



Minutes
Board of Governors/Board of Directors Meeting
2024 USAAS Convention
September 12-14, 2024
(TO BE APPROVED AT 2025 CONVENTION)

Thursday, September 12, 2024 – 5:00 PM

Call to Order and declaration of quorum

1. Called to order

The meeting was called to order at 5:10 p.m. by Denise Shively. A quorum present was also declared by Denise Shively for the BOG.

Nominating Committee Report (with nominations from the floor for the following positions—President, Vice President Olympic International, Vice President Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Board of Governors At-Large (25), Foundation Board of Trustees, International Relations Committee, National Team Program Committee-- Explanation of the voting process 11:30 – 12:30 Saturday.

2. Nominating Committee Report – Reported by Beth Borland

Board of Directors – President: Kimberly Kohut

- Call for nominations from the floor: None
- Chris Leahy, Ohio moved to close the nominations from the floor and was seconded by Scotti Nichols, Michigan. **Motion Passed.**
- Scotti Nichols, Michigan, moved to elect by acclamation and was seconded by Angela Camero, Southern California. **Motion Passed.**
- Meet the candidate

Board of Directors – VP Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: Monica Velazquez-Stiak

- Call for nominations from the floor: None
- Scotti Nichols, Michigan, moved to close the nominations from the floor and was seconded by Chris Leahy, Ohio. **Motion Passed.**
- Meet the candidate
- Scotti Nichols, Michigan, moved to elect by acclamation and was seconded by Chris Leahy, Ohio. **Motion Passed.**

Board of Directors – VP Olympic International: Heidi Lurenz and Cheryl Russell

- Call for nominations from the floor: None
- Scotti Nichols, Michigan, moved to close the nominations from the floor and was seconded by Chris Leahy, Ohio. **Motion Passed.**
- Meet the candidates

Election for this position will take place on Saturday during the announced voting period. Details will be provided.

Foundation Board of Trustees:

Full Three-Year Term – Four Positions – Candidates: Mary Lou Woods, Chris Leahy and Nancy Rosengard.

- Call for nominations from the floor. Nominated were Rebecca Garcia and Cathy Beardsley.³
- Scotti Nichols, Michigan, moved to close the nominations from the floor and was seconded by Christine McMaster-Shah. **Motion Passed.**

Voting for the USAAS Foundation Board of Trustees will take place on Saturday during the announced voting period.

One-Year Term—One Positions – Candidate: Karen Rosolowski

- Call for nominations from the floor: Denise Shively was nominated to fill the one-year term.
- Angela Camero, Southern California, moved to close the nominations from the floor and was seconded by Scotti Nichols. **Motion Passed.**

Voting for the USAAS Foundation Board of Trustees will take place on Saturday during the announced voting period.

Board of Governors At-Large Members:

25 Positions—Candidates: Traci Lunsford, Irene Hawes, Elizabeth Knowles, Meredith Simpson, Scotti Nichols, Rebecca Garcia Marwig, Chris Carver (not eligible as is affiliated),

- Call for nominations from the floor:

7. Sheila McNabb

8. Jeanne Struck

9. Karen Norris

10. Nora Jiang; 11-25 remain unfilled

- Scotti Nichols, Michigan, moved to close the nominations from the floor and was seconded by Teagan Betancourt, Rocky Mountain. **Motion Passed.**

- Denise Shively explained that if there are others who are not in attendance or not recognized at the convention, those individuals can be appointed by the president to fill the 25 at-large BOG representatives.
- Scotti Nichols, Michigan, moved to elect by acclamation and was seconded by Karen Rosolowski, Southern California. **Motion Passed.**

International Relations Committee:

Three Positions—Candidates: Chris Carver, Cheryl Russell, Irma Davarashvili

- Call for nominations from the floor: Ginny Jasontek, Gail Emery, Heidi Lurenz, Linda Witter
- Scotti Nichols, Michigan, moved to close the nominations from the floor and was seconded by Irene Hawes, Southern California. **Motion Passed.**

Voting for the International Relations Committee three members will take place on Saturday during the announced election period.

