



Minutes
Board of Governors/Board of Directors Meeting
2021 USAAS Convention
October 7-9, 2021
(TO BE APPROVED AT 2022 CONVENTION)

Friday October 8, 2021 – 5:00 PM

Board Members in Attendance: Stacey Chapman, Irene Hawes, Jennifer Jarboe, Ashley Johnson, Erin King (Alternate non-voting; Secretary), Morgan Fuller Kolsrud, Chris Leahy, Linda Loehndorf (non-voting, Past President), Jennell Lynch, Denise Shively, Emmanuella Tchakmakjian

Excused: Michele Kraus Bennett, Kerhyl Gantt, Lauren Gardner, Kimberly Kohut (non-voting; Secretary), Joanne Pasternack, Megan Robins (Athlete At-Large), Natalie Vega

1. Called to order

The meeting was called to order at 5:13 PM PDT by Denise Shively. A quorum present was also declared by Denise Shively for both BOG and BOD.

Denise called for a blanket motion to approve the agenda for the BOG and any action items noted on the agenda. Patricia Jones moved to approve the blanket motion and was seconded by Cheryl Cook. **Vote Passed.**

Denise called for a blanket motion to approve the agenda for the BOD and any action items noted on the agenda. Irene Hawes moved to approve the blanket motion and was seconded by Chris Leahy. **Vote Passed.**

Introduction of BOD.

2. Nominating Committee Report – Reported by Beth Borland

Board of Directors – VP Competitive Operations: Chris Leahy

- Call for nominations from the floor: None
- Shannon Korpela moved to close the nominations from the floor and was seconded by Tracy Lunsford. **Vote Passed.**
- Meet the candidate
- Jeanne Struck moved to elect by acclamation and was seconded by Sue Nesbitt. **Vote Passed.**

Board of Directors – VP Member Development: Jocilyn Saylor

- Call for nominations from the floor: None
- Patricia Jones moved to close the nominations from the floor and was seconded by Natalie Montgomery. **Vote Passed.**

- Meet the candidate
- Jeanne Struck moved to elect by acclamation and was seconded by Ashlyn Wong. **Vote Passed.**

Board of Directors – Treasurer: Jennifer Jarboe

- Call for nominations from the floor: None
- Christine McMaster Shah moved to close the nominations from the floor and was seconded by Shannon Korpela. **Vote Passed.**
- Meet the candidate
- Jeanne Struck moved to elect by acclamation and was seconded by Patricia Jones. **Vote Passed.**

Foundation Board of Trustees:

Full Three-Year Term – Four Positions – Candidates: Christine McMaster Shah, Beth Borland, Grassy Noriega, Mary Lou Woods

- Call for nominations from the floor: None
- Patricia Jones moved to close the nominations from the floor and was seconded by Sue Nesbitt. **Vote Passed.**
- Meet the candidates
- Jeanne Struck moved to elect by acclamation and was seconded by Tracy Lunsford. **Vote Passed.**

Partial Term of One-Year – One Position – Candidates: Michele Kraus Bennett

- Call for nominations from the floor: None
- Patricia Jones moved to close the nominations from the floor and was seconded by Nora Jiang. **Vote Passed.**
- Jeanne Struck moved to elect by acclamation and was seconded by Luz Portilla-Vollota. **Vote Passed.**

Partial Term of Two-Years – One Position – Candidates: None

- Call for nominations from the floor:
 - Nora Jiang nominated by Ryan Lewis, seconded by Ashlyn Wong
 - Katie Wieckowski nominated by Jennah Hafsi, seconded by Lauren Cook
 - Emma Kim nominated by Isabelle Shen, seconded by Lilly Ortiz
 - Jennah Hafsi nominated by Carly Kline, seconded by Julia Paradis
- Shannon Korpela moved to close the nominations from the floor and was seconded by Jocilyn Salyer.
- **Discussion:**
 - Will vote electronically on Saturday October 8th.
 - Will have further discussion on time of vote and discussion on the athletes.
 - Athletes not elected to the position can look into volunteer positions on the Board of Trustees.
- **Vote Passed.**

RECESS at 6:21 PM PT

RESUMED at 1:43 PM EDT on Saturday October 9, 2021.

Saturday October 9, 2021 – 1:43 PM

Board Members in Attendance: Stacey Chapman, Irene Hawes, Jennifer Jarboe, Ashley Johnson, Erin King (Alternate non-voting; Secretary), Morgan Fuller Kolsrud, Chris Leahy, Linda Loehndorf (non-voting, Past President), Jennell Lynch, Denise Shively, Emmanuella Tchakmakjian, Natalie Vega

Excused: Michele Kraus Bennett, Kerhyl Gantt, Lauren Gardner, Kimberly Kohut (non-voting; Secretary), Joanne Pasternack, Megan Robins (Athlete At-Large)

3. Introduction of individuals who are running for the Partial Term of Two-Years on the USAAS Foundation. After the four nominations yesterday, two individuals decided not to run. The remaining two individuals are Emma Kim and Nora Jiang. Voting will occur via an email.

