

# Underwater Society of America

## 2023 Annual Membership Meeting

7 October 2023

*1pm-2:30pm CST*

1. Call to Order/Attendance (5 minutes) 1:02pm
  - a. Karen Thullner, Mike Gower, Bill Van Deman, Carol Rose, Kurt Allen, Ray Tucker, Anne Giesecke, Jenny Mohn, Philip Hickey, Kendall Banks, Cristian Parra, Diego Rodriguez
2. Approval of 2022 Minutes (5 minutes) Approved
3. Approval of 2023 Agenda Approved
4. Treasurer's Report (15 minutes)
  - a. Fiscal Year 2021 - Located on website.
    - i. USOA
    - ii. By Sport
  - b. Approval of 2024 Budget Located on website
5. Recap and approval of Sports Commission 2023 Meeting (15 minutes)
  - a. Finswimming: Diego Rodriguez
    - i. Coral Springs World Cup (15 countries)/ Finswimming Nationals (25 athletes)
    - ii. Egypt - World Champion Juniors and Masters (7 gold, 5 silver, 3 bronze)
    - iii. PanAmers Columbia
    - iv. CMAS World Championship in Serbia 2024
  - b. Spearfishing: Scott Turgeon
    - i. Nationals- Kona, Hawaii
      1. Largest ever
      2. New clubs and reactivated clubs
      3. Lots of invasive fish, no limits for size and quantity
        - a. Sent to Oahu for food, approx 2,000 lbs
      4. 2024 Nationals - Florida Keys July 17-18
    - ii. CMAS World's
      1. Women's Team 3rd Place out of 13
      2. Women Individual 4th Place
      3. Men's 7th out of 24
    - iii. Churchill Trophy repaired
      1. FSDA will house trophy
  - c. UWH: Jenny Mohn/Megann Largent, UWH Director
    - i. Committee made document for Financial Responsibilities
    - ii. UWH Referee training is online
    - iii. Several upcoming events, including women's event
    - iv. Potentially raise dues next year to \$20 for UWH.

- v. Putting Tournament regulations and guidelines together.
- vi. UWH Worlds
  - 1. 4 teams and 3 referees
  - 2. MM - Gold
- d. UWR: Cristian Parra
  - i. World's in Montreal - 2 teams (10 countries)
  - ii. See previous meeting notes

Recap and approval of Board of Governors' 2023 Meeting (15 minutes)

Spearfishing

PanAms 2026?

Worlds 2029?

UWH

Age Group 2026?

Zone Qualifiers 2025?

6. DEMA attendance going forward
  - a. Works well for spearfishing
  - b. Will Visual Contest help?
    - i. Display winners next year
  - c. USOA is the oldest recreational diving organization.
  - d. USOA Legislation component
  - e. Chance to be in front of recreational diving and sports.
7. Elections (15 minutes) - see voting tally below
  - a. Vice President: Bill Van Deman
  - b. Secretary: Mike Gower
  - c. National Sports Directors
    - i. UWH Jenny Mohn
    - ii. UWR Cristian Parra
8. By-law changes - Approved
  - a. [https://cdn1.sportngin.com/attachments/document/3c1e-3051514/Bylaws\\_-\\_10-2023.pdf?\\_gl=1\\*1mvzqn8\\*\\_ga\\*MTYzOTc5NjAyLjE2OTYzODExMDM.\\*\\_ga\\_PQ25JN9PJ8\\*MTY5NjY0NTc3NS40LjEuMTY5NjY0ODE4NC4wLjAuMA..#\\_ga=2.142668021.1393365130.1696645780-163979602.1696381103](https://cdn1.sportngin.com/attachments/document/3c1e-3051514/Bylaws_-_10-2023.pdf?_gl=1*1mvzqn8*_ga*MTYzOTc5NjAyLjE2OTYzODExMDM.*_ga_PQ25JN9PJ8*MTY5NjY0NTc3NS40LjEuMTY5NjY0ODE4NC4wLjAuMA..#_ga=2.142668021.1393365130.1696645780-163979602.1696381103)
9. Standardized Competitive Rule Changes - Approved
  - a. [https://cdn1.sportngin.com/attachments/document/f3bd-3051506/Standardized\\_Competitive\\_Rules\\_-\\_SCR\\_2023.pdf?\\_gl=1\\*i4jzb4\\*\\_ga\\*MTYzOTc5NjAyLjE2OTYzODExMDM.\\*\\_ga\\_PQ25JN9PJ8\\*MTY5NjY0NTc3NS40LjEuMTY5NjY0ODE4NC4wLjAuMA..#\\_ga=2.51509481.1393365130.1696645780-163979602.1696381103](https://cdn1.sportngin.com/attachments/document/f3bd-3051506/Standardized_Competitive_Rules_-_SCR_2023.pdf?_gl=1*i4jzb4*_ga*MTYzOTc5NjAyLjE2OTYzODExMDM.*_ga_PQ25JN9PJ8*MTY5NjY0NTc3NS40LjEuMTY5NjY0ODE4NC4wLjAuMA..#_ga=2.51509481.1393365130.1696645780-163979602.1696381103)
10. Addition of Visual as a Sport - Approved
  - a. Visual Rules
  - b. [https://cdn1.sportngin.com/attachments/document/6be4-3035288/USOA\\_Visual\\_Committee\\_Rules\\_2023.pdf?\\_gl=1\\*yrh4ku\\*\\_ga\\*MTYzOTc5NjAyLjE2OTYzODExMDM.\\*\\_ga\\_PQ25JN9PJ8\\*MTY5NjU1NDQzNC4zLjEuMTY5NjU1NjcwMi4wLjAuMA..#\\_ga=2.125168399.420408651.1696551830-163979602.1696381103](https://cdn1.sportngin.com/attachments/document/6be4-3035288/USOA_Visual_Committee_Rules_2023.pdf?_gl=1*yrh4ku*_ga*MTYzOTc5NjAyLjE2OTYzODExMDM.*_ga_PQ25JN9PJ8*MTY5NjU1NDQzNC4zLjEuMTY5NjU1NjcwMi4wLjAuMA..#_ga=2.125168399.420408651.1696551830-163979602.1696381103)
11. Approval of membership dues structure: Approved