National Team Program Committee:

Three Positions –Candidates: Julie Jasontek, Marivi Escalona, Lorette Haynes

- Call for nominations from the floor: Traci Lundsford
- Scotti Nichols, Michigan, moved to close the nominations from the floor and was seconded by Angela Camero. **Motion Passed.**

Voting for the National Team Program Committee will take place on Saturday during the announced election period.

- **Discussion:**
 - Will vote electronically on Saturday, September 14th during the times announced on Fri.

RECESS at 6:05 PM PDT

Saturday, September 14, 2024 – 1:30-5:00 PM

Board Members in Attendance:

Denise Shively, Kimberly Kohut (non-voting; Secretary, Ashley Johnson, Irene Hawes, Rebecca Phillips, Emmanuella Tchakmakjian (AEC President), Anna Montgomery, Claire Barton (Athlete At-Large), Mariya Koroleva (Team USA AC Athlete Representative), Monica Velazquez-Stiak (Team USA AC; non-voting), Bill May (General Athlete Representative), Natalia Vega (General Athlete Representative), Stacey Chapman

Staff Members in Attendance: Adam Andrasko

Excused: Jocilyn Sayler, Morgan Fuller Kolsrud (USOPC AAC leadership team; non-voting), Kerhyl Gannt, Jennell Lynch, Joanne Pasternack

1. Call to reconvene and declaration of quorum

The meeting was called to reconvene at 2:02 PM PDT by Denise Shively. A quorum present was also declared by Denise Shively for both BOG and BOD.

Luis Ramirez was introduced as the Parliamentarian

2. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

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

Denise Shively- unaffiliated, Ohio Association member; Emma Tchakmakjian-Stanford University, Sand Dieguito Sea Dragons; Natalia Vega-USA National Team, Santa Clara Aquamaids; Mariya Koroleva-Walnut Creek Aquanuts; Claire Barton- East Zone Coach, unaffiliated; Kimberly Kohut- unaffiliated, Lake Erie Association Chair; Stacey Chapman- mother swims Masters with LaMirada; Anna Montgomery-Hamden Heronettes, East Zone BOD; Bill May-Santa Clara Aquamaids, Athlete Rep, Pacific Association; Rebecca Phillips- Orlando Loreleis; Ashley Johnson-Coral Springs Aquacades; Irene Hawes- International AQUA Judge, Evaluator, sister is an AQUA judge

3. Approval of minutes from September 2023

BOG Discussion:

Motion: Angela Camero, Southern California moved to approve the minutes from the 2023 Convention for the BOG..

Seconded By: Scotti Nichols, Michigan

Motion Passed

4. Athletes' Reports by AEC and USOPC AAC (Emma Tchakmajian, AEC President; Mariya Koroleva, Team USA AC Representative)

- Report is posted online.
- Announced election results: AEC President-Natalia Vega; General Athlete Representative-Jaime Czarkowski; General Athlete Representative- Andrea Nott Miles; AEC VP OI-Elle Santana; VP DEI-Trinity Noriega; Secretary-Marikit Flores
- Mariya thanked Emma for her contributions

5. Zone Reports

- **North by Julie Jasontek**
 - Athlete of the Year: Michelle Zee

- Coach of the Year: Leslie Edgerton
 - Contributor of the Year: Megan Loehndorf
 - Successful Zone Meet: Hosted by Cincinnati Synchronators
 - Congratulations to High Point athletes in Senior, Junior, and Youth categories
 - Congratulations to Shari Darst and Denise Shively
 - Two new clubs formed (Music City Synchro in Nashville, TN and one in South Dakota)
 - Test event: Tech routines in Youth Category
 - Come join us at Collegiate Nationals in Ypsilanti, Michigan
- **South by Carole Mitchell**
 - Report is posted online.
 - New club announced: Atlanta Artistic Swimming
- **East by Jenn Hatt**
 - Report is posted online.
 - Athlete of the Year: Sierra Bausmer
 - Coach of the Year: Jen Wilczynski
 - Contributor of the Year: Anna Montgomery
 - Kim Miller Scholarship Recipient: Sierra Bausmer
 - Hosted 4 zone meets
 - Thank you to Denise Shively
 - Thank you to East Zone Board
- **West by Patricia Jones**
 - Report is posted online.
 - Athlete of the Year: Elle Santana
 - Coach of the Year: Anna Yesipova
 - Contributor of the Year: Sue Ahlf (posthumously)
 - Dawn and Ross Bean High Point Senior/Youth: Santa Clara Aquamaids; Junior: Walnut Creek Aquanats
 - Thanked the West Zone athlete reps