4. Declaration of conflict of interest of those on the Board of Directors

- Denise Shively (President) - None
- Irene Hawes (OI VP) – Sister of FINA judge
- Ashley Johnson (DEI VP) – Coach for Coral Springs Aquacade
- Chris Leahy (CO VP)- Coach and Athlete for Cincinnati YMCA Synchronators
- Emmanuella Tchakmakjian (AEC Representative) - Athlete for Stanford
- Morgan Fuller Kolsrud (At Large Athlete Representative) – Coach for San Francisco Marionettes
- Jennifer Jarboe (Treasurer) - None
- Linda Loehndorf (non-voting, Past President) – Coach for Menomonee Falls Synchro
- Stacey Chapman (Independent Director) - None
- Jennell Lynch (Independent Director) – Mom of Charlottesville Swans Artistic Swimming Club athletes
- Joanne Pasternack (Independent Director)

5. Remembrances of our Pioneers/Moment of Silence

Denise Shively asked that we take a moment to remember those valued members we have lost in the past year.

- Rebecca “Becky” Roy
- Joe Alwan
- Joyce Lindeman
- Joy Cushman
- Dawn Bean

6. Approval of minutes

Approval of the 2020 Board of Governors minutes. Patricia Jones moved to approve the minutes for the BOG, seconded by Sue Nesbitt. **Vote Passed.**

Morgan Fuller Kolsrud moved to approve the minutes for the BOD, seconded by Irene Hawes. **Vote Passed.**

7. AEC Report

A. *Emma Tchakmakjian - Athletes’ Advisory Council Representative*

- Report online.

B. *Morgan Fuller Kolsrud – National Team Update*

- Presentation online

C. *Ryan Lewis, Zara Mecklai, Jade Michalowski – DEI Ambassador’s Report*

- Presentation online

8. Zone Chairs Reports (North, South, East, West)

North Zone presented by Julie Jasontek – the report is online.

- Held a successful virtual zone meet.
- Working to improve social media and now have a website.
- Working on growth in membership.
- Coach of the Year: Bethany Galla Young
- Athlete of the Year: Clair Gbur
- Contributor of the Year: Denise Shively

South Zone presented by Camile Albrecht for Carole Mitchell – the report is online.

- Highlight the individuals we lost, especially Joy Cushman, Billy Chase and Jane Hodgson of the south zone.
- New Collegiate Program at Texas Woman’s University.
- South Zone did not present awards since it did not have a championship due to Covid.

East Zone presented by Jennifer Hatt – the report is online.

- Hosted six virtual meets.
- Coach of the Year: Heather Johnson (Phila. Freedom Valley YMCA Synchro)
- Athlete of the Year: Brenna O’Bracta (Town of Tonawanda Aquettes)
- Contributor of the Year: Jennifer Hatt (Phila. Freedom Valley YMCA Synchro)

West Zone presented by Shannon Korpela – the report is online.

- National Team Training Grant for West Zone athletes; gave \$6,500 in 2021.
- New West Zone website.
- Coach of the Year: Tammy McGregor (Walnut Creek Aquanuts)
- Athlete of the Year: Heather Ding (Walnut Creek Aquanuts)
- Contributor of the Year: Karen Rosolowski

9. Old Business

None

10. New Business

Governance Committee

Denise explained that the information is primarily housekeeping; and the report is online. Morgan Fuller Kolsrud presented the four items which are up for votes.

- A. Denise asked for any items to be pulled: None.
- B. A motion to approve the report as presented by Sue Nesbitt and seconded by Jeanne Struck for the BOG. **Vote passed.**

- C. A *motion to approve* the report as presented by Irene Hawes and seconded by Morgan Fuller Kolsrud for the BOD. **Vote passed.**

Rules Committee

A. Rules – Presented by Patricia Jones

- i. A call was made for any items to be pulled. Items 5, 8 were pulled for discussion.
- ii. A motion was made to approve the balance of the report with the exception of the items pulled by Christine McMaster Shah and seconded by Beth Borland for the Board of Governors. **Vote Passed.**
- iii. A motion was made to approve the balance of the report with the exception of the items pulled by Irene Hawes and seconded by Chris Leahy for the Board of Directors. **Vote Passed.**

