

**USA Water Ski & Wake Sports  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
Lake Myrtle Sports Park, Auburndale, FL  
February 1, 2026**

(Minutes recorded by Angela Smith, Doug Robbins, Al)

*Virtual attendees noted in red.*

**Officers in Attendance:**

Doug Robbins\* – Chair/HND  
Dale Stevens – Vice President  
Joel Johannngmeier – Secretary/Treasurer, NSSA

**Board Members in Attendance:**

Don Bucher – AWSA-MW  
Matt Byrne – AWSA-East  
Tim Cullen – Past President  
Bob Harris – AWSA-South  
Lyman Hardy – AWSA President  
**Matt Heilman-NSSA President**  
Kelly Koehler – AWSA-SC  
Teri Larson-Jones-ABC  
Jason Lee – AAC (ABC)  
Owen Letcher-AWSA-W  
Gerry Luiting – NSSA/HND  
**Jared Lutz – NCWSA (Alternate)**  
Karen Melnik – AWSA –East  
**Connor Poggetto – AAC (USA-AWSWS)**  
**Dave Rezin – AAC (NSSA)**  
Daniel Sauls - AKA  
Ashley Stevens-NCWSA  
**Gregg Stokes-USA-AWSWS Athlete**  
**Craig Timm-USA-AWSWS**  
Cathy Williams – USA Wake Sports  
Regina Jaquess – USOPC AC

**Absent:**

Cheryl Ruston – NWSRA  
Charlie Buckley - USHA  
Andrew Adkison – USOPC AC

Alex Lauretano – AAC (AWSA)

Joe Lovato – AAC

**Committee Chairs in Attendance:**

Brian Heeney – By Laws

Dana Garcia – USOPC / Pan Am Confederation

Leon Larson – Waterways

**Headquarters' Staff in Attendance:**

Kevin Michael – Executive Director

Matt Bishop – Marketing & Events

Angela Smith – Business Administrator

Melanie Hanson – Membership Services Director

Sydnee Keener – Membership Services Specialist

Matthew Leach – Member Services & Competition Manager

Caleb Farmer – Compliance Manager

Sandy Hardee – Consultant

Wade Cox - Ambassador

**Affiliate Organizations in Attendance:**

James Krawczyk - WSIA

**Guests in Attendance:**

John Lipscomb – Ann's Angels Adaptive Water Ski Foundation

Shauna Pasanen – Visit Central Florida

Dave Patterson – USOPC

Andrew Ondrejack – EPIC Insurance

Randy Melcher – EPIC Insurance

*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 8:10 AM

**3. Announcements**

**4. Introductions and Roll Call**

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

## 5. Appointment of Parliamentarian

Brian Heeney appointed.

## 6. USA-WSWS Code of Conduct and Ethics Policy-Conflict of Interest Disclosure

- Dale Stevens read disclosure. ○ Ashley Stevens and Dale Stevens disclosed conflicts. Chair noted for applicable votes.

## 7. Announcement of Quorum

A quorum was present. Number of votes 91.28 total votes present.

## 8. Entertain Motions for Meeting

- **Motion** by Dale Stevens and seconded by Danny Sauls to allow committee chairs, Headquarters' staff, alternate board members and guests to join the meeting with no vote – **approved**.
- **Motion** by Dale Stevens and seconded by Karen Melnik to allow any action items coming from committee reports to be presented as motions with an automatic second – **approved**.

## 9. Review and Approval of 2025 Board Meeting Minutes

Kevin Michael, requested minutes to accurately reflect the 5 year strategic plan presented during the Executive Director report in 2024. Request for an update to the 2024 minutes to reflect the 5-year strategic plan in the board minutes.

- **Motion** to approve as amended by Dale Stevens and seconded by Teri Larson Jones– **approved**.

## 10. Ratification of 2025 Email Board Ballot Votes

- There were no electronic ballots in 2025.