Denise thanked Julie Jasontek and Jen Hatt for their contributions and congratulated their successors Heidi Lurenz and Anna Montgomery

6. Treasurer's Report (Anna Montgomery, Treasurer, and Adam Andrasko, CEO)

- Anna Montgomery and Adam Andrasko explained the revenue and expenditures of the organization.
 - Good financial standing
 - \$350,000 grant from Foundation
 - \$1.7 million to \$2.7 million in last 5 years

- Strive for \$3 million organization
- Audit has been approved by Audit Committee

7. Governance Committee Report (Scotti Nichols, Chair)—Action items

- Report is posted online with 4 action items

- Items 1, 2, 3, 4

Motion: Chris Leahy, Ohio moved to approve the proposal for the BOG.

Seconded By: Angela Camero, Southern California

Motion Passed

Motion: Irene Hawes moved to accept recommendation of the BOG for the BOD

Seconded By: Emma Tchakmakjian

Motion Passed (10 -Yes, 0-No, 0-Abstain)

8. VP Member Development (Jocilyn Sayler, VP)

- Report is posted online.

-No Committee Reports submitted for Membership, Awards, Collegiate, Masters, Coaches

9. VP Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (Ashley Johnson, VP)

- Report is posted online

-Thanked Meredith Simpson, Betsy Caza, Betty Hazle, Independent Directors, Foundation, athletes, South Zone. Carole Mitchel, and Board of Directors. Wished Monica the best in her new position

- DEI Committee (no separate report submitted)

- AWD Committee-Meredith Simpson

- Report contained within DEI Report
- AWD Invitational hosted with Junior/Senior Nationals

Denise thanked Ashley for her leadership

10. VP Competitive Programs (Rebecca Phillips, VP)

- Report is posted online.

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

- i. A call was made for any items to be pulled. Items 8,9 were pulled for discussion.
- ii. A motion was made to accept the recommendations of the Rules Committee report except for the items pulled by Scotti Nichols, Michigan and seconded by Chris Leahy, Ohio for the Board of Governors. **Motion Passed**
- iii. A motion was made to approve the Rules Committee recommendations except for the items pulled by Anna Montgomery and seconded by Stacey Chapman for the Board of Directors. **Vote Passed (11-Yes, 0-No, 0-Abstain)**

Items pulled for discussion	
ITEM 8	BOG Discussion:
	Katie Bitz, Scottsdale moved to reject Item 8 both Option A and B and return to rules for discussion of what to do and how to do it that allows BOD to put rule in place prior to December 31, 2024. Scotti Nichols, Michigan seconded.
	Point of Clarification: Rules Committee Recommended rejecting 8A and 8B
	Angela Camero, Southern California spoke against rejection of option 8A
	Katie Takacs, Niagara spoke against option 8A
	Karen Rosolowski, Southern California spoke for the rejection of Option 8A
	Eloise Krigbaum, Pacific spoke for rejection of Option 8A
	Kiara Strapza, Austin spoke for rejection
	Anna Yesipova, Pacific spoke for rejection
	Arrie Hopkins, Pacific Northwest spoke against rejection
	Nora Jiang, Middle Atlantic spoke against rejection
	Cheryl Russell, Southern California spoke against rejection
	Alivia Oliver, Florida spoke for the rejection
	BOG vote on item 8 to amend the motion to accept 8A, in concept, and reject Option 8B, and return Option 8A to the Rules subcommittee for discussion on how to implement by a deadline that allows the Board of Directors to put the new rule in place not later than December 31, 2024. Motion Passed

