

**USA Canoe/Kayak
Minutes of Assembly
Charlotte, NC
October 1, 2009**

1. Call to order

Pursuant to Section 5.6(a) of the Bylaws of USA Canoe/Kayak, the USA Canoe/Kayak Assembly convened at the U.S. National Whitewater Center at 3:05 p.m. with the following directors present:

1. David Backer, Chair
2. Ross Flemer
3. Marian Hanson
4. Joe Jacobi
5. Fred Mechini
6. Richard Perlmutter

Humpy Wheeler joined the Assembly at 4:30 p.m. during the open forum with comments and questions from members.

Peter Newton and Jenny Storms were absent.

The following staff members were present:

1. David Yarborough
2. William Irving
3. Stacey Hepp
4. Gerald Babao
5. Bennett Wetch
6. Silvan Poberaj, Head Coach, whitewater slalom
7. Cathy Hearn, Coach, whitewater slalom, canoe
8. Nathan Luce, Head Coach, flatwater sprint
9. Mac Hickox, Development Director, flatwater sprint

2. Opening of Assembly and comments by Board Chair

David Backer welcomed the athletes, volunteers and others in attendance and during his remarks emphasized the importance of volunteers to the ability of USA Canoe/Kayak to fulfill its mission as an organization.

3. Report on the activities and financial condition of USA Canoe/Kayak by Executive Director

David Yarborough provided an overview of USA Canoe/Kayak's financial condition and of the events that gave rise to the creation of new Bylaws and the installation of a new Board of Directors in 2009.

4. Recognition of extraordinary volunteers or leadership

David Yarborough recognized and presented awards to the following individuals for their selfless and exemplary service to USA Canoe/Kayak:

- Pam Boteler, in recognition of her forceful advocacy for gender equity in our sports, and for her success in having women's canoe events added to the ICF program
- Gina Sanchez, in recognition of her role as immediate past president of the Board during which service she lead the move to reform our governance; as a member of the sprint racing committee; as chair of the elections committee; as founder our collegiate sprint championships; as leader of our international relations program; and as a generous donor and volunteer
- Angela Lokken, in recognition of her service as an unpaid member of our slalom program staff, serving as team leader and manager; as a member of our previous Board; and as a member of our Whitewater Slalom Committee
- Scott Greifenberger, in recognition of his service as immediate past chair of the Sprint Racing Committee; as a member of our previous Board; and as a generous volunteer of many hours supporting our junior and senior teams

5. Open forum with comments and questions from members

The Board invited comments or questions for the people in attendance at the Assembly. The following people chose to speak:

Roger Nott: Emphasized the need to work together as an organization and become more organized

Rich Roszel: Encouraged the promotion of the sport at the club level, open communication with clubs and the promotion of the recreational aspect of paddling sports

Barbara Ranagan: Emphasized the need to increase the number of people participating in the sport and encouraged steps to dispel the perception of danger associated with whitewater slalom paddling

Dave Kurtz: Encouraged the promotion of promote easy, calm kayaking to attract beginners to the sport

Brian Fike: Encouraged introducing youth and beginners to the sport in non-moving water environments like swimming pools to assuage concerns of participants and parents; suggested sending athletes to international competitions even if they do not meet required criteria if they pay their own way; suggested providing free USA Canoe/Kayak memberships to volunteers and officials who are involved in the sport but who have no intention of competing

Connie Hagler: Inquired about the respective roles of the Board of Directors and the national office staff. Board Chair David Backer outlined the distinction in the roles of the Board and the national office staff, and encouraged members and volunteers to direct communications to the national office staff, but also encouraged any athlete, member or volunteer to contact any or all of the members of the Board of Directors with concerns or questions and noted that e-mail addresses and telephone numbers of all Board members are on the USA Canoe/Kayak website, and emphasized the intent of the Board to ensure that there is a free flow of information and open lines of communication from the national office to members.

Scott Shipley: Scott is the Executive Director of the Whitewater Slalom Foundation and described the purposes and goals of the Foundation

Vic Howie: Posed questions to the Board: (1) What does the Board want in the membership; in other words, what constitutes the ideal member? (2) Does the Board have a figure in mind for what it believes to be the ideal target size for membership? (3) What does the Board plan to do to increase the membership of non-Olympic disciplines? Various Board members responded to the questions to provide answers. Ross Flemer emphasized that it is more important for the Board to know what members want from USA Canoe/Kayak than for USA Canoe/Kayak to look for a certain type of member; Ross, as the non-Olympic sport Director, also addressed the various efforts made to increase the number of opportunities for people to complete in the non-Olympic disciplines, including outrigger, Dragon Boat, marathon canoe and wildwater. David Backer explained that the Board does not have an ideal membership number as a target; if USA Canoe/Kayak is going to fulfill its mission as an Olympic governing body and achieve Olympic success, it is of little benefit to increase membership numbers without also increasing the opportunity to identify individuals, from within the membership, who have the capability of performing successfully at an elite international level.

6. Adjournment

The Assembly adjourned at 5:10 p.m.