## 11. Review and Approval of Agenda

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

## 12. Executive Session of 2025 Board

- **No Minutes/no recording**

## 13. Nominating Committee Report

Dale Stevens, VP, states report is verbal.

## a. Election of Officers and Honorary National Directors:

**Officers:** Robbins opened nominations from the floor.

Bob Harris nominated Lyman Hardy for President. Doug Robbins stated governance requires officers to be from the board or an HND. Lyman does not meet requirements.

Chairman of the Board – Doug Robbins

President – Dale Stevens

Vice President – Kelly Koehler

Secretary/Treasurer – Joel Johannmeier

- **Motion** to accept the slate by Don Bucher and seconded by Karen Melnik to approve officers – approved.
- **New officers and board members were seated.**

Kelly Koehler replaces Bob Harris as voting director for AWSA-S. Matt Byrne replaces Karen Melnik for AWSA-E as Alternate AWSA Director.

**Honorary National Directors:** Doug Robbins recognized Karen Melnik, 2026 HND, Jason Lee, and Leon Larson as Waterways Committee Chair and thanked them for their years of service to USA-WSWS.

## 14. President's Report –

The 2025 written report was included in the BOD packet.

**Action Items from 2025 Winter BOD Meeting to discuss.**

**#1 – Event waivers & other languages – Legal guidance did not recommend due to potential risk of loss in translation.**

**#2 – Consolidating the minor/adult waivers – Jeff Smith has made some changes, and cautioned doing so as state laws applicable to minors vary. It is with EPIC for review on these legalities.**

**#3 – Smart waivers – iSportz can do this and will include in their presentation.**

**#4 – Salesforce functionality – Complete**

**#5 - Award Recipients – Complete**

**#6 - Assemble and Revive USA-WSWS IAC – Last Robbins heard that is in process with Dana Garcia #7 – Waterways Committee Chair – Outgoing President Bob Archambeau appointed Dan Connelly to succeed Leon Larson as Chair of Waterways.**

**#8 – Google form for Salesforce account – Complete**

**#9 – Notify USA-WSWSF of Gerry Luiting appointment to serve on the BOT for USA-WSWS - Complete**

**#10 – Completed – Name change from USA Wakeboard to USA Wake Sports**

**#11 – Trained driver suggestion – Discussion at first EC call after winter meeting – Some risk management concerns with this if BOD decides to it can be sent to the Risk Management Committee.**

**#12 – Completed**

**#13 – Completed**

### 3 Action items carried over from 2024:

- 1) Each SD to increase membership
- 2) Task force for SD funding
- 3) All SD President's to get updated list to Alex Lauretano AAC of who the eligible athletes are to appoint to committees which is part of Action item #5.

All are ongoing.

#### 14. USA-WSWS President's Report-Dale Stevens

Stevens sees 2026 as a year to bring the organization back together. He looks forward to working with Kevin to move forward. There are technological things that HQ would like to do. As we go through 2026, it will provide more guidance.

#### 15. USA-WSWS Executive Committee Report –

Report is in the BOD packet. We need to approve the 2026 SD funding chart that was included in packets as presented by the SD Funding task force.

- **Motion** by Owen Letcher, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cathy Williams. **Approved**

#### 16. Executive Director's Report – Kevin Michael

Kevin thanks all for the volunteer work they do for the sport. Announces Dave Patterson from USOPC is on this meeting via zoom and will provide our compliance status later on in meeting. Core staff from HQ were introduced to the Board. Kevin used a slide show for his report. A financial overview was presented and currently the investment accounts are really strong. Sanctioned events were up in 2025. Social media, especially Instagram, has been good. Kevin gave an overview of all sponsors and stated that Goode has backed out of their annual partnership with USA-WSWS but will continue their AWSA Nationals title sponsorship.

Kevin reviewed membership as of December 31, reported in the meeting packet. Membership as of December 31, is positive 111 members year over year. We are trending really well and it's very encouraging going into 2026. Industry outlook for growth over 10 years is very optimistic.

Insurance premiums will be staying the same for 2026 renewal.

