



Minutes
Board of Governors/Board of Directors Meeting
2023 USAAS Convention
September 7-9, 2023
(TO BE APPROVED AT 2024 CONVENTION)

Thursday, September 7, 2023 – 5:00 PM

Board Members in Attendance: Denise Shively, Irene Hawes, Chris Leahy, Jocilyn Saylor, Emmanuella Tchakmakjian (AEC President), Claire Barton (Athlete At-Large), Monica Velazquez-Stiak (AAC alternate; voting)

Staff Members in Attendance: Adam Andrasko

Excused: Kimberly Kohut (non-voting; Secretary), Jennifer Jarboe, Kerhyl Gantt, Bill May (General Athlete Representative), Morgan Fuller Kolsrud (USOPC AAC leadership team; non-voting), Ashley Johnson, Stacey Chapman, Jennell Lynch, Joanne Pasternack, Mariya Koroleva (AAC Athlete Representative), Natalia Vega (General Athlete Representative)

1. Call to Order and declaration of quorum

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM EDT by Denise Shively. A quorum present was also declared by Denise Shively for the BOG, but not the BOD.

2. Nominating Committee Report by Beth Borland (with nominations from the floor for the following positions—Vice President Competitive Programs, Vice President Member Development, Treasurer, 3 Foundation trustees)

Board of Directors – VP Competitive Operations: Rebecca Phillips

- Call for nominations from the floor: None
- Scotti Nichols (Michigan) moved to close the nominations from the floor and was seconded by Patricia Jones (Pacific). **Vote Passed**
- Meet the candidate
- Scotti Nichols (Michigan) moved to elect by acclamation and was seconded by Lorraine Valerino (Northwest Florida). **Vote Passed**

Board of Directors – VP Member Development: Jocilyn Saylor

- Call for nominations from the floor: None
- Scotti Nichols (Michigan) moved to close the nominations from the floor and was seconded by Barbara McNamee (Virginia). **Vote Passed**
- Meet the candidate
- Scotti Nichols (Michigan) moved to elect by acclamation and was seconded by Judy McGowan (Maryland). **Vote Passed**

Board of Directors – Treasurer: Anna Montgomery

- Call for nominations from the floor: None
- Scotti Nichols (Michigan) moved to close the nominations from the floor and was seconded by Sue Nesbitt (Southern California). **Vote Passed**
- Meet the candidate
- Scotti Nichols (Michigan) moved to elect by acclamation and was seconded by Sue Nesbitt (Southern California). **Vote Passed**

Foundation Board of Trustees:

Full Three-Year Term – Three Positions – Candidates: Emma Kim

- Call for nominations from the floor:
Gigi Grizanti-BSK
- Judy McGowan (Maryland) moved to close the nominations from the floor and was seconded by Sue Nesbitt (Southern California). **Vote Passed**
- Meet the candidates
- Scotti Nichols (Michigan) moved to elect by acclamation and was seconded by Judy McGowan (Maryland). **Vote Passed**

RECESS at 5:30 PM EDT with the meeting to continue Sept. 9

Saturday, September 9, 2023 – 1:30-5:00 PM

Board Members in Attendance: Denise Shively, Irene Hawes, Chris Leahy, Jocilyn Sayler, Kimberly Kohut (non-voting; Secretary), Emmanuella Tchakmakjian (AEC President), Jennifer Jarboe, Claire Barton (Athlete At-Large), Monica Velazquez-Stiak (AAC alternate; voting)

Staff Members in Attendance: Adam Andrasko

Excused: Kerhyl Gannt, Bill May (General Athlete Representative), Morgan Fuller Kolsrud (USOPC AAC leadership team; non-voting), Ashley Johnson, Stacey Chapman, Jennell Lynch, Joanne Pasternack, Mariya Koroleva (AAC Athlete Representative), Natalia Vega (General Athlete Representative)

3. Call to reconvene and declaration of quorum

The meeting was called to reconvene at 1:44 PM EDT by Denise Shively. A quorum present was also declared by Denise Shively for both BOG and BOD with Jenny Jarboe via Zoom.

4. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

Denise called for any additional conflicts of interest from the BOD. Conflicts of Interest were stated as follows:

Irene Hawes- IR Committee, NT Committee, AQUA Judge

Chris Leahy-Athlete/Coach, Cincinnati Synchronators

Jocilyn Sayler- Coach, Seattle Synchrono

Kimberly Kohut- Lake Erie Association/East Zone Officer

Denise Shively-none

Emmanuella Tchakmakjian- Athlete-Stanford University, Coach San Francisco Merionettes

Claire Barton-none

Monica Velazquez-Stiak-Assistant Coach, The Ohio State University

Jenny Jarboe-none

5. Approval of minutes from September 2022

BOG Discussion:

Motion: Ginny Jasontek (Ohio) moved to approve the minutes from the 2022 Convention for the BOG, with corrections.

Seconded By: Scotti Nichols (Michigan)

Vote Passed

BOD Discussion:

Motion: Irene Hawes moved to approve the minutes from the 2022 Convention for the BOD, with corrections.

Seconded By: Chris Leahy

Vote Passed (7-Yes, 0-No, 0-Abstain)

6. Athletes' Reports by AEC and USOPC AAC (Emma Tchakmajian, AEC President; Monica Velazquez-Stiak, AAC Representative)

- Report is posted online
- 3 goals:
 - Pairing members with the VPs for more engagement
 - Create alumni network
 - Launch quarterly newsletter for athlete representatives
- Thanked AEC
- Welcomed Atira O'Neil as Collegiate Representative
- Claire Barton re-elected as Athlete At-Large
- New VP Competitive Programs: Katie Wiekowski
- New VP Member Development: Helen Beer

7. Zone Reports

- **North by Julie Jasontek**

- Athlete of the Year: Maddie Romney (Rocky Mountain Splash)
- Coach of the Year: Shelby Unsworth (University of Michigan)
- Contributor of the Year: Chris Leahy (Cincinnati Synchronators)
- Successful Zone Meet
- Hosted Collegiate Nationals

- **South by Victoria Anderson**

- Report is posted online
- Adopted new slogan in honor of Joy Cushman "Find the Joy" in our sport
- Smooth zone meet in Hampton, VA
- John Valerino passed away suddenly

- **East by Jenn Hatt**

- Report is posted online
- Hosted 4 zone meets
- Athlete of the Year: Emily Kogut
- Coach of the Year: Cindy Ehlers
- Contributor of the Year: Gil Sharon
- Kim Miller Scholarship Recipient: Carly Ermer

- **West by Patricia Jones**

- Report is posted online
- Athlete of the Year: Sophia Wendt, Seattle Synchro
- Coach of the Year: Lorette Haynes, Arizona Desert Dolphins
- Contributor of the Year: Nancy Thompson, West Zone Scoring Chair
- Honored Dawn and Ross Bean High Point Award
- Chris Carver inducted into ISHOF, Honor Coach

8. Treasurer's Report (Jenny Jarboe, Treasurer, and Adam Andrasko, CEO)

- Jenny Jarboe and Adam Andrasko explained the revenue and expenditures of the organization.

9. Governance Committee Report (Scotti Nichols, Chair)—Action item AEC Term Limits

- Proposal to revise Code, Article 7 Athlete Representation

Motion: Nora Jiang (Middle Atlantic) moved to approve the proposal for the BOG

Seconded By: Jeanne Struck (Arizona)

Vote Passed

Motion: Chris Leahy moved to accept recommendation of the BOG for the BOD

Seconded By: Irene Hawes

Vote Passed (7-Yes, 0-No, 0-Abstain)

10. VP Competitive Programs (Chris Leahy, VP)

- Report is posted online.

- Rules Committee (Patricia Jones, Chair)—Action items

- i. A call was made for any items to be pulled. Items 1, 7, 10, 16, 21 were pulled for discussion.
- ii. A motion was made by Scotti Nichols (Michigan) and seconded by Angela Camero (Southern California) for the Board of Governors to accept the recommendations of the Rules Committee report except for the items pulled. **Vote Passed**
- iii. A motion was made by Chris Leahy and seconded by Irene Hawes for the Board of Directors to approve the Rules Committee recommendations except for the items pulled. **Vote Passed ((7-Yes, 0-No, 0-Abstain)**

Items pulled for discussion	
ITEM 1	<p>BOG Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Judy McGowan (Maryland) speaking against as proposed. Disagrees with words in parentheses on the Girls/Women Solo • Betty Hazle (Pacific) asked Judy McGowan to clarify • Brianna Fogel (New Jersey) asked a question <p>BOG vote on item 1 to adopt gender inclusion. Vote Passed</p>

