



The Annual General Meeting of the Florida Sailing Association

US Sailing Area D

December 17, 2016

St. Petersburg Yacht Club

The 2017 Annual General Meeting of the Florida Sailing Association, Area D, was called to order by Commodore, Donna Sue Marks, at 10:30 AM, December 17th, at the St. Petersburg Yacht Club. Having established that a quorum was present, Commodore Marks requested approval of the minutes from the February 27, 2016, Annual General Meeting of the association. Motion to accept/approve the minutes was made, seconded and passed.

Officer Reports:

From the Commodore (Donna Sue Marks) – Commodore Marks presented three major points for discussion and review: (1) FSA's {Regatta Entry Fee} Reimbursement program, (2) What is FSA focusing on? Is its mission still relevant/viable, and (3) How much latitude does FSA have within its current organizational structure, i.e. its By-laws.

- (1) Entry Fee Reimbursement Program – part of FSA member organizations' dues support the Youth Sailor Entry Fee Reimbursement Program. To date, not many sailors have utilized this feature of the organization. To qualify for regatta reimbursement, the youth sailor contacts FSA and documents his/her participation through providing a copy of the race results. Youth sailors are eligible to be reimbursed \$100 in a calendar year (although this may have some latitude based on dollars available in the program). In 2016, eight grants totaling \$994 were awarded; an additional grant for the 2017 Jr. Orange Bowl was also submitted. Youth's organization must be a member of FSA.
- (2) In years past, Area D sponsored several ladder events. FSA has the funds to host more events of this kind, but with the current FYSA Calendar already filled most weekends from September through May, is there need for them? One of the barriers to creating more events is Florida's geography – many sailors tend to compete within a section of the state due to travel time, additional travel expense for events more than 150 miles from home. Would Florida events attract out-of-state participation during the school year? What are the expectations from organizations and US Sailing?
- (3) Is it time to revisit the association's by-laws? Committees, dues, championships – these are some of the sections that may need to be updated to reflect current best practices and/or be more responsive to the current status of the association.

From the Vice Commodore (Dede Plessner) – Dede was unable to attend the Annual Meeting but did indicate a desire to continue in her current position.

From the Secretary/Treasurer (Alana O'Reilly) – Alana reviewed the 2016 budget and asked for a motion to approve the 2017 Budget. Ross Webb moved to accept the 2017 Budget as presented; Rich White seconded. Motion passed.

Area D (Edith Collins) – Edith was absent. Donna Sue explained that Area D helps support Edith's travel to events and meetings. A copy of the Area D Coordinator's expenses was submitted for filing.

Committee Reports:

Appeals - FSA was contacted by US Sailing to consider two appeals this year. Racers may submit a written appeal of official regatta results by first submitting their concern to US Sailing who serves as the gatekeeper and conduit for passing the request along to the appropriate area impacted. The Area Sailing Association then reviews the request and determines whether to uphold or overturn the appeal. Questions were raised by members regarding the process: does the racer have to be a US Sailing member and/or does the club of the racer have to be a member of the Association to be heard? (See Article VII Section 3 of the FSA By-laws).

Old Business –

New Business:

Approval of the slate of officers for 2017: Commodore Marks presented the slate of officers to the members for approval –

Commodore – Donna Sue Marks (St. Pete)

Vice Commodore – Dede Plessner (Clearwater)

Rear Commodore – VACANT

Secretary/Treasurer – Stephanie Webb (Ft. Myers)

Motion to accept the slate as presented made by Rich White; seconded by Ross Webb. Motion passed. Congratulations were extended to the new officers and thanks to Alana O'Reilly for her service as Secretary/Treasurer 2016.

Request for volunteer to assist with website updating and management – Commodore Marks reported that a replacement for the website management/posting/updating needs to be found. The website needs updating now. Two people were mentioned as possible temporary support.

Request for an Appeals Chairman for 2017 – Stephanie will check with Carol Robinson and Rob Rowlands to see if they would be willing to accept the role for the year.

Miscellaneous Business & Announcements:

The Florida Yacht Club is hiring an additional Junior Coach. Contact Jodi Weinbecker at FYC. Jabbo Gordon was thanked for his tireless efforts on both the FYSA Calendar and the Florida Sailing Directory. He was encouraged to continue assisting with both until they can be placed on the website and updated by designated persons.

VYBA will celebrate its 65th year of operation in January. Congratulations to Venice Youth Boating Association!

Organizations were encouraged to add a link to FSA from their websites and mention the youth regatta fee reimbursement program.

Donna Sue Marks has completed the requirements to be a Registered Race Officer.

There being no further business, Ross Webb made a motion to adjourn; Rich White seconded. Motion passed. FSA Members then segued into the SE Regional Symposium which followed the Annual Meeting.

Stephanie Webb, Secretary/Treasurer{sw}

Upon acceptance of the proposed slate of officers by the membership, all newly-elected officers will assume their roles immediately. Both Sarah Beth Reeves and Alana O'Reilly (position of Secretary/Treasurer) are to be removed as authorized signers on banking activities. The change of officers is reflected in the 2017 Corporation filing on SunBiz.org.

(signature on file)

Donna Sue Marks, Commodore