



US SAILING COMMUNITY SAILING COMMITTEE

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

WELCOME TO OUR COMMUNITY!

You are officially community sailing. Simply put, sailing is a community. Thank you for loving this sport.

We've just caught our collective breath, following another whirlwind symposium with US Sailing friends and family. We hope you can join us for professional development, brainstorming, and scheming next year at NSPS. The annual symposia have not only become our annual celebration of success, but a powerful reminder of what remains to do. My biggest takeaway from this year's conference is simply that we are responsible to move forward under our own power. While doors are opened for us, we are responsible to step through. Community sailors and their organization leaders continue to add stability to a sport through conscientious and clear action. We saw tremendous support from attendees and staff during SLF, with folks staying well past regular sessions to attend our meeting, boisterously participating in our breakout sessions, and truthfully I was hard pressed to see a committee member lacking for conversation. We were able to once again feature the incredible work of many organizations, accredited and on the path, through the annual presentation of our Community Sailing Awards. I'll fully admit I cried this year, sharing the joy with the dedicated humans making this year's award winning work possible. It was absolutely incredible. Our sport has grown a lot from my first forays as a youth sailor. More and more folks have a pathway to continuing participation and success. And simply put, fun. A giant thank you to all those who have lent a hand, continue to do so, and may do so in the future! This action is of course iterative, and while we celebrate, we always look forward to the next step.

2024 SUCCESSES

I am incredibly excited that we continue to grow the number of accredited centers alongside those interested in growing access and broadening their community's background. This year we heard from our US Sailing President, Henry Brauer, that Community Sailing is an essential pathway towards not only our sport's growth, but also Olympic success. Community access broadens the base of available talent. Included below is our first ever *Community Sailing Committee Annual Report*.

HOW TO HELP

First, take the time to get those incredible programs featured nationally! We're free advertising. Everyone has a success worth sharing. Send us a recommendation through the [Community Sailing Spotlight](#) interest form, share or tag [@communitysailing](#) on facebook, send us an email, and absolutely do not forget to [make a nomination](#) for community sailing awards! Second, we are always welcoming new members to our committee. Review the work list, and come ready to join or create a project group, until full onboarding occurs annually at national symposia.

2025 WORKLIST

In addition, this year's *Annual Report* features a worklist assembled by our committee's direct collection of your needs. What are we missing? Recommend future action, or simply share how we can help by emailing [\[communitysailing@ussailing.org\]](mailto:communitysailing@ussailing.org). Of course, that always comes with my standing challenge that you follow up requests with supporting action!

We are here for you, let us know however we can assist!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Thompson'.

Matthew Thompson

US Sailing Community Sailing Committee, *Chair*
Wayzata Sailing, *Executive Director*



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The following is the 2025 Annual Report for the US Sailing Community Sailing Committee that was presented at the February Annual Meeting during the Sailing Leadership Forum, in Coronado, CA.

2024 & 2025 COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

NAME	ORGANIZATION	2024 MEMBER	2024 LEADERSHIP ROLE	2025 MEMBER	2024 LEADERSHIP SLATE	AREA	COAST	SIZE
Matt Thompson	Wayzata Sailing	✓	Chair	✓	Chair	K	Midwest	Over 500
Paul Lang	Mission Bay Aquatic Center	✓	Vice Chair Accreditation Chair	✓	Vice Chair Accreditation Chair	J	West	Over 500
Don Rotzien	Hudson River Community Sailing	✓		✓		B	East	Over 500
Emily Taylor	Nantucket Community Sailing	✓		✓		A	East	Over 500
Bryce Griffith	Tahoe Community Sailing	✓		✓		G	West	Under 500
Michael McAllister	SailMaine	✓		✓		A	West	Over 500
Jacob Raymond	Habitat for Humanity	✓		✓	Secretary	C	East	Under 500
Whitney Kent	US Sailing	✓		✓		A	East	Staff
Stephanie Webb	Edison	✓		✓		D	South	Under 500
Janel Z Martin	US Sailing	Staff Liaison		Staff Liaison		A	East	Staff
Dylan Guill	Naval Station Norfolk	✓		✓		C	East	Under 500
Khari Parrish	Community Sailing New Orleans			✓		D	South	Over 500
Cortney Kingsley	Sail Newport			✓		A	East	Over 500
Sarah Warren	NESS			✓		B	East	Over 500
Emily Zugnoni	Alameda Community Sailing Center	✓				G	West	Over 500
Jamie Jones	Hoover Sailing Club	✓	Secretary			E	Midwest	Over 500
Diana Weidenbacker	Director UNH Community Sailing Centre	✓				A	East	Under 500



