



The Florida Sailing Association
www.floridasailingassociation.org

Minutes of the 2020 Annual Meeting (Zoom)
December 3, 2020

Members in Attendance: Edison Sailing Center (S. Webb), Englewood Sailing Association (Mike Basch), The Florida Yacht Club (J. Weinbecker & Madeline Gray), Lake Eustis Youth Sailing Foundation (Connie Harper), St. Augustine Yacht Club (John Grannis & Marissa Burrier), (St. Pete YC) Donna Sue Marks, Venice Youth Boating Association (Kelley Severns), Samson Vasquez (Area D Coordinator), Charles Goes

Representing the SE Region and US Sailing: Carol Robinson (Appeals Chair), Larry Landrigan (Titusville), John Pearce (Sport Development US Sailing), Mackenzie McGuckin (Siebel Coach)

The Annual Meeting of US Sailing Area D's Regional Sailing Association, the Florida Sailing Association, was convened at 4:10 PM, December 3, 2020, via ZOOM. It was determined that a quorum was in attendance to conduct the official business required at this meeting.

Commodore Donna Sue Marks introduced herself, Stephanie Webb (Sec-Treas), Connie Harper (website), and Carol Robinson (Appeals) and thanked them for their continuous work on behalf of FSA.

Documents were shared via email prior to the meeting :

1. Letter from the Commodore (annual remarks)
2. Financial Report and Proposed Budget for 2021
3. Meeting Agenda
4. Suggested revision to the By-laws regarding the Appeals process and the previous fees assessed

Commodore Marks offered highlights from her letter concerning the relevance of a regional sailing association noting that a steady decline in membership, the loss of ladder events for youth championships and an outdated leadership hierarchy of flag officers no longer represents the landscape of sailing in Florida today. Donna Sue suggested that the organization consider shifting to a committee-based leadership format: Finance & Governance, Technology, Programs & Development, Racing & Recreation. Rather than amend the By-laws at this time, Donna Sue will continue one more year as the Ex Comm (Commodore) and Stephanie will continue as Secretary-Treasurer while also heading up the Finance & Governance Committee. Connie Harper will head the Technology Committee; Carol Robinson, Programs & Development; Donna Sue will chair the Racing & Recreation Committee.

Donna Sue invited and encouraged the membership to contact her concerning the proposed leadership restructuring with suggestions, ideas or to volunteer to work on one of the committees:
dsmarks64@gmail.com .

Commodore Marks invited Appeals Chair, Carol Robinson, to present her report: The committee heard several appeals during 2018, with none requested in either 2019 or 2020. Her committee, however, represents a broad background and wealth of knowledge among officials in the sailing community. Carol noted that she is requesting approval to change the language in the By-laws to reflect a more invitational structure and to provide consistency within the committee by rotating the change in committee membership to retain some members and not replacing everyone at one time. A motion to accept the changes as presented to the membership was made by Chuck Goes. Motion approved. (This action is part of Old Business on the Agenda).

Carol further reported that Dave Perry is hosting monthly meetings with all appeals committees. Very informational and helpful. Carol suggested that all appeals decisions be posted on the website as an educational/learning piece for members. She has implemented Expedited hearings (3-minute Justice) with considerable success. This procedure has been reviewed and approved by the Chair of the Rules Committee, Rob Overton. Carol will also post this procedure on the website for members.

Carol will step down this year as Chair (having served her four years) and Carrie Greene – a national judge and national umpire – will assume the chairmanship of this committee for FSA.

Commodore Marks asked everyone in attendance to introduce themselves briefly. FSA is delighted to welcome new coaches Madeline Gray and Marissa Burrier as well as Siebel Coach Mackenzie McGuckin!

Financial Report and Proposed Budget for 2021: Treasurer Stephanie Webb referred the members to the report provided in advance and asked for questions about the report or the budget. Stephanie noted the added and unique benefits of FSA membership: the youth regatta reimbursement grants and the organizational training grant reimbursement program. Burgees are also provided to all organizational members and may be obtained by individuals for an additional \$20 (actual replacement cost). A motion to accept the financial report and 2021 budget was made by Carol Robinson.

Old Business: Area D is looking for the perpetual SMYTHE trophy (the single-handed event of the Chubb Championships). The last known competitors who may have it in their clubs hail from SPYC (FSA) and SAYRA. The perpetual trophies for the Chubb Championships retain historical information; Samson (Area D Coordinator) hopeful to find the Smythe with everyone's help.

