

**USA Water Ski & Wake Sports
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Virtual via Zoom
January 31, 2021**

(Minutes recorded by Melanie Hanson, edited by Doug Robbins, Bob Archambeau and Nate Boudreaux)

Officers in Attendance:

Doug Robbins – Chair/HND
Tim Cullen – President (outgoing)/HND
Robert Rhyne – Secretary/Treasurer (outgoing)
Dale Stevens – Vice President

Board Members in Attendance:

Jerry Bautsch – AWSA-SC (incoming)
Connie Bergmark – AWSA-W
Don Bucher – AWSA-MW/HND
Charlie Buckley – USHA
Michael Flynn – Independent Director (incoming)
*Jim Grew – Past President (outgoing)/HND
Joel Johannigmeier – NSSA (incoming Secretary/Treasurer)
Alex Lauretano – AAC
Gerry Luiting – NSSA/HND
Tina McCauley – ABC (incoming)
Matt Oberholtz – USA-AWSWS
Dave Rezin – AAC
Doug Ribley – NSSA
Cheryl Ruston – NWSRA
Kenny Stuart Jr. – AKA
Jeff Surdej – NCWSA (outgoing/alternate for Christy Kingsmill)
Cathy Williams – USA-WB

Absent:

Andrew Adkison – USOC/AAC
Jason Lee – AAC (incoming)
*Kevin Michael – WSIA Executive Director
Connor Poggetto – AAC (incoming)

**Non-voting*

Committee Chairs in Attendance:

Jim Grew – International Activities
Leon Larson – Waterways
Jeff Smith – Judicial
Dale Stevens – Ethics/Nominating

Honorary National Directors in Attendance (in addition to the above):

None

Headquarters' Staff in Attendance:

Scott Atkinson – Sr. Director, Communications and External Relations
Nate Boudreaux – Executive Director
Melanie Hanson – Membership Services Director
Sandy Hardee – Membership Services Specialist
Jessica Modrak – Business Operations Manager
Jennifer Walker – Membership Marketing Director

Affiliate Organizations in Attendance:

Ed Hickey – USA Water Ski & Wake Sports Foundation President

Alternate Board Members in Attendance:

Bob Archambeau – AWSA-S (incoming USA-WSWS President)
Pat Byrne – AWSA-E
Jessica Van Dyk – USA-AWSWS

Guests in Attendance:

Randy Melcher – EPIC
Kelly Pribbenow – EPIC

All votes are unanimous unless otherwise indicated.

1. Opening

Chair Doug Robbins welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance.

2. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:07 a.m.

3. Announcements, Introductions and Roll Call

Board members, staff and guests introduced themselves and stated their title or position on the board.

4. Appointment of Parliamentarian

Bob Archambeau was appointed as Parliamentarian.

- **Motion** to allow committee chairs, Headquarters' staff, alternate board members and guests to join the meeting – **approved**
- **Motion** to allow any action items coming from committee reports to be presented as motions with an automatic second – **approved**

5. Announcement of Quorum

A quorum was present.

6. Review and Approval of 2020 Board Minutes

- **Motion** to approve Jan. 26, 2020 board meeting minutes – **approved**
- **Motion** to approve April 8, 2020 (virtual) board meeting minutes – **approved**
- **Motion** to approve August 12, 2020 (virtual) board meeting minutes – **approved**

7. Ratification of 2020 Email Board Ballot Votes

- **Motion** to ratify 2020 email board ballots and conference call votes – **approved**

*** Newly elected Sport Discipline directors took their seats.

8 & 9. USA-WSWS Bylaws Committee Special Report – Jeff Smith (for Jeff Clark, Chair)

The written report was included in the BOD packet.

a. Action Item #1 – AAC Representation (33.3% representation on the board of directors and committees)

- **Motion** to approve Action Item #1 as presented – **approved**

b. Action Item #2 – Independent Director

- **Motion** to approve Action Item #2 as presented – **approved**

c. Independent Director Nominations – Chair Doug Robbins opened nominations from the floor.