12. Set 2024 Meeting (5 minutes): October 5, 2024 (tentative)
13. Adjournment: 2:11pm CST

**Election Results for 2023 USOA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEET**  
**105 voted**

**USOA Vice President: Bill VanDeman**

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| Candidate                     | Votes | Percentage |
|-------------------------------|-------|------------|
| Yes - I approve the candidate | 82    | 96.47%     |
| No - I reject the candidate   | 3     | 3.53%      |

Votes tallied: 85  
 Abstentions: 20

**USOA Secretary: Mike Gower**

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| Candidate                     | Votes | Percentage |
|-------------------------------|-------|------------|
| Yes - I approve the candidate | 75    | 93.75%     |
| No - I reject the candidate   | 5     | 6.25%      |

Votes tallied: 80  
 Abstentions: 25

**Approve USOA Bylaws changes as published**

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| Option                      | Votes | Percentage |
|-----------------------------|-------|------------|
| Yes - I approve the changes | 74    | 86.05%     |
| No - I reject the changes   | 12    | 13.95%     |

Votes tallied: 86  
 Abstentions: 19

**Approve the Updated Standardized Competitive Rules**

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| Option                    | Votes | Percentage |
|---------------------------|-------|------------|
| Yes - I approve the rules | 76    | 84.44%     |
| No - I reject the rules   | 14    | 15.56%     |

Votes tallied: 90  
 Abstentions: 15

**Approve Visual Rules**

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| Option                    | Votes | Percentage |
|---------------------------|-------|------------|
| Yes - I approve the Rules | 57    | 85.07%     |
| No - I reject the Rules   | 10    | 14.93%     |

Votes tallied: 67  
 Abstentions: 38

**Approve the dues structure for 2023**

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| Option                      | Votes | Percentage |
|-----------------------------|-------|------------|
| Yes - I approve the changes | 70    | 72.16%     |
| No - I reject the changes   | 27    | 27.84%     |

Votes tallied: 97  
 Abstentions: 8

# Underwater Society of America

## 2022 Annual Membership Meeting

1 October 2022  
*1pm-2:30pm CST*

1. Call to Order/Attendance (5 minutes)
  - a. Karen Thullner, Diana Madden, Mike Gower, Wendy Okafuji, Carol Rose, Ray Tucker, Timmy Burke, Sakura McLawson, Charlie Matthews, Diego Rodriguez, David Wheeler, Scott Turgeon, Kenny Martin
2. Approval of 2021 Minutes (5 minutes) MS Approved
3. Approval of 2022 Agenda MS Approved
4. Treasurer's Report (15 minutes)
  - a. Fiscal Year 2021
    - i. USOA
    - ii. By Sport
  - b. Approval of 2023 Budget MS Approved
5. Recap and approval of Sports Commission 2022 Meeting (15 minutes)
  - a. Finswimming: Mike Gower
    - i. US men & women competed in The World Games for the first time in 30+ years. US records were broken at the event.
    - ii. Two teams to Worlds in Columbia: 