Items pulled for discussion	
Item 5	<p>BOG Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jennifer Jarboe speaking against the increase of grade 5 to level 6 to swim at US National Championships. Do we want to limit number of athletes participating at this level? • Ashlyn Wong (athlete) speaking against: Level 6 would discourage athletes from going to nationals. Most senior teams are not only seniors, they include junior athletes, so it feels it is unfair to the junior athletes. • Lilly Ortiz (athlete) speaking against: Many girls are still young and would be a hardship to reach the level 6. • Linda Loehndorf speaking for: We have already waited an extra year due to covid, but it would be instated for this coming year. • Shari Darst: clarified that we will only go to level 6 for senior nationals (US Nationals and senior trials). This is important to the development of the level of senior nationals and most of the skills are already included in the routines. • Denise Shively speaking for: This is part of our strategic initiative to make our athletes technically stronger. Someone can be a senior athlete at age 15 in the international scene. We have already pushed this back several times, we need to take this step to put our athletes in a better position • Irene Hawes speaking for: When you look at the level 6 elements, they are not that different from junior. • Rachel Cordo speaking against: Senior athletes who don't want to complete these levels is pushing older athletes into masters competitions because of the increase rigor. <p>BOD vote on <u>Item 5</u> to have athletes complete level 6 to go to US Nationals as presented from the rules committee. Vote Failed.</p> <p>BOD Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natalia Vega speaking for: This will make you work harder and the better competition we have at a senior meet will improve our country as a whole. • Emma Tchakmakjian on the fence: Although we should take into consideration what the athletes feel, it is a short-term problem, and the overall goal is to make the athletes better.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Morgan Fuller Kolsrud speaking against: The athletes have sent us a clear message and the effects of covid are still real. Maybe we can re-evaluate next year. • Linda Loehndorf speaking for: This has already been on hold for two years thereby giving coaches and team members enough time to plan ahead. Warning to be careful when voting and to vote for betterment of organization • Denise Shively speaking for: Every time we try and increase a level, we get resistance. Our goal is to move the organization forward. • Janell Lynch question: Do we have data points on how many people we have at level 5, and have we asked if the coaches and athletes have been surveyed to find out why they don't want to move forward? Answer, not sure. <p>BOG vote on <u>Item 5</u> to have athletes complete level 6 to go to US Nationals as presented from the rules committee. Vote Failed.</p> <p>Will stay at level 5 for US National Championship.</p>
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Items pulled for discussion	
Item 8	<p>Item 8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karen Rosolowski question: What is the reasoning behind this change? • Chris Leahy: To help the national office in planning for registration deadlines and encourage people to have qualification meets before the deadline. • Cheryl Cook speaking against: In a region which has a difficult time getting pools to host regionals, sometimes don't have control over when we can get the pool. • Chris Leahy: Clubs can always apply for a waiver and to inform the National office when Regionals is being hosted and that results will come shortly after. • Eugenia Gillan speaking for: This will help the national office and the VP of competitive operations. <p>BOG vote on <u>Item 8</u> to approve as presented. Vote Passed.</p> <p>BOD vote on <u>Item 8</u> to approve as presented. Vote Passed.</p>

11. USAS Foundation Report

Karen Rosolowski (President)

- Brief History of the Foundation
 - Founded in 1984 when the USOC gave 1.2 million dollars to all the Olympic NGBs after the Los Angeles Games.
 - The Foundation was set up to managed and protect the money for the future of the sport.
 - Since then, the Foundation has given almost 3 million in grants. We now have 3.7 million dollars in investments.
 - No other NGB has any money left from the original 1.2 million.
- The Foundation Today

- Committed to funding the growth of the sport and preparing today's artistic swimmers to become tomorrow's champions and leaders.
- To main functions: to raise funds and to award grants.
- We now have a strategic joint fundraising initiative between USAAS and the Foundation. The Foundation is the fundraising entity for both organizations. For every dollar donated, 40% goes to USAAS and 60% to the Foundation to continue to grow the corpus and give out grants.
- In addition to the general grants, two new special grant programs have been established
 - Kathryn (Kay) Mueller Grant
 - Carol Valles Legacy Society

The Foundation website will give you more information on how you can support USAASF and USAAS. www.synchrofoundation.org

12. Leadership Reports - Reports are online

- DEI – Ashley Johnson
- Competitive Operations – Chris Leahy
- Member Development – Michele Kraus
- Olympic International – Irene Hawes
- Treasurer – Jennifer Jarboe
- President – Denise Shively
- CEO – Adam Andrasko

13. Election Results

Voting results from the Partial Term of Two-Year for Foundation Trustees: Emma Kim

Welcome the new BOD leadership team and Foundation trustees

14. Closing Remarks

Thank you to outgoing leadership team members including Carrie Barton-Garten, Megan Robins, Michelle Kraus Bennett and Linda Loehndorf.

Thank the BOD for all the monthly zoom calls, getting work done and appreciate everyone's time and expertise.

15. Adjournment

Linda Loehndorf moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Norah Jiang. **Vote Passed.**

Time of Adjournment 4:26