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2024 PROJECTS, INITIATIVES, AND CURRENT STATUS

Accreditation

Two newly accredited centers (Gorge Junior Sailing, Community Sailing School Foundation)

One program in process, five additional are in the research stage. Total of 45 accredited Programs.

Immediate

Facilitate regular submittals to US Sailing newsletters

New JotForm for submitting programs to highlight, marketing staff at US Sailing highlighting centers with articles & publishing help, submittals have been great, leaning into features of award winners and work.

Facilitate regular content posts to Community Sailing Facebook organizational page

Setup calendar with staff, committee has assigned marketing chair to continue collection and regular dissemination of content through social platform, stronger push for awards

Identify new members (approved members, and broader sub-committees/working groups)

Added new membership from more areas, reviewed membership requirements & suggested new ones, invitations to work preceding elections, retained interest from 2023 & 2024, will be inviting to 2025 projects with new 2025 interest

Connect broader community to sub-committees & project working groups

Subcommittees regularly reaching outside of committee for work, using US Sailing newsletter/socials, needs to continue to grow through direct ask and building membership, retain goal for 2025

Resume editing & revamping the publication *Organizational Guidebook for Sailing Programs*

Editing and chapter breakouts done, chapters submitted, Open US Sailing positions have delayed release of initial chapters, but submittals have been made for review and hope to release beta copy in 2025 after US Sailing review,

Reboot US Sailing - Community Sailing email, for direct connection to committee membership & mentorship

Seeing regular use, connecting to mentorship, automatically sends to Committee Chair and Staff Liaison, questions don't always have direct answers but regularly getting questions and doing best to answer in timely fashion

By year end

Rebuild Community Sailing Webpages

Preliminary stage. Gathering resources and looking into learning community / affinity group.

Update *Committee Roles and Responsibilities* and *Terms of Reference*, US Sailing guidance documents

Proposed changes ready for review (prior to official action) with US Sailing, changes center on matching current operations and enabling current work platforms, and increasing spread of membership without barriers to participation and progress.

Create samples and guidance for DEI Accreditation standard, with feedback from DEI Committee

No guidance was available from the US Sailing DEI Committee, will need to create our own guidance for our accreditation standard. 2025 effort to create some guidance for our standard, planning to seek feedback from DEI committee, exploring "goals template" versus itemized, how to guide?

Survey for community sailing programs to identify 2025 work list

We missed this mark in late 2024 but looked for feedback at meetings. 2024 NSPS meeting developed the past year's work list, 2025 annual meeting was very approving without much suggestion. "Active" in person feedback is solid but CSC needs to expand the loop to include those not physically present.



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2024 PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES CONT.

Create opportunity or track for greater dialog at SLF 2025

Not feasible at SLF due to crowd; however, separating meeting and session to increase time for mentoring and using CSC as a resource at event, pushing happy hour as well to create opportunities to connect to possible mentors.