	<p>BOD Discussion:</p> <p>Motion: Chris Leahy moved to accept Item 1 as approved by BOG</p> <p>Seconded By: Jocilyn Sayler</p> <p>Vote Passed (6-Yes, 0-No, 0-Abstain)</p>
<p>ITEM 7</p>	<p>BOG Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ella Johnson (Ohio) speaking against the recommendation to reject item. Asking for compromise of 2 figures judged. • Anna Yesipova (Pacific) clarified the ramifications and speaking for rejection. • Judy McGowan (Maryland) speaking against rejection. • Janneke Dirvan (Pacific) speaking for rejection. • Mari Flores (Pacific) speaking for rejection. • Barbara McNamee (Virginia) speaking for rejection. • Nora Jiang (Middle Atlantic) speaking for rejection. • Angela Camero (Southern California) speaking against rejection. • Aliya Jiwa (Minnesota West) speaking against rejection. <p>BOG vote on Item 7 to accept Rules Committee recommendation. Vote Passed</p> <p>BOD Discussion:</p> <p>Motion: Chris Leahy moved to accept the BOG recommendation to reject Item 7.</p> <p>Seconded By: Irene Hawes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emma Tchakmakjian questioned is it possible to request a waiver to only do 2 figures? • Chris Leahy shared analysis from the results of Junior Olympics. <p>Vote Passed (6-Yes, 0-No, 1-Abstain)</p>
	<p>BOG Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dana Bradley (Northeast Florida) speaking against • Anna Yesipova (Pacific) asked for a point of clarification of why this proposal was made

<p>ITEM 10</p>	<p>BOG vote on Item 10 to accept Rules Committee recommendation as amended.</p> <p>Vote Failed (Rejected)</p> <p>BOD Discussion:</p> <p>Motion: Chris Leahy moved to accept the BOG recommendation as rejecting Item 10 as amended.</p> <p>Seconded By: Irene Hawes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jocilyn Sayler asked for reporting out <p>Vote Passed (5-Yes, 1-No, 0-Abstain)</p> <p>Notes: Due to the rejection Item 10, it was noted that Items 14 and 15 would need housekeeping as they have most aspects</p>
<p>ITEM 16</p>	<p>BOG Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anna Yesipova (Pacific) speaking against rejection. • Nora Jiang (Middle Atlantic) speaking for rejection. • Eloise Krigbaum (Pacific) speaking against rejection. • Mari Flores (Pacific) speaking against rejection. • Linda Loehndorf (Wisconsin) speaking against rejection. • Maya Plotnikskaya (Nevada) speaking against rejection. <p>BOG vote on Item 16 to approve Rules Committee recommendation of rejection.</p> <p>Vote Failed (Therefore, the item itself was APPROVED)</p> <p>BOD Discussion:</p> <p>Motion: Chris Leahy moved to approve the BOG recommendation to approve Item 16</p> <p>Seconded By: Claire Barton</p> <p>Vote Passed (5-Yes, 0-No, 2-Abstain)</p>
	<p>BOG Discussion:</p>

ITEM 21	<p>Motion: Barbara Nesbitt Ng (Southwestern) moved to amend item 21</p> <p>Seconded By: Meredith Simpson (Virginia)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nora Jiang (Middle Atlantic) asked a question. • Barbara Nesbitt Ng (Southwestern) explained rationale of trio change. <p>Motion: Linda Loehndorf (Wisconsin) moved to table Item 21 to go back to the Collegiate Committee</p> <p>Seconded By: Jeanne Struck (Arizona)</p> <p>Vote Passed to Table Item 21. BOD will vote on item when it comes back from Collegiate Committee at a future BOD meeting.</p>
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- **Competition and Innovation Committee (Anna Yesipova, Chair)**

- i. Report is posted online
- ii. Any ideas, proposals should go through Anna Yesipova

- **Judges Committee (Linda Loehndorf, Chair)—Action item- Appendix G**

- i. Report is posted online
- ii. Appendix G has been cleaned up and has the addition of DTC/STC Levels and requirements for online training and testing. The rollout of the training is by January 2024.

