

September 18, 2023

President's Report



1 Roger Williams
University Way
Bristol, RI 02809

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

1. Donald Lawson, chair of the DEI Committee is still currently listed as missing at sea after a catastrophic capsizing of his ORMA 60 trimaran Defiant, nee Mighty Merloe. Please hold him and his family in your hearts as the window is narrowing for his safe rescue. Meanwhile, the DEI Committee leadership is intact as a senior member of the committee has taken over as the Acting Chair, Renae Mintz, an engineer from FL, with able assistance from Jay Baum, a member of the leadership team at Hudson River Community Sailing.
2. November AGM/Listening Sessions/Stakeholder Summit - I'm soliciting names of people you might know in Southern California who might either be motivated to visit LAYC to provide feedback/advice/questions to Alan and me on November 7 or might be interested to attend a Stakeholders' Summit at LAYC on November 9. Please let me know important area sailors and volunteers we should invite. Of course, we will post the opportunities in our social media posts and send broadcast emails out to the geographic area. Also, board members, please notify me whether you can attend in person.
3. Olympic and Paralympic Commission – The commission has been empaneled to improve our country's treatment and development of athletes. I attended an all-day session of testimony from invited guests of the Commission ranging from USOPC volunteer and staff leaders, athlete stakeholders, acknowledged experts on the Olympic and Paralympic Movements as well as the CEO of The Center For Safe Sport. There were those who were critical of institutions like CFSS and USOPC in certain areas, certainly, regarding CFSS's responsiveness and ability to take on, investigate and fully resolve a reasonable percentage of the reports of mis-conduct they are receiving. However, very few people appreciated, in advance of its creation, the deluge of reports it would be trying to address. Limited by its budget which is borne by USOPC and the NGBs, it has been trying to scale but has yet to get its arms around the volume. One result of this is that it administratively closes many non-serious sexual mis-conduct complaints, effectively bouncing them back to the NGBs to address. There was criticism of USOPC for having its staff salaries rise more quickly than athlete financial support. There was disagreement on the figures as USOPC claimed that salaries are in line if you recognize that the support it provides is spread out over more entities now which skews the results.





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4. Regulation 15 – This is the Grievance Regulation, and the Judges Committee believes that it needs to have more clarity and objectiveness to help the Review Board discharge its responsibilities in a more defensible and objective way. I agree that the Review Board is saddled with using a ton of common sense and interpretation of current regulations and I think the Review Board will welcome the proposals.

5. Congratulations to the US Sailing Team for their recent performances this summer in Europe, with several pretty substantial statements made about our international competitiveness. I think the staff, under the leadership of Sally and Kate, advised and supported by Henry and Sarah, has been heartening and inspiring in very challenging conditions.

Respectfully submitted on September 12, 2023,

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

Richard Jepsen
Board President

