- Mr. Ostfield reported that things are going well despite challenges in the early Spring, and that he feels good about where we are headed. Recent additions to the staff have rounded out the team, and the new Membership Director is already making an impact. Notable mentions also included new Partners, Town Hall, and Genius Bar, as well as recent meeting with NYYC, and negotiations with USOPC.
- Mr. Ostfield also highlighted a recent call with members of the Offshore community and noted the difference in reception and tone from a year ago. Complimented Offshore staff for improvements. This was supported by Director Stan Honey, who was on the call and noted the difference from previous years. Mr. Honey congratulated Mr. Ostfield on a job well done.
- Additionally, Mr. Ostfield reviewed the status of the search for the Olympic High-Performance Director and noted that the process is moving along well. The screening committee has recommended 9 or 10 candidates to interview and the process for interviewing is established.

#### **b. Financial Report**

Treasurer John Schoendorf presented the Financial Report and noted that aside from the Olympic department, the organization is on track. He mentioned that the lack of spending in the Olympic department is largest part of expense savings. He also noted that there was a typo in the pre-read materials that had a \$400k impact. The Registrations and Courses were \$200k over budget, not under.

#### **c. Committee Reports and Updates**

##### **1. Nominating Committee**

Committee Chair Charlie Arms reported that this was the first time an online application was offered and a variety of people applied. There were two positions to fill with Russ Lucas' and Tony Rey's terms ending. Mr. Lucas is not eligible for re-nomination; however, Tony Rey is eligible and has volunteered to be nominated.

After conducting several interviews, the Committee has nominated Mr. Matt Gallagher for the second open position. In the interest of the organizations' DEI initiatives, the Committee is hopeful that one of the female applicants who was not selected for the Board position might be qualified for the Sailor Athlete Council nomination.

##### **2. Youth Champs**

Youth Competition Manager, John Pearce, provided a report on the 2023 Youth Championship event held at RWU in June. This 50th-anniversary event also

included a reunion for the original attendees from 1973 that was hosted by Mr. Bob Johnstone. Mr. Pearce also noted that the application process had changed for this event to be an open application and 225 sailors participated. The NOR was also revised to include other MNAs from around the world so that international sailors could also participate. Mr. Pearce reported that this was a great event on and off the water, with great participation from Partners and tremendous staff support. They are looking forward to hosting it again in 2024.

Mr. Pearce also mentioned that the search for a Youth Performance Manager is still underway and that they are close to identifying a strong candidate.

Eric Krasnoo, SVP of Partnerships and Membership, also shared insights about the Youth Champs event and a highlight video. He noted that this was a test event for live-streaming video to provide opportunities to watch the race and determine if there is a commercially viable opportunity as a media asset. He also discussed the impacts on our social media accounts and lessons learned.

Questions and discussion followed regarding the venue moving forward and Youth Champs qualification and selection.

Mr. Krasnoo also shared additional highlights of the Partnership and Marketing departments.

### 3. Olympic High Performance

Director Henry Brauer invited Director Sarah Lihan to share information on the annual High-Performance Plan submitted to the USOPC. Sarah mentioned that a revised format was used that is more streamlined and metric based, and tracks year to year progress. It was noted that the 2023 Plan will look different than the 2022 Plan due to the restructuring. The USOPC ask for funding was increased with the HPP submission.

A brief discussion of how selection works and who is likely to make the Team followed.

Ms. Lihan also highlighted the results at the recent Test Event in Marseilles, the importance of the upcoming event at The Hague August 8-20th, and the next opportunity to win selection for the Games at the PanAm Games in October.

Blaine Pedlow, SVP Development, was invited to update the Board on fundraising activities for the Team, and he highlighted the alignment with NYYC on the Golden Spinnaker fundraising event, and that good donor conversations are starting to happen. He mentioned that a new Major Gifts Officer has accepted our offer. Mr. Pedlow also mentioned his recent experience at the US Open Long Beach and highlighted the importance of having boots on the ground and that we are establishing positive relationships with local sailing leadership.

**4. Sailor Athlete Council**

No update at this time.

**5. Herreshoff Award**

No comments added to the information included in the President's Report.

**III. Old Business**

No Old Business

**IV. New Business**

**a. BAR International Race Officials Approval**

Matt Hill, Race Administration Director, provided a brief summary of the International Race Official candidates.

This will be BAR 2023 0726.

Vote #2 Motion to Approve, unanimously Approved. One director abstained from vote per Conflict of Interest Policy.

**V. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 7:59pm EDT

**VI. Executive Session**

**a. Audit Report**

**b. Trials**