Michael Flynn was nominated (resume included in BOD packet).

- **Motion** to approve Michael Flynn as Independent Director – **approved**

*** Newly approved AAC Directors and Independent Director took their seats.

d. Director Seating Allocations for 2021-2022

e. Sport Discipline Vote Allocations for 2021-2022

Robbins read the voting allocations:

Andrew Adkison	USOC/AAC	6.6
Alex Lauretano	AAC	6.6
David Rezin	AAC	6.6
Jason Lee	AAC	6.6
Connor Poggetto	AAC	6.6
Dr. Michael Flynn	USOPC ID	6.6
Jerry Bautsch	AWSA	10
Connie Bergmark	AWSA	10
Don Bucher	AWSA	10
Doug Ribley	NSSA	7
Joel Johanningmeier	NSSA	7
Gerry Luiting	NSSA	7
Surdej/Kingsmill	NCWSA	2
Cathy Williams	USA-WB	1
Tina McCauley	ABC	1
Cheryl Ruston	NWSRA	1
Charlie Buckley	USHA	1
Kenny Stuart	AKA	1
Matt Oberholtz	USA-AWSWS	1
Doug Robbins*	COB	1
Bob Archambeau	President	0
Dale Stevens	VP	0
Joel Johanningmeier	Sec/Treasurer	0
Tim Cullen	Past President	0

- **Motion** to approve the 2021-2022 Director Seating and Sport Discipline Vote Allocations as presented – **approved**

10. Review and Approval of Agenda

- **Motion** to accept agenda as presented – **approved**

11. Nominating Committee Report – Dale Stevens, Chair

The written report was included in the BOD packet. Stevens asked Tim Cullen to take over as Chair during the election of officers process to eliminate any conflicts of interest as he was running for an office. Cullen took over the responsibility of the committee and oversaw the election process.

a. Election of Officers and Honorary National Directors:

Officers:

Chairman of the Board – Doug Robbins

President Cullen opened nominations from the floor. None were forthcoming.

- **Motion** to elect Doug Robbins as Chairman of the Board – **approved**

President – Bob Archambeau and Dale Stevens

Chair Robbins opened nominations from the floor. None were forthcoming.

Archambeau and Stevens introduced themselves and provided a brief overview of their background and why they are interested in becoming President. Chair Robbins called for the vote noting that Archambeau and Stevens were not eligible to vote on this item.

- **Bob Archambeau elected as President** – **approved**

Vice President – Joel Johanningmeier and Dale Stevens

Chair Robbins opened nominations from the floor. None were forthcoming.

Johanningmeier introduced himself and provided a brief overview of his background and why he is interested in becoming Vice President. Chair Robbins called for the vote noting that Johanningmeier and Stevens are not eligible to vote on this item.

- **Dale Stevens elected as Vice President** – **approved**

Secretary/Treasurer – Chair Robbins opened nominations from the floor. Stevens nominated Joel Johanningmeier.

- **Motion** to elect Joel Johanningmeier as Secretary/Treasurer – **approved**

Chair Robbins thanked Cullen and Rhyne for their years of service in these roles and stated that we looked forward to working with the new group of officers moving forward.

Honorary National Directors – Keith St. Onge

- **Motion** to approve Keith St. Onge as an Honorary National Director – **approved**

b. Seating of New Officers – They were seated.

12. Former President's Report – Tim Cullen

The written report was included in the BOD packet. Cullen thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve as president. There were several challenges and successes along the way. He wished the best of luck to the new board leadership and HQ in their continued efforts in the areas of Safe Sport, technology, social media, member engagement, and most importantly, membership and sponsorship growth and retention.

13. New President's Report – Bob Archambeau (Verbal)

Archambeau stated that he looks forward to working with everyone. He congratulated Boudreaux and HQ staff on their efforts throughout the pandemic to keep the organization solvent and moving forward into 2021. He would like to see the organization work to develop athletes and getting USA-WSWS back in front of the public eye among other initiatives.