Beta copy of *Organizational Guidebook for Sailing Programs* ready for preview at SLF 2025

Open US Sailing positions have delayed release of initial chapters, but submittals have been made for review and hope to release beta copy in 2025 after US Sailing review

Market Community Sailing Awards & 2023 winners, feature their successes as examples

Successfully marketed and shared through emails, and social media, all awards had multiple submissions, will be wrapped into marketing for 2025 goals no longer standalone project and instead an identified content category

Long term

Provide sample documents from multiple organizations, for each accreditation standard

Early phase of gathering and categorization, need to add project members and leverage marketing, do we have ability to pull from past applications with proper removal of identifying information?

Publish *Organizational Guidebook for Sailing Programs*

On its way for creation, once approved and complete, explore alternative platforms and deliveries, including video or content cards in short form?

Explore a second standard or pathway to accreditation that acknowledges growth in best practices

Door has been opened, prior obstructions have been removed, US Sailing current leadership sees as possibility, need to explore how this would look with legal department and see the options,

Explore session track or additional community sailing focused day at NSPS 2026

Move to year end category in 2025

Determine alignments of associated projects like Keelboat, DEI, Reach and SEL

Keelboat likely to remain separate, but need to explore overlap - CSC isn't just small boat but current accreditation doesn't specify / break CSC from Keelboat school, what is difference? CSC needs to define its own DEI guidance, but the DEI committee is a resource to screen and approve and possibly disseminate our standards once approved. REACH coming under our umbrella until told otherwise, important resource for CSCs and their programming, creating bigger connections and diversity, as they create broader community links.

Could a Community Sailing affinity group be possible, which platform would be used?

REACH push more than ever, needed for next interactive steps to create a learning community. Could something be built under member login on website that allows member access, and submittals could be sent to committees and/or approval from staff before posting - similar procedure to use of social media?



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DRAFT PROJECTS AND 2025 WORK ASSIGNMENTS

Subcommittee Assignments	Chair	CSC Members	Outside Invitees
Accreditation Working Party	Paul	Matthew, Don, Janel, Whitnew, Stephanie	Education Committee
Marketing & Awards Nominations	Dylan		
Nominating	Don	Whitney, Emily T.	
Handbook	Bryce	Jacob, Stephanie	Jamie
Resources	Emily		
Access & Inclusion	Michael	Courtney, Khari	USS DEI Committee
REACH	Stephanie	Courtney, Khari, Sarah	Jen
Presentations	Don	Matthew	
SEL	Whitney	Matthew	

Immediate

- Submit BAR for 2025 Membership/Officers
- Submit *Community Sailing Committee Draft TOR & Regulation Update* to US Sailing for review
- Facilitate regular submittals to US Sailing newsletters
- Facilitate regular content posts to Community Sailing Facebook organizational page
- Identify new centers for Accreditation
- Connect broader community to sub-committees & project working groups & identify new members

By year end

- Confirm new TOR, Update US Sailing Regulation
- Rebuild Community Sailing Webpages
- Create samples and guidance for DEI Accreditation standard, with feedback from DEI Committee
- Survey community sailing programs to confirm/identify 2025 work list
- Deliver beta copy of *Organizational Guidebook for Sailing Programs* ready for preview at NSPS 2026
- Market Community Sailing Awards 2025, seek nominations, feature 2024 winners successes
- Form *Nominating Committee*, identify new Chair for 2026
- Solidify REACH/Education initiatives for future, explore development and next steps in growth
- Propose session track or additional community sailing focused day at NSPS 2026

Long term

- Provide sample document from multiple organizations for each accreditation standard
- Publish *Organizational Guidebook for Sailing Programs*
- Explore a second standard or pathway to accreditation that acknowledges growth in best practices
- Explore if RYA or international equivalents for qualification can work with accreditation standards

Questions

- Could a Community Sailing affinity group be possible? Which platform would be used?
- Determine SEL Linkages for future development, is this a core project for community sailing?
- Possible to align accreditation with Keelboat, can we create a cohesive application that operates together?
- Can *Skill Up* app be used to retain beginners, leverage as a pathway to membership?