- **Kevin proposed changing the mission statement. The change should come from ByLaws committee at our next meeting. Brian Heeney said he will make a note and present it.**

Kevin updated his trip to Brisbane to meet with the Olympic committee. The US Olympic committee doesn't have a lot of influence, but the local submits to the IOC. He talked about the 7 factors that are looked at to bring in a new Olympic sport. Kevin gave an overview of other events he attended. He talked about the Water Skier Magazine and how many people still want the actual magazine.

Kevin introduces Dave Patterson with the USOPC to discuss compliance. Dave talks about the conflict of interest and the importance of stating the "obvious". Advice given is declare your conflict of interest. Having a conflict is not a problem, not declaring your conflict can become a problem.

Dave gives advice on how to improve AAC representation and participation. He spoke about how we have a lot of committees and they are big committees. Dave's suggestions based on other USOPC NGB's could be to streamline the committees, expand the pool of eligible athletes, and make sure to look at the committees to make sure its rewarding work.

#### **Kevin presented USA-WSWS 5-year strategic plan:**

Kevin presented his 5-year strategic plan in Version 3. Looking for feedback from the BOD. He went through each section of his plan and talked about items that are complete and listed any additional requirements by the USOPC.

- **Motion to approve V3 by Bob Harris, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kelly Koehler. None opposed.**

Lunch break 11:24-11:45

#### **17. Treasurer's Report – Joel Johanningmeier, Secretary/Treasurer (Verbal)**

The written report with the budget and budget notes was included in the BOD packet. Joel speaks about Bestow and challenges that we have had. The annual audit did not show any concerns but included a note about seeing a lot of adjustments. That was due to errors in coding that had to be corrected. Otherwise, there were no concerns with the 2024 annual financial audit. The final 2025 numbers were in the BOD packet. A net zero budget was given for 2026.

- **Motion to accept 2026 budget by Owen Letcher, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Teri Larson Jones. Passed.**

#### **18. 2026 Insurance Reports – Andrew and Randy Melcher**

Annual premium is within a few dollars of the 2025 renewal. EPIC reminded all about our policy structure and reviewed the benefits to our insurance package. We have been grandfathered in, and this package wouldn't be available to new insured NGB's.

## 19. Committee Reports

- **Awards Committee-Lori Krueger** – Report was included in the BOD packet.
- **By-Laws Committee-Brian Heeney**-Report was included in the BOD packet.
- **Motion-USA Wake Sports name change was approved last year, but the abbreviation will be USA Wake. By Laws action item 1 - None opposed. Motion passed.**
- **Motion-Small changes made to the USA-WSWS Bylaws brought forward from the USOPC that were in the BOD packet. By Laws action item 2 - None opposed. Motion passed.**
- **Motion-Changes made to the USA-WSWS Policy & Procedures manual brought forward from the USOPC. By Laws Action Item 3 - None opposed. Motion Passed.**
- **Ethics Committee-Dale Stevens**
- **Action Item in report-Page 189 – Conflict of Interest flowchart. None opposed. Motion passed.**
- **International Activities** – Inactive
- **Judicial Committee** – Jeff Smith had no report at this time for the BOD, except to report that the committee is adjudicating 2 open matters. Jeff Smith has stepped down, and outgoing President Bob Archambeau made the following appointments to the Judicial Committee:
  - **Motion- Mark Shank to be the new chair of Judicial. None opposed. The BOD approved the appointment.**
  - **Jared Lutz was added to the Committee from NCWSA. None opposed. The BOD approved the appointment.**
- **Risk Management/Safety** – Report was in BOD packet.  
**Action Item** – 4.03 Lightning Safety – The BOD discussed and multiple concerns were expressed with the policy as written. **All opposed. Motion failed.**
- **Towboat** – Inactive
- **USOPC AAC** – No report at this time.
- **Waterways** – Leon Larson is stepping down; Dan Connelly will be the new chair. Leon will stay on the committee.