14. Executive Committee Report – Tim Cullen (outgoing Chair)

The written report was included in the BOD packet.

a. Revised Annual Membership and Event Waivers for Adults and Minors – Jeff Smith stated that the annual membership and event waivers for adults and minors have been updated to reflect USOPC and Safe Sport mandated policies primarily surrounding anti-doping.

- **Motion** to approve the revised Annual and Event Waivers for Adults and Minors as presented – **approved**

ACTION ITEM: Update annual and event waiver forms posted online, to be included with membership applications, online membership join/renewal applications, and online registration.

b. IT Advisory Group (Dale Stevens) – There have been weekly calls with Integrass (IT vendor), HQ, and Mark Crone regarding the new membership platform. It is a challenging undertaking but hopefully looking to launch around April 1, 2021.

- c. **Banking/Financial Services Advisory Group (Nate Boudreaux)** – We are moving forward with switching banking and credit card accounts (from Wells Fargo to Bank First) and merchant services/credit card processing providers (from Wells Fargo to Precision Payments). There is no cost savings by moving banks, simply better customer service. Expect to save \$10,000+ in annual credit card processing fees by moving to Precision Payments.

15. Executive Director's Report – Nate Boudreaux, Executive Director

The written report was included in the BOD packet. Boudreaux shared a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the items below.

In 2020, total membership was 11,348 down 22.08% (14,565 in 2019). Sanctioning revenue was down 60.7% (\$40,612 compared to \$103,404). A total of 138 events were cancelled/postponed in 2020 and approximately \$13k in sanction fees were credited for 2021 events.

Received PPP loan in 2020 for \$95,500. Have applied for second round of PPP funding (for the same amount) and hope to hear back on the application soon.

In 2020, we received a total of \$132,415 in funding from the USOPC, including \$50,000 from a digital media agreement and \$82,415 in grant funding (\$50,000 for accounting/staff person and \$32,415 in COVID Relief grant). Later this year we will be launching a new elite athlete “training grant” with some of the USOPC grant funds to help offset some of the costs of competing in water ski and wakeboard events at the elite level.

USOPC Consultative Review Findings – Initiated changes to bylaws and P&P to meet new requirements, including BOD makeup (athlete representation + independent director), USOPC background check policy and code of conduct and anti-doping policies.

USOPC Certification Renewal – Review will occur in 2021 (happens every four years).

2020 Highlights:

- Inaugural “Get on the Water Week” – Promotional campaign for clubs held from June 28-July 3, 2020 to introduce potential new members to water skiing. During the promotion, all sanction fees and guest membership fees for clubs were waived. 26 clubs in 13 states hosted events with 317 participants/guest members.
- PerkSpot Discount Portal – Launched in April 2020. The new portal mirrors USA-WSWS branding and offers hundreds of discounts along with our own exclusive industry discount partners. PerkSpot sends out USA-WSWS branded weekly emails to those who have opted in, highlighting current discounts on the site.

- Virtual Video Challenge – Asked members to submit their best water ski, wakeboard, wake surf, big spray, etc. video for a chance to win a standup paddle board and other prizes valued at \$1,000. The videos were judged by a panel of “celebrity water ski judges” as well as sponsors and HQ staff. Totaled 44 entries and the winning video was promoted on social media and went viral - 4.2 million views on Facebook with 16k reactions (like/love/etc.), 6.5K total comments and 4k shares.
- Continued Social Media Growth – 15% year over year growth on social channels. Will focus on YouTube in 2021 to potentially monetize YouTube videos on the USA-WSWS channel.

2021 Projects / Initiatives:

- Membership Retention
- Implement new Membership and Learning Management System
- Revamp content and testing for trained driver, safety and other officials training courses
- Get on the Water Week
- Safe Sport emphasis to members
- Explore potential of wakesurf a sports discipline

Chair Robbins thanked Boudreaux and HQ staff for all they do for the sport.

