



President's Report - September 16, 2024

Olympic Regatta Marseille

I attended the Olympic Regatta in Marseille July 29-August 9, 2024. I had a tremendous time, spectating from shore and OTW, relying heavily on the GPS tracking provided by World Sailing. A great combination of opportunities to cheer our athletes on dock out, bob around in the 'too' light breeze watching the tight, suspenseful racing, swelling with pride as our team had very great performances with a bunch of top ten finishes and a bronze medal for our 49er team of Hans Henken and Ian Barrows. Marcus Lynch's team outperformed even our most optimistic expectations, and the future looks much brighter for American Olympic Sailing. Alan Ostfield and I spent a good amount of time with families of athletes and with sponsors and corporate partners.

Here's a telling quote about the improvements in team chemistry, staff and board support of the Team I pulled from the open letter from the team. I must say, the mood of the team members and their camaraderie were heartwarming to see. They had faith in Marcus and his staff, and it paid big dividends.

Hans Henken, Paris 2024 Olympian and Bronze Medalist, 49er

"It felt like we were one big Team all in it together both in the lead up and during the Games. It all ran so efficiently, and we were able to focus on sailing because of staff who were willing to do all the jobs no matter how small. And it was so comfortable at the base that we actually preferred to be with the team instead of waiting at the village- we could come down and hang out, eat food, and be close to our boats in a really professional and seamless setup. It was a private space for the Team where we could get away from the busy boat park, but it wasn't forced. It was all natural and we wanted to be there with our teammates and the staff."

Annual General Meeting

The board will convene in Bristol, RI at US Sailing's HQ, to hold our AGM in accordance with the bylaws, October 23, 2024, in the late afternoon, EDT. The exact time, with invite to attend either in person or remotely will be forthcoming soon. The board will have a private working session in advance of the AGM and the first meeting of the new board will be the morning of October 24.

Update on the search for a new CEO

With the recent departure of our deeply admired CEO, Alan Ostfield, whose leadership was instrumental in challenging times, I have convened a search committee, comprised of Henry Brauer (Chair), Brian Keane, Laura Grondin, Sarah Lihan, Matt Gallagher, Sheila Tolle, myself and Alan as a non-voting subject

matter expert. Henry is engaged in researching search firms, of which we have three candidates and will forward results to the search committee when finished.

We have some early expressions of interest, and the first order of business will be for the search firm we hire to vet those and refer qualified candidates to the search committee. Based on experience, I suspect we have a window between December 1 and January 15 to make an offer to our choice.

Meanwhile, we have a board leadership team collaborating with the staff leadership team Alan set up before his departure to keep the train on the tracks in the interim.

Discussion and decision on the committee chair summit

After the work that our previous task force did on re-organizing our committee structure, its recommendation was that we hold a summit/town hall of committee chairs this fall. Andrew Clouston and Charlie Arms are collaborating on setting up a date. Staff will handle logistics, including invitations. This effort is designed to bring our committee structure and population in line with the latest best practices, to learn from chairs which charters/terms of reference need updating, which committees might need re-imagining to be more useful, where more recruiting is needed and how we can attract younger sailors, female sailors and previously underrepresented sailors to serve.

US Sailing President 2025-2028

My term comes to an end after the new president is elected on October 24, at the first meeting of the new board after the Annual General Meeting, October 23. The nominating committee has done exceptional work delivering two qualified candidates and the board will deliberate and select the new leader from those two.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Jepsen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Richard Jepsen, President