



Minutes of the **Annual Meeting of the Florida Sailing Association**  
A Regional Sailing Association under Area D of the United States Sailing Association  
Saturday, December 2, 2017 St. Petersburg Yacht Club (Card Room)

**Members & Member Organizations attending:** Clearwater Community Sailing Center, Davis Island Youth Sailing, Edison Sailing Center, Lake Eustis Youth Sailing, Mark Sorensen Youth Sailing, St. Petersburg Yacht Club, Venice Youth Boating Association, Carol Robinson (Appeals Chair), Donna Sue Marks (Commodore), Stephanie Webb (Sec-Treas), and Edith Collins (Area D Coordinator) by Proxy

Reports & Handouts included with the Minutes: Area D Coordinator, Appeals, Commodore, Membership, Youth Grant Reimbursements, Agenda, 2017-2018 Budget, Slate of Officers (as per By-Laws, officers are elected for a maximum of four years or until successors are nominated & elected).

Having determined that a quorum was present and that the meeting had been duly advertised, Commodore Marks welcomed everyone and opened the **2017 Annual Meeting of the Florida Sailing Association at 10:00 AM**. Following introductions of everyone present, the Commodore asked for a motion to approve the Minutes from the 2016 Annual Meeting as distributed electronically. Motion to approve made by Carol Robinson; second by John Sammet. Motion passed.

The Commodore's **Annual Report** was read into the Minutes (see handout included with these Minutes for the full report). Highlights from the Commodore's report included her active schedule serving as race management for several events and FSA's role with US Sailing's annual conference, The Forum, to be held in St. Petersburg Beach, Feb 1-3, 2018.

**Area D Coordinator**, Edith Collins, could not attend the meeting but submitted her report for the year (see handout included with these Minutes). Ms. Collins noted that FSA and GYA (two of the four Regional Associations in Area D) are doing well. Stephanie asked Donna Sue to provide a brief overview of the Regional Associations and their role within the US Sailing infrastructure for those who may not be familiar with the organizational structure.

Our organization (FSA) is required to pay a *pro rata* share for **area championships** (Chubb) yet we have not submitted a team in some time. This year each RSA paid \$787.50. Bob Adam of Zim Sailing suggested that FSA take one of our current events (a youth regatta on the FYSA calendar) and make it an Area D Championship event. The NOR would articulate the requirement to be an RSA member to participate. Adding to Bob's suggestion, Carol Robinson (Appeals Chair) noted the importance of encouraging young women to participate in the Leiter Cup & the Ida Lewis Regatta. It will be held in Charleston, in July. There will also be a young women's coaching clinic in New Orleans.

It was recommended that FSA target Sailing Directors with information on championship events, dates and requirements. Our e-blasts often go to coaches/instructors and Board members/officers, but may not get to the sailing directors. Communication is key. Members suggested using Constant Contact or Mail Chimp for communications. Stephanie will look into options and determine best delivery option.

Secretary-Treasurer Stephanie Webb presented a breakdown of expenditures and income for 2017 and presented the proposed **budget for 2018**. A full copy of the budget is included with the Minutes. Richard White moved that we approve the proposed budget for 2018; Steve Caron seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Stephanie asked permission to (a) close the savings account unless it has bearing on our fee structure for the checking account, and (b) set-up a credit card payment system online for convenience of members and potential members. Both requests were granted by consensus.

Stephanie also reported on **Membership** and **Youth Grant Reimbursements** – the FSA roster includes sixteen organizations and two individuals who joined &/or renewed their memberships in 2017. We welcomed three new organizations: Lake Eustis Youth Sailing, Mt. Dora Yacht Club and Mark Sorensen Youth Sailing Program. Twelve Youth Grants were distributed totaling \$1,360.00 (an additional \$100 is pending race results). We have sufficient funds to cover these grants and more. Member organizations are encouraged to utilize this resource.

Report from the **Appeals Committee**, Carol Robinson Chairperson (for a full report please refer to the handouts included with the Minutes) – the Appeals Committee fielded three submissions during the year with a fourth just received. This represents a significant increase from 2016 (no appeals). Carol reported that in all cases, the decisions of the committee were upheld by US Sailing. Six members comprise the committee and all communications are facilitated electronically, reducing costs to zero. Carol has asked that FSA consider repealing any fee attached to appeals in the future. Language does appear in a copy of the By-Laws indicating fees were removed, but there were no officers' signatures to indicate approval or vote by membership. Refer to suggested language for the by-laws as a revision (handout). Richard White moved that to charge no filing fee after December 2, 2017. John Sammet seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Special thanks to Stu Gilfillen, US Sailing, and Connie Harper, Lake Eustis YS, for their efforts in updating the FSA **website**. The fresh look of the website and its pages reflect the direction of FSA. Input is welcome as well as articles/photos.

A **Nominating Committee** was appointed to vet a slate of officers for 2018 ( Rosa Lamela, John Sammet, Richard White, and Jodi Weinbecker). Commodore Marks noted that DedePlessner would not be able to continue as Vice Commodore. At the time of the meeting, the Commodore and Secretary-Treasurer's positions were the only ones filled. The Commodore may appoint a member in good standing to fill any vacancy for the term of office. Carol Robinson moved to accept the slate as presented; Steve Caron seconded the motion. Motion passed. Commodore Marks will identify members to fill the Rear Commodore and Vice Commodore positions.

**Certificates of Appreciation** were presented to individuals and member organizations' representatives as a thank you for everyone's support and participation in 2017.

A **master calendar** of events/regattas was sent around the room for organizations to note any training/regatta dates they can enter for 2018 that are already confirmed.

Members were reminded to register for and invited to volunteer at **The Forum**, Feb 1-3, 2018, with registration preparations, providing powerboats for activities, and being ambassadors of FSA. More information will be communicated about FSA's role in the conference.

There being no further business before the members, Richard White moved to adjourn the meeting; Roy Burnett seconded the motion. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 11:28 AM. Following a brief break, Stephanie Webb opened the Fall Meeting of the Southeast Regional Symposium at 11:45 AM.

Respectfully submitted, Stephanie Webb, Secretary-Treasurer

Post Notes:

1. The date for the 2018 Annual Meeting shall be the first Saturday in December.
2. FSA will support the Opti Exhibit at the St. Pete Museum of History in the amount of \$250 (FSA may spend up to \$500 without member approval as per By-Laws).