16. Treasurer's Report – Robert Rhyne, Outgoing Secretary/Treasurer (Verbal)

Boudreaux provided a brief overview of the 2020 year-end and proposed 2021 budget and answered questions from board members. Rhyne thanked the board for their support over the years and wished Johanningmeier the best of luck as incoming Secretary/Treasurer.

Sport Discipline Grants – Boudreaux noted that the 2021 budget includes not only sport discipline funding, but also an additional \$16,000 in elite athlete grants.

TeamIP (3rd Party Merchandise Vendor) – Boudreaux encouraged each sport discipline to send contact information for their major events to Jessica Modrak (jmodrak@usawaterski.org) so that she can follow up with them regarding merchandise at their events.

- **Motion** to accept the 2021 proposed budget as presented – **accepted**

17. Insurance Report – Randy Melcher and Kelly Pribbenow, EPIC

The written report from EPIC was included in the BOD packet. Melcher discussed the state of the sports insurance market and the lack of an appetite for carriers to write policies for amateur sports organizations and NGBs because of challenges with concussion and abuse and molestation claims, and the suspended or expanded statute of limitations associated with abuse claims. Carriers are increasing the window of loss history required from 5-6

years to upwards of 10 years. Underwriters want to see that organizations not only have rules and regulations established at the national level, but also have procedures in place for compliance at the club and grassroots levels.

One important change from 2020 is that the renewed USA-WSWS general liability (GL) policy for 2021 has a communicable disease exclusion which would exclude defense or indemnity coverage for claims arising from Covid-19 (or any communicable diseases). At this time, there is only one carrier that can offer coverage without a communicable disease exclusion, but that carrier declined to quote our coverage.

Gerry Luiting asked about specific Covid-19 waivers. Melcher said it was not necessary as the GL policy does not cover liability from allegedly contracting Covid-19 at a USA-WSWS sanctioned event. USA-WSWS standard waivers have “sickness and disease” included as an inherent risk of participation in sanctioned activities, and this is how the carrier prefers this exposure to be addressed.

Boudreaux asked if having a Covid-19 questionnaire is still a good idea (attendees sign off that they have not been in contact with anyone with Covid-19, etc.) and Melcher said that was sufficient. In cases where there are multiple mandates from different entities (state vs. county, etc.) regarding Covid-19, Melcher suggested that clubs comply with the most restrictive guides.

ACTION ITEM: Per recommendations from Luiting and Jeff Smith, USA-WSWS HQ will work with the Risk Management Committee and EPIC to create verbiage for the website and email communication to clubs as well as event waivers regarding the communicable disease exclusion for 2021, as well as best practice recommendations for hosting events. Communications should be sent to clubs as soon as possible as it could affect decisions on hosting events.

ACTION ITEM: USA-WSWS HQ will work with the Risk Management Committee and EPIC to update the existing Covid-19 Event Questionnaire and Waiver Release and include the revised document in communications on the website and send to clubs regarding the communicable disease exclusion for 2021 and best practices recommendations.

Jeff Smith noted that the relationship with EPIC is unique in that not only do they bring their extensive experience in the insurance industry to the table, but they have also been active participants in providing guidance from a risk management perspective and that relationship is greatly appreciated.

18. USOPC Compliance Audit – Nate Boudreaux, Executive Director:

- a. **Background Screening Update** – Boudreaux updated the group on the new USOPC requirement regarding background screens (staff, officials, coaches, board members, coordinators, local affiliated administrators/directors, trainers, independent

contractors, volunteers, medical personnel, and other individuals authorized or nominated by the NGB to work with athletes or other sport participants at a competition event to which the NGB sends athletes).

Bob Archambeau asked if the USOPC could aggregate all the background screens from various companies to create a national repository. Randy Melcher (EPIC) noted that the USOPC has specific criteria that may not be included in other screenings, so the recommendation is that we require members to successfully pass the USA-WSWS screening. However, proof of passing a USOPC background screening from another NGB could satisfy the screening requirement.