**Action Item – None opposed to appointment of Dan Connelly to Chair USA-WSWS Waterways Committee. Motion passed.**

## **Isportz Presentation**

Lindsay, VJ Christian, and Mike Sommers of Sales Operation attended. They gave a presentation regarding their mobile app for USA-WSWS members. We are currently on a legacy version of their platform. The new features and enhancements of the mobile app and the opportunity to grow our merchandise sales were the key topics.

- **Action Item – Kevin Michael, Angela Smith, Joel Johanningmeier, and Dale Stevens to work with iSportz to complete a cost/benefit analysis for the EC and BOD, to make a decision.**

## **20. Sport Disciplines' and Related Organizations' Reports**

**Athlete Advisory Council (AAC) – Alex Lauretano** - No report.

**USA Water Ski & Wake Sports Foundation** – Foundation President Brenda Tate provided report in packet.

**Water Sports Industry Association (WSIA) - James Krawczyk, Director of Operations** – Verbal Report The WSIA Summit is coming up, and Kevin Michael will be attending. Wake Park conference is a good place to collaborate. Annual market report is being conducted for 2025.

**American Kneeboard Association** – Daniel Sauls – Increased membership in 2025. Looking forward to the opportunities coming in 2026.

**USA Wake Sports** – Cathy Williams – This wasn't a big year, but 2026 will be a big year with 3 world championships, 3 pan ams. Last year there were team trials for the Jr. pan am games. Good showing for the 2025 events, but 2026 will be better.

**American Barefoot Club (ABC) – Teri Larson Jones, President** – Barefoot is holding steady. There are 19 events on the calendar for 2026. 2 events will be held at Lake Myrtle including the World barefoot championships. Their efforts are being put into innovation, technology and grassroots.

**National Collegiate Water Ski Association – Ashley Stevens, President** – Report included in BOD Meeting packet. Exploring a bid to host the 2027 World University Games at Champions Lake in Polk County. Membership saw an increase in 2025. One of the regions is very large, so they did vote to start the process of splitting the large region to make a total of 6 regions.

**National Show Ski Association (NSSA) – Matt Heilman, President** – Report is in the BOD packet. Thanks to Joel Shapiro for all of his hard work in the past. This year was 50 years of Show Ski nationals. All events are in the report. Nationals will be in Evansdale, Iowa this year. The 50<sup>th</sup> think tank is in February in Wisconsin. Looking forward to 2026 with a renewed focus on membership growth.

**National Water Ski Racing Association (NWSRA) – Cheryl Ruston** -Cheryl is not in attendance but report is in BOD packet.

**USA Adaptive Water Ski & Wake Sports – Craig Timm, President** – Report in BOD packet. 2025 was a big year with a world's event. The team competed in Mulwala, Australia, and won gold. The team has won gold in 11/16 worlds events. In 2026, the Nationals will integrate adaptive into the 3 event nationals. We are looking to find skiers in the learn to ski realm to get them ready for skiing. They are planning a lot of clinics for 2026.

**Hydrofoil** – No report provided.

**American Water Ski Association (AWSA) – Lyman Hardy, President** – Report in packet and verbal report given to update the BOD.

**Pan Am and IWWF Updates – Dana Garcia/Shaina Pasanen** – Report in BOD packet and verbal report provided.

**21. Old Business** – None – Collegiate action items from 2026 packet will be included in 2026 action items.

**22. New Business** – Covered iSportz presentation and discussed the matrix.

Bob Harris (AWSA) asks to speak to the insurance agent about the ramps. This will be added as an action item and sent to Risk Management.

Matt Bishop from HQ asked everyone to send him any information or news from events so we can get them posted. Tag USA Water Ski in posts.

Caleb Farmer – All committees and boards have to have no less than 33.3% athlete representation and voting power. Questions asked and answered regarding athlete representations.

## **ADJOURN**

- **Motion** by Gerry Luiting seconded by Dale Stevens to adjourn at 3:01 p.m. – **approved.**