	<p>BOG Discussion:</p> <p>Motion: Scotti Nichols (Michigan) moved to approve Appendix G as amended</p> <p>Seconded By: Ginny Jasontek (Ohio)</p> <p>Vote Passed</p> <p>BOD Discussion:</p>
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Appendix G	<p>Motion: Chris Leahy moved to approve Appendix G as amended</p> <p>Seconded By: Jocilyn Sayler</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask Governance Committee to look at Judges Board representation with addition of controllers <p>Vote Passed (6-Yes, 0-No, 0-Abstain)</p>
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11. VP Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (Ashley Johnson, VP)

- No report submitted by VP DEI Committee, or AWD Committee

12. VP Member Development (Jocilyn Sayler, VP)

- Report is posted online
- Recognized Shari Darst for all her contributions this year

- Membership Committee- Action item— (Club Registration Fee)

Club Registration Fee	<p>BOG Discussion:</p> <p>Motion: Jocilyn Sayler (Northwest) moved to approve the club registration fee</p> <p>Seconded By: Scotti Nichols (Michigan)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This would be effective in 2024 • Heidi Lurenz (Wisconsin) asked if thought was given to size of club <p>Vote Passed</p> <p>BOD Discussion:</p> <p>Motion: Jocilyn Sayler moved to approve</p> <p>Seconded By: Monica Velazquez-Stiak</p>
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	Vote Passed (7-Yes, 0-No, 0-Abstain)
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13. VP Olympic International (Irene Hawes, VP)

- Report is posted online
- World Championships
- World Cups
- Youth Championships (highest medal count)
- Our future is very bright!

- National Team Program (Lara Teixeira, Chair)

- i. Report is posted online
- ii. Recognized national team coaching staff at all levels
- iii. Community support has been felt

- International Relations (Betty Hazle, Chair) — Action items (Pan Am Congress Delegate and PAQ judge)

- i. Report is posted online
- ii. Most club options than we have ever had!

Pan Am Congress	<p>BOG Discussion:</p> <p>Motion: Betty Hazle (Pacific) moved to approve Ginny Jasontek as delegate to the Pan Am Congress</p> <p>Seconded By: Judy McGowan (Maryland)</p> <p>Vote Passed</p> <p>BOD Discussion:</p> <p>Motion: Irene Hawes moved to approve Ginny Jasontek as delegate to Pan Am Congress</p> <p>Seconded By: Claire Barton</p> <p>Vote Passed (6-Yes, 0-No, 1-Abstain)</p>
	<p>BOG Discussion:</p>

PAQ Judge Nomination	Motion: Judy McGowan (Maryland) moved to have Victoria Anderson added to the PAQ judges list
	Seconded By: Scotti Nichols (Michigan)
	Vote Passed
	BOD Discussion:
	Motion: Irene Hawes moved to have Victoria Anderson added to the PAQ judges list
	Seconded By: Emma Tchakmakjian
	Vote Passed (7-Yes, 0-No, 0-Abstain)

- i. Recognized Eugenia Gillan, Shari Darst, and Shannon Korpela as AQUA judge retirements
- ii. Recognized Linda Loehndorf as AQUA Evaluator retirement

14. Foundation Report (Sandra Mahoney, President)

- No report submitted
- Big thank you to the Foundation for the work you do for our clubs!

15. President and Executive Director Reports (Denise Shively, President; Adam Andrasko, CEO)

- Denise Shively reviewed highlights of the work of the BOD:
 - Reviewed mission
 - Guide strategic priorities of organization
 - Gender Inclusion policy
 - Athlete Loss of Consciousness policy
 - Succession planning (Welcomed Anna Montgomery and Rebecca Phillips to the BOD)
 - CEO contract extension through 2025 and working remotely
 - Funding/membership
 - Thanked Committee Chairs (Scotti Nichols-Governance, Stacey Chapman-Audit, Victoria Anderson-Ethics, Beth Borland-Nominating)
 - Thanked Jenny Jarboe and Chris Leahy as they term-off the BOD
 - Goals for last year as President
- i. Open doors

- ii. Mentorship
 - iii. Support staff, association, and zone leaders
 - iv. Grow the members to grow the leaders
 - v. Most effective at reaching you as members through listening
- Adam Andrasko reviewed the following highlights of our organization.
 - 4-year high in finances
 - Membership bounced back to pre-covid numbers
 - Hosted 5 national and 1 international competition in the last year
 - Social media impressions continue to rise
 - Lead through SafeSport and Athlete Safety
 - Relationship with the Foundation is strong!
 - National Team is the 3rd best in the world!

16. Old Business

- None

17. New Business

- Judy McGowan (Maryland) moved to thank BOD for guidance and staff for its excellent work. Scotti Nichols (Michigan) seconded the motion. **Vote passed**

18. Adjournment

- Angela Camero (Southern California) moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Scotti Nichols (Michigan). **Vote Passed**

Time of Adjournment 4:53 PM EDT.