Doug Robbins asked if we could do background screenings with a different company at a better cost. Boudreaux noted that HQ did explore a few potential vendors before going back to NCSI. Regardless of the vendor, there are specific criteria the USOPC requires the background screening company use when conducting screenings. HQ was comfortable with NCSI and the cost was comparable to the others.

Jeff Smith suggested having an independent group like NCSI do the checks and make the rulings on pass/fail is helpful as it keeps USA-WSWS out of the decision-making process.

- b. **Safe Sport Discussion** – Boudreaux suggested that Safe Sport training for all members as a requirement for membership is likely coming at some point. Currently 15+ NGBs require Safe Sport training as a part of membership before someone can actively participate in a sanctioned event.

Jeff Smith and Randy Melcher reiterated that the background screening and Safe Sport policies are part of federal legislation and organizations are required to comply regardless of the association with the USOPC.

Doug Ribley reminded the group that Safe Sport training is free and makes sense to implement. NSSA is already encouraging all teams to push their members to take the training because it is the right thing to do.

Jim Grew and Pat Byrne suggested that, if USA-WSWS were to move forward with having Safe Sport training as a requirement, recreational/supporting members and HNDs be exempt. Under the proposal, Boudreaux suggested that only active members (those actively participating in sanctioned events) would be required to complete the training.

19. Committee Reports

All committee reports were unanimously approved by the BOD as submitted unless otherwise indicated.

- **Awards – Lori Krueger, Chair (absent):** No Report

- **Bylaws – Jeff Smith (for Jeff Clark, Chair):** The written report was included in the BOD packet. Smith provided a brief overview of each action item, noting the items below.

#35 – Informational item only – no vote required.

#36 – under construction

#39 – withdrawn

Chair Doug Robbins asked the BOD whether there were any specific action items they would like to discuss.

Bob Archambeau asked about LOCs and potential conflicts of interests. Jeff Smith clarified that, if a member of an LOC is not on a board or a decision-making committee regarding the event (funds for the event, etc.), there would not be a conflict.

Jim Grew inquired about the difference between special and standing committees. Jeff Smith clarified those were USOPC terms, and some do not apply to the USA-WSWS committee structure.

Joel Johanningmeier asked about the AAC (33.3% representation) requirement on rules committees at the Sport Discipline level. Smith clarified that SD committees had the same requirement as USA-WSWS committees regarding athlete representation. Johanningmeier also asked if the USA-WSWS and SD bylaws changes were needed at the regional and state level as well. Smith said the changes only apply to USA-WSWS and the Sport Disciplines.

Matt Oberholtz suggested that, due to all the information/changes being presented within the bylaws, the board take more time to review them. Smith said the vote by the board was needed because bylaws changes are only made once a year, and we could not afford to delay until next year with a pending USOPC certification/compliance review in 2021.

- **Motion** to approve Action Items #1 through 34, 37, 38, 40 as presented – **approved**

In accordance with the current USA-WSWS Bylaws Rev 11, Article XI – Amendments E, the amended bylaws shall be posted on the USA-WSWS website and become effective sixty (60) days from the date of adoption by the Board unless a referendum is called on the amendment, in which case the amendment shall take effect only upon approval by the general membership of USA-WSWS.

The amendments to the USA-WSWS Bylaws Revision 12, as highlighted in yellow, in the document, will be effective on April 1, 2021, unless challenged in a referendum by the membership.

- **Ethics – Dale Stevens, Chair:** No reported issues
- **International Activities – Jim Grew, Chair:** No Report
- **Judicial – Jeff Smith, Chair:** No Report
- **Risk Management/Safety – Jeff Smith (for Harley Wallace, Chair):** The written report was included in the BOD packet.

Action Item #1 – Adaptive Level 1 Instructor Requirement: Require adaptive clinics to have at least one Adaptive Level 1 Instructor at sanctioned Basic Skills clinics (recommendation for 2021, requirement for 2022).

