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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

USA Canoe/Kayak Elects New Directors

Charlotte, North Carolina - March 10, 2009 - As a part of a sweeping re-structuring of its governance structure, USA Canoe/Kayak has appointed four outstanding professionals to serve as independent directors on its Board of Directors. The announcement culminates months of work by a special governance review task force and an initial nominating committee that were appointed by the Board of USA Canoe/Kayak in 2008.

The membership of USA Canoe/Kayak has elected the following individuals to its Board of Directors:

- Ross Flemer, active in the Philadelphia Dragonboat Association and the Philadelphia Outrigger Canoe Club, as Non-Olympic Sport Director (4 year term)
- Fred Mechini, a member of the Rockaway (NY) Olympic Canoe and Kayak Club, as Sprint Sport Director (4 year term)
- Richard Perlmutter, a member of the Bethesda (MD) Center of Excellence, as Slalom Sport Director (2 year term)
- Peter Newton, a three-time Olympian living in Seattle, as Sprint Athlete Director (2 year term)
- Joe Jacobi, Olympic Gold Medal Winner in 1992, as Slalom Athlete Director (4 year term)

These five outstanding directors will join the four independent directors announced last week to make up an entirely new Board for USA Canoe/Kayak. The election of these new directors completes a rigorous process of reviewing the governance structure of the organization and applying recognized best practices for the governance of non-profits.

The organization also announced the election of Rebecca Giddens, 2002 World Champion and 2004 Olympic Silver medalist, as its representative to the Athletes'

Advisory Council of the US Olympic Committee. Brett Heyl, 2004 Olympian, was elected to serve as the alternate to Ms. Giddens during the current term through the 2012 Olympic Games in London.

“We are delighted to have conducted an election in which our members participated enthusiastically and elected a very strong line-up of directors to join the independent directors to create a powerful board to deal with the huge challenges and opportunities that lie ahead for us,” said USA Canoe/Kayak Executive Director, David Yarborough. “We owe a great deal of thanks to the many volunteers who served on the Task Force that reviewed our structure and proposed new by-laws. Also, to the 2008 Directors who launched the effort while selflessly agreeing to resign in favor of the new board and who ultimately approved the new By-laws proposed by the Task Force.”

“It is also important that we recognize the great work done by the Initial Nominating and Governance Committee in selecting an outstanding group of independent directors, conducting a successful election and meeting all the deadlines imposed under our new by-laws,” Yarborough added.

About USA Canoe/Kayak

USA Canoe/Kayak is a non-profit membership organization based in Charlotte, N.C., promoting canoe and kayak racing in the United States. A member of the United States Olympic Committee, USA Canoe/Kayak is the national governing body for the Olympic sports of Flatwater Sprint and Whitewater Slalom and an official U.S. federation of the International Canoe Federation. Other paddling sports sanctioned by USACK include Marathon, Freestyle (Rodeo), Wildwater, Polo, Canoe Sailing, Outrigger, and Dragon Boat.

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