New Business: The approval of the proposed budget for the coming year and the election of the slate of officers are the two main business topics of the Annual Meeting under New Business. Each of these topics has been addressed earlier in the meeting.

The suggested date for the 2021 Annual Meeting is December 4, 2021. Date, time and location TBA in the fall.

There being no further business, Donna Sue thanked everyone for participating, adjourned the business meeting and turned the remaining period over to John Pearce (US Sailing Sport Development), Mackenzie McGuckin (Siebel Coach) and Smason Vasquez (Area D Coordinator).

US Sailing updates (please refer to the slides John shared with the group – separate attachment):

- Training - Level 1 continues as a hybrid platform of online and in person programming
- Training Level 2 and Level 3 (Coach) have returned to their two day, in person format. Hosts are needed to help clear the trainings that had to be cancelled last spring and summer

- Training Level 3 (Head Instructor) is an online program only
- If your club uses Project Reach, you are asked to complete a brief online survey
- SKILL UP – based on success from last summer’s pilot of the app in summer programs, US Sailing will continue to offer a bulk rate price of \$10/sailor. This provides a one year membership in US Sailing and encourages skill development. For more information contact SkillUp@ussailing.org. [editorial comment: Edison Sailing Center was one of the pilot sites; instructors noted that new sailors and families were enthusiastic to see progress charted and skills accomplished more quickly. Additionally, sailors will enjoy a year’s membership in US Sailing at a significant cost reduction. Edison absorbed the cost of the membership this past summer to insure widespread implementation]

Siebel Coach Mackenzie McGuckin also shared slides (separate attachment) with the group to introduce two of the Siebel sailors she has been working with. Mackenzie is currently assigned to NE Florida (USSCMC and YSFIRC) and SE Florida (Team Paradise and CGSC). She splits her time among the four clubs, four days a week. Mackenzie looks forward to working with FSA and the region to grow the sport of sailing. John Pearce noted that there are additional organizations in Florida who are in the Siebel pipeline but there are no definitive selections or dates at this time.

Area D Coordinator, Samson Vasquez, shared these remarks:

- A. The 2021 Semi-finals for the Bemis and Smythe championships are to be overseen by GYA (the championships are assigned a rotation schedule hosted by each RSA – the dates for the rotation are noted in the Area D Memorandum of Agreement). The Sears should also be in the GYA region but GYA uses the Viper vs the J70 (2021 championship boat). St. Petersburg YC has a fleet of J70’s. Area D wants to provide its youth contenders with the best possible boat; FSA may be asked to cover the Sears. Decision TBA.
- B. Area D Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) – a revised agreement has been presented to the four Regional Sailing Associations in Area D: DIYRA (currently inactive), FSA, GYA & SAYRA. Representatives met last week and plan to meet again December 8th.
- C. Samson encouraged the group to consider more interclub competitions through FSA. Rather than add events to an already full calendar FSA may consider tagging some of the popular regattas as FSA events that could result in an FSA “championship”. Samson will volunteer to help spearhead a Youth Racing committee (The Florida Yacht Club would consider chairing) – Under the proposed governance format, FSA has a Racing & Recreation Committee (Donna Sue Marks, Chair). FYC and Samson are invited to work with this committee and present ideas to the members. FYC Sailing Director Jodi Weinbecker noted that our state tends to remain within its own “bubbles” and that we need to reach out to the entire state, not just our geo-centric bubbles.

Comments and Suggestions:

List all of the club coaches to promote conversation – Connie Harper noted we should use the FSA website and a Google form for this (Technology Committee).

Racing – Carol noted that neither the Leiter nor the Ida Lewis Cup are promoted. Representatives from each area are invited to participate.

Mike Basch (Englewood) noted that ESA plans to host a regatta in the fall – this will be their first event.

Jodi seeking more access to judges as the FYC begins to host more events. Bjorn Hooper was suggested as someone who might be able to assist, as is Carol Robinson. Carol also noted that kinetics should be called more regularly within youth events.

Kelley Severns (VYBA) is interested in helping with the Race Committee.

In her final remarks, Donna Sue noted that FSA is creating change through innovation and that sailing (including racing) should always have an element of fun to keep it fresh.

Submitted by Stephanie Webb, Secretary-Treasurer FSA
Area D Annual Meeting for the Florida Sailing Association
12-3-20

Florida Sailing Association, US Sailing Regional Sailing Association, Area D