Gerry Luiting, Doug Ribley and Joel Johanningmeier supported the recommendation but opposed the requirement. Luiting asked what the difference was between the USA-WSWS Level 1 Instructor and the Adaptive Level 1 Instructor ratings. Oberholtz commented that the USA-WSWS Level 1 certification is a prerequisite to attain an Adaptive Level 1 certification which specifically addresses instruction for adaptive skiers.

- **Motion** to approve Action Item #1 as presented – **approved (3 opposed)**

Action Item #2 – Establish USA-WSWS as an Affiliated Training Center for Red Cross CPR and First Aid

- **Motion** to approve Action Item #2 as presented – **approved**

Leon Larson moved to extend the 2020 hardship renewal requirements for safety officials to maintain their ratings.

- **Motion** to approve the extension of hardship renewal requirements for 2021 – **approved**

Larson stated that the risk management safety report would be completed by March 1, 2021. He also added that IWWF is working on a concussion protocol. Once completed, Larson will submit it to the Risk Management Committee for inclusion in the USA-WSWS Safety Manual and safety clinic materials.

- **Towboat – George Lindy and Will Bush, Co-Chairs (absent):** The written report was included in the BOD packet.
- **USOC AAC – Andrew Adkison, AAC/USOC Representative (absent):** No Report Submitted

- **Waterways – Leon Larson, Chair:** The written report was included in the BOD packet.

20. Sport Disciplines' and Related Organizations' Reports

- **Athletes Advisory Council (AAC) – Alex Lauretano, Chair:** No Report. The P&P information for the AAC was included in the packet with the Bylaws Report under AAC.
- **USA Water Ski & Wake Sports Foundation (USA-WWF) – Ed Hickey, President:** The written report was included in the BOD packet. Hickey explained the Foundation was under dire financial stress in early 2020 but was able to renegotiate loans and is in a much better financial situation. Continuing to operate the cable park with Correct Craft/Aktion Water Sports as the tenant. Will be looking to sell the land to the city where the 3-event lake was going to be built.

A Hall of Fame water ski display will be opening in early April at the Visit Central Florida Visitor's Center off US-27 in Davenport. The Visitor's Center sees approximately 50,000 visitors annually which will provide increased exposure for the sport.

Hickey noted that the Foundation is currently an all-volunteer-run organization but they hope to possibly hire a part-time administrative staff member at some point in the future.

Cathy Williams questioned the membership requirement for scholarship applicants. Hickey clarified that Foundation scholarship recipients had to be current USA-WSWS members to receive funding.

Bob Archambeau asked if the Foundation has any plans to pursue fundraising on behalf of USA-WSWS international teams as they did in the early years. Hickey stated that there are no current plans for team fundraising, but it may be addressed as an initiative for the future.

Robbins commented that with no Foundation plans to continue development of the property at Lake Myrtle, USA-WSWS essentially has no "home" for the immediate future. Boudreaux noted that the new HQ home is the Polk County Sports Marketing (PCSM) office located at 2701 Lake Myrtle Park Rd. in Auburndale. PCSM has essentially created "shared space" where any USA-WSWS staffer can utilize an office, conference rooms, copy machines, etc. PCSM also indicated they are willing to put a USA-WSWS logo outside the building. USA-WSWS will continue to work remotely while occasionally using the PCSM space when needed.

Robbins questioned Hickey as to what happened to the phase 3 designated funds that USA-WSWS donated to the Foundation from its share of the proceeds from the sale of

the property on Holy Cow Road. Hickey responded that those funds were alternately used for phase 1 of the project and are now depleted. Robbins noted that the new USA-WSWS leadership team will need to work with the Foundation to further address this topic.

ACTION ITEM: USA-WSWS leadership will engage Foundation leadership to further discuss the situation around USA-WSWS funds contributed to the Foundation real estate development project.

ACTION ITEM: USA-WSWS leadership to reach out to the Foundation leadership to resume quarterly check-in calls to keep lines of communication open between the two organizations.

