

**Q1 USRowing Board of Directors  
Hilton @ San Francisco Financial District  
San Francisco, CA  
March 12-13, 2016**

**Saturday March 12 meeting called to order 7:30am**

**Attendees:** David Banks (Male Athlete), Gary Caldwell (NE & Treasurer), Jim Dietz (Male VP), Bill Donaho (MW), Scott Gault (Male AAC), Dan Herbert (Male At-large), Dan Newman (SE), Erin O'Connell (Female VP & Chair), Jamie Redman (Female AAC), Kris Thorsness (Female At-large), Glenn Merry (CEO). Sunday only: Al Acosta (SW).

**Absentees:** Sohier Hall (NW), unexcused. Joe Manion (MA), unexcused. Meghan O'Leary (Female Athlete), excused.

**Other attendees:** Nick Peterson (Internal Systems Committee, chair), Peter Cipollone (Internal Systems Committee).

**Casitas Fund Election:** Jamie Redman is nominated to serve as a Casitas Steward. Thorsness moved/Caldwell seconded, **Motion carries.**

**Executive session:** approval of December 5, 2015 executive session minutes. Thorsness moved /Caldwell seconded, **Motion carries.**

**2016 Officer Elections:**

- Gary Caldwell nominated to continue serving as USRowing Treasurer. Herbert moved/Thorsness seconded, **Motion carries (Caldwell abstained).**
- Erin O'Connell nominated to continue serving as USRowing President/Chair. Thorsness moved/Herbert seconded, **Motion carries (O'Connell abstained).**
- Kris Thorsness nominated to serve as USRowing Secretary. O'Connell moved, Caldwell seconded, **Motion carries (Thorsness abstained).**

**2016 Committee Assignments:**

**Finance:** Caldwell (chair), Banks, Fuller, Herbert, O'Connell

**Nominating:** Gault, Herbert, Newman, O'Leary, Thorsness

**Ethics:** Dietz (chair), Donoho, Gault, Redman, Thorsness

**Compensation:** O'Connell (chair), Hall, Newman, Manion, O'Leary

**Awards:** Dietz (chair), Caldwell, O'Connell

**Quarterly Report from CEO including the following topics:**

Membership numbers

Branding project update including projected timeline for website revamp

Potential new sponsors

**Internal Systems Committee presentation and discussion:**

At the direction of the Board, the ISC prepared and presented nine recommendations regarding changes to current Board of Directors structure and election process. Two of nine recommendations endorsed by the Board. Board members posed questions and requested further information regarding other seven recommendations. Agreement to continue discussions through next few months and June quarterly meeting.

Recommendations as follows (asterisk = earned endorsement by Board, otherwise tabled for further discussion):

1. **Reduce the Board size from 14 to nine.**
2. **Eliminate regions from the Board.** We recommend calling the formerly “regional” directors “elected directors.”
3. **Direct the Nominating Committee to develop, maintain, and regularly publish a slate of candidates.** \* Caldwell moved/Donaho seconded, **Motion carries.**
4. **Direct the Nominating Committee to publish desired competencies for new Board members in advance of each election cycle.** These competencies should clearly and directly flow from the Board’s published strategic goals. \* Caldwell moved/Donaho seconded, **Motion carries.**
5. **Allow for any USRowing member to qualify to run for an elected seat on the Board.** If the Nominating Committee maintains a slate of candidates, there also should be a process for any member of USRowing to get on the ballot. Such people should get endorsements from individual and organizational members to get on the ballot. The number of endorsements should be achievable but require some reasonable amount of effort and organization.
6. **Raise the minimum voting age to 18 in the calendar year of the election.** This new minimum would follow the same requirements as racing age.
7. **Change the “member by” date for candidates for the Board.**
8. **Make all elections nationwide.** Eligible voters, regardless of region, may vote in any USRowing director election, regardless of region contested or the year. Voting eligibility for statutory Athlete positions will remain as constituted.
9. **Share votes between member organizations and individual members.** This is in an effort to a) simplify elections, and b) make individual members feel more invested. The ISC recommends a 50/50 organization/individual weighting system.

**CEO report regarding Rio Olympics:** venue water quality, Zika virus and Senate briefings by all water sports.

**Strategic Planning Session #1 12:30-5:30pm**

**Adjournment 5:30pm**

**Sunday March 13 meeting called to order 8am**

**Strategic Planning Session #2 8am – Noon**

**Adjournment 12:12pm**

*2016 Upcoming meetings*

**Q2:** June 18 (Denver, CO)

**Q3:** September 17 (teleconference)

**Q4:** December 3 (Springfield, MA @ USRowing convention)

*Important Upcoming Q2 Events*

March 21 – 25: NSR #1 @ Chula Vista, CA

April 6 - 7: Non-qualified Paralympic Trials @ West Windsor, NJ

April 17 - 24: Olympic and Paralympic Team Trials @ Sarasota-Bradenton, FL

April 23: NRF Hall of Fame Ceremony @ Sarasota-Bradenton, FL

May 22 – 24: Final Olympic Qualification Regatta @ Lucerne, SUI

June 19 – 22: Olympic Trials II @ West Windsor, NJ

***We are USRowing, fostering community, cultivating excellence and developing Olympic Champions.***