



President's Report for November 2023 AGM

1. Regarding results of the listening sessions - Board and staff leadership hosted 25 constituents in groups of 4 to 6 each for 75 minutes throughout the day of November 7. We collected a wonderful harvest of ideas, requests, critical feedback and encouragement on things they hoped we would continue and expand upon. Discussion ranged from improving instructor and race official certification opportunities, improving our member renewal communications, requests to improve our information technology and website, suggestions that Education collaborate with other departments to improve their training tools and volunteers, to suggestions to collaborate with local sailing organizations on US Sailing membership initiatives and urges to focus more on the established growth areas of sailing, introducing intergenerational sailing to youth, focusing on women and other under-represented groups with recruiting efforts and targeted 'on ramp' events. Lots of discussion on our Olympic Effort, with advice ranging from the importance of focusing on the base (large end of the talent funnel) to advice surrounding how we support our athletes with best chances for medals in Marseille and Long Beach. The several pages of feedback are in the hands of staff leadership to be evaluated for priority and action.
2. Final plans for the Stakeholder Summit - we have robust attendance; We are full with a wait list. The attendees are spread from around the entire region and many Local Sailing Organizations are represented, as we had hoped.
3. Regarding USOPC Report reactions and my responses – We decided, in the wake of the USOPC report that it was time for us to, while keeping to the high road, to be sure more of our story was told to our membership and stakeholders. We have created targeted communications to different constituencies through our different newsletter channels. In addition, a letter to the membership ensured that all current members would have the opportunity to read about the last several months. The reactions (I provided my email) are overwhelmingly positive, many thanking us for the brave effort on behalf of the athletes and that we are on the right path. Of course, a couple of snarky emails, as well as great emails asking about other parts of the organization, since it was easy to provide feedback. We are sorting those emails as well to get answers back to them on everything from instructor certification to yacht insurance to improving transparency in race official certification standards and efforts.
4. Task Forces
 - a. developing procedures for misconduct and possible changes to Article 15 as well as exploring feasibility of submissions to WS for Rule 69 as there's a perceived gap for misconduct between the two areas. Guidance will be shared with all relevant parties, Review Board, Governance and Compliance, Ethics, Racing Rules Committee and the BOD. Tom Hubbell is leading this task force and will report later on progress
 - b. Evaluating the current population and structure of committees, Divisions and Board/staff Liaisons – Ed Huntsman is leading this effort and will report later on progress. Reminder that if you have opinions on the Division or Committee structure or specific committees with which you are familiar, let me know and I'll put you in touch with Ed.
 - c. Herreshoff Task Force finished its work and we are now executing on its recommendations. There's a screening committee with Cory Sertl, Alan or his designate and Chuck Hawley already recruited. I'd like two more volunteers if you know of someone who could judge nominations effectively.





5. We are hoping we are able to announce the new High-Performance Director by mid-November. Several of you have met the leading candidate and have had rave reviews.
6. Blaine Pedlow recently gave a presentation at St Francis Yacht Club on US Sailing, including the US Sailing Team and why both the Association and Team deserve members' financial support. That sort of personal outreach is invaluable to bring our members closer whether or not it results in more donation revenue. If you have an invitation from a YC or association to speak, please consider it. You will get tons of help and guidance from our Communications Department.
7. Another shout out to three board members who are doing amazing things in our Olympic Effort under really difficult circumstances. Pam on the Trials is impressing us all. Henry and Sarah continue to keep their noses to the grindstone to give us the time to ensure we make a quality choice on a new High-Performance Director. Thank you all.
8. Finally, thanks to Russ Lucas and Justin Shaffer, for their hard work and wonderful counsel as our two retiring board members. And, welcome to our new board members, Laura Grondin and Matt Gallagher!

Respectfully submitted, Richard Jepsen, Board President, 11/7/23