- **Water Sports Industry Association (WSIA) – Kevin Michael, Executive Director (absent):** Chair Robbins shared the WSIA report he received via email from Kevin Michael. Kevin apologized for not being able to attend.

WSIA approved their largest budget in history for 2021. Ten new projects were approved including an on-water turbidity study to determine the depth of velocity that a wake surf boat creates. Other projects include new warning labels for towboats, continued lobbying in 5+ states, a public outreach campaign, aquatic invasive species research, and Families for Boating, a new nation-wide organization to protect boating access.

Oregon is the hottest area right now with all kinds of changes happening on the Willamette River.

The WSIA Summit will be virtual on Feb 23-24, 2021 - www.wsia.net/summit-2021-virtual/. Lake clean-up month will continue in May. #PassTheHandle day is set for July 18, 2021.

- **American Kneeboard Association (AKA) – Kenny Stuart, President:** The written report was included in the BOD packet.
- **USA Wakeboard (USA-WB) – Cathy Williams, President:** The written report was included in the BOD packet. USA-WB created a level 1 coaching education course for wakeboard and is working on a level 2 course. USA-WB will be hosting Pan Am Cable Wakeboard Championships in West Palm Beach, Fla. at the Shark Cable Park in June 2021.
- **American Barefoot Club (ABC) – Tina McCauley, President:** The written report was included in the BOD packet. The Junior Barefoot World Championships were held virtually where competitors uploaded video which was judged by the same panel of world certified officials. The U.S. team won the overall gold.

- **National Collegiate Water Ski Association (NCWSA) – Jeff Surdej, Chair:** The written report was included in the BOD packet. Christy Kingsmill, NCWSA Vice Chair, is taking over as NCWSA Chair and as the NCWSA representative on the USA-WSWS BOD for Jeff Surdej. NCWSA had to cancel all 2020 events due to Covid-19 and membership dropped by more than 50 percent. NCWSA will be hosting a Nationals in May in Colorado (for 2020) in conjunction with the Collegiate All-Stars and another Nationals in October for the 2021 season.
- **National Show Ski Association (NSSA) – Doug Ribley, President (Verbal):** Ribley apologized for not having submitted a written report. NSSA had an extremely challenging pandemic year in 2020, beginning with the World Championships in Australia that were cancelled. Most of the 35-member team and appointed U.S. officials had already left or arrived in Australia when the news was announced. Congratulations go to Dave Rezin and Matt Heilman, show directors for the team, for their efforts.

NSSA tournaments, practices, home shows, clinics, learn-to-ski events, and contract shows were cancelled with few exceptions due to the team nature of show ski and the challenges associated with social distancing. After the D-I and D-II Team Nationals were cancelled, the NSSA was successful in creating the first NSSA Individual National Tournament. This event was the result of a coordinated effort by the newly formed NSSA Covid-19 Ad Hoc Committee, the LOC (Rock Aqua Jays), the local municipality and health department, and the NSSA BOD. The event was a tremendous success.

NSSA had a few changes to their board and EC and gave out an abbreviated set of 2020 awards. The NSSA board is meeting on Feb. 26, 2021.

Going into 2021, The NSSA will refocus on:

- Membership growth and retention
- Safety
- Fundraising
- Participant/spectator experience
- Strategic planning

Events that are currently scheduled for 2021 include:

- Think Tank: Chula Vista Resort, Wisconsin Dells, Wisc., February 26-28
- Central, Eastern, Midwest, Southern, Wisconsin regional/state tournaments
- NSSA D-II Nationals: LOC, Shawano Ski Sharks, August 7-8
- NSSA D-I Nationals: LOC, Rock Aqua Jays, August 13-15

Events that are currently scheduled for 2022 include:

- Regional/state tournaments
- NSSA D-II Nationals: LOC, Back Water Gamblers, August 6-7