	<p>BOD Discussion:</p> <p>Motion: Mariya Koroleva moved to amend the motion to accept 8A, in concept, and reject Option 8B, and return Option 8A to the Rules subcommittee for discussion on how to implement by a deadline that allows the Board of Directors to put the new rule in place not later than December 31, 2024.</p> <p>Seconded By: Emma Tchakmakjian</p> <p>Motion Passed (10-Yes, 1-No, 0-Abstain)</p>
ITEM 9	<p>BOG Discussion:</p> <p>Scotti Nichols, Michigan moved to accept Rules Committee rejection. Mary Kay Adams, Ohio seconded.</p> <p>Scotti Nichols, Michigan rescinds original motion. Mary Kay Adams, Ohio seconded.</p> <p>Nora Jiang, Middle Atlantic proposes amendment. Scotti Nichols, Michigan seconded.</p> <p>Scotti Nichols, Michigan moved to table the motion. Mary Kay Adams, Ohio seconded.</p> <p>BOD Discussion:</p> <p>Motion: Irene Hawes moved to reject the recommendation of the committee and send back to committee.</p> <p>Seconded By: Emma Tchakmakjian</p> <p>Motion Passed (11 -Yes, 0-No, 0-Abstain)</p>

- **Competition and Innovation Committee (Anna Yesipova, Chair)**

- i. Report is posted online.

- **Judges Committee (Linda Loehndorf, Chair)**

- i. Report is posted online.

11. VP Olympic International (Irene Hawes, VP)

- Report is posted online. Correction noted about Betty's term (2 more years)

- **National Team Program (Lara Teixeira, Chair)**

- i. Report is posted online.

- **International Relations (Betty Hazle, Chair)**

- i. Report is posted online.
- ii. Claire Barton moved to accept recommendation of IR Committee for Changes to Appendix F. Stacey Chapman seconded. **Motion Passed (10 -Yes, 0-No, 1-Abstain)**
- iii. Thanked committee and recognized their timeliness of responses

Denise thanked Irene for her service the last four years

12. Foundation Report (Sandra Mahoney, President)

- No report submitted.
 - \$350,000 gift/grant
 - Streamline grant process
 - 2025 grants posted and grant agreement coming
 - \$24,713 education grants
 - Capital campaign to increase investment by two by 2028
 - Peer to peer fundraising Splash Bash

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

- Denise Shively reviewed highlights of the work of the BOD:
 - Recognized Scotti Nichols for Governance Chair, Stacey Chapman as Audit Chair, Victoria Anderson as Ethics Chair, and Beth Borland as Nominating Chair
 - Recognized outgoing Board of Directors: Ashley Johnson, Irene Hawes, Emma Tchakmakjian, Bill May, and Natalia Vega
- Adam Andrasko reviewed the following highlights of our organization.

14. Old Business

- None

15. New Business

- **BOD Election of independent directors to second terms (Stacey Chapman, Kerhyl Gantt, Jennell Lynch, Joanne Pasternack)**
 - Denise Shively moved to re-elect the current 4 people as independent directors. Irene Hawes seconded. Motion passed. (11-Yes, 0-No, 0-Abstain)

- The South Zone brought forth a Proclamation to name Barbara McNamee a lifelong member of the South Zone, thanking her for her many years of service and countless contributions to the sport. Unanimous vote of approval by BOD.

16. Election Results

- Election results were announced.
 - VP OI: Cheryl Russell
 - Foundation Trustees for three-year terms: Rebecca Garcia, Chris Leahy, Nancy Rosengard, and Mary Lou Woods
 - Foundation Trustees to fill one-year term: Denise Shively
 - IR Committee Members: Gail Emery, Ginny Jasontek, Heidi Lurenz
 - NT Program Committee Members: Julie Jasontek, Marivi Escalona, Lorette Haynes

17. Adjournment

- Scotti Nichols, Michigan moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Gail Emery, Pacific.
Motion Passed

Time of Adjournment: 5:19 PM PDT.