- NSSA D-I Nationals: LOC, Ski Broncs, August 12-14
- IWWF World Water Ski Show Tournament: Lake Silver, Winter Haven, Fla., October 22-23
- **National Water Ski Racing Association (NWSRA) – Cheryl Ruston:** The written report was included in the BOD packet. NWSRA is delaying the start of the season from March to May and looking to open in Arizona. Hoping to have 7-8 events in 2021. The 2021 World Championships have been cancelled. The next World Championships will be held in 2023.
- **USA Adaptive Water Ski & Wake Sports (USA-AWSWS) – Matt Oberholtz, President:** The written report was included in the BOD packet. The USA-AWSWS had to postpone the 2020 Nationals due to Covid-19. The 2021 Disabled Worlds were also postponed. A training fund for adaptive skiers has been developed in the name of Rhonda Van Dyk to honor her contributions to the sport. In 2020, several adaptive athletes competed and were successful in AWSA events. USA Adaptive athlete Elisha Nelson was added to the Team Syndicate roster of sponsored athletes, huge achievement. A goal moving forward is to advance adaptive clinics. USA-AWSWS is currently in the process of becoming a 501c3 organization which will better position the SD for additional funding via grants.

Johanningmeier asked Oberholtz where to direct adaptive athletes participating in show events who are interested in becoming more involved competitively. Oberholtz directed him to their website (<https://www.usaadaptivewaterski.org/>) for additional information or to reach out to him, Jessica Van Dyk, or any of the adaptive board members.

- **U.S. Hydrofoil Association (USHA) – Charlie Buckley, President:** No report
- **American Water Ski Association (AWSA) – Jeff Surdej, President:** The written report was included in the BOD packet. AWSA membership was down 12% in 2020. Even in a Covid-19 year, unique skier pulls over the course of the season were near 2019 levels. The number of junior skiers dropped a bit but the numbers were still solid (648). All international events were cancelled in 2020. Three-event skiing has several World Championship events scheduled in 2021, including several in the U.S. (Elite, U-17 and U-21 Worlds). AWSA held its 2020 Nationals at Bennett's (Louisiana), while future Nationals are scheduled for 2021 at Water's Edge (Illinois) and 2022 at Mystic Lakes (Kansas). Finally, AWSA is currently accepting bids for the 2023 Nationals, looking to bring back the U.S. Open at Nationals, working on the wheretowaterski.com website, creating a library of video content (tips, drills, teaching, etc.) and exploring the idea of having an AWSA-specific website.
- **Pan Am and IWWF Updates – Cathy Williams (Verbal):** Clarification was made as to who the USA-WSWS representatives were for Pan Am. Dana Garcia is the representative to the Water Ski Council and Cathy Williams is the representative to the Pan Am Confederation. Both Dana and Cathy sat in on the IWWF Pan Am Congress meeting held

virtually in November 2020. Maria Isabel Mancheno from Columbia was elected President of the IWWF Pan American Confederation, replacing Jeffry Armstrong.

The biggest concern right now with Pan Am is the lack of countries participating in water ski and wakeboard. There is some concern that, after the 2023 Pan Am Games, if there are not more Pan American countries participating, water ski and wakeboard could be removed from the games. There are currently eight countries, and the need would be for 16-18 countries to participate. Most of the other sports offered in the Pan Am Games have 40+ countries participating. Jeff Smith stated, if we lose our Pan Am Games status, it could have some profound effects on USA-WSWS as a Pan American sports organization and NGB with the USOPC.

Jim Grew said that IWWF had appointed a Covid-19 Task Force to help advise the LOCs on all upcoming 2021 World Championship events. The IWWF is also looking to create an international Wake Surf series of events in 2022.

21. Old Business

Boudreaux added that the USOPC can help with appropriate travel exemptions due to Covid-19, both incoming and outgoing, for international events held in the U.S. and international athletes or teams traveling to and from other countries for competition. Contact him directly and he will get you in contact with the appropriate USOPC contact.

22. New Business

23. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Sunday, Jan. 31, 2022. Time and location TBD.

ADJOURN

- **Motion** to adjourn at 4:45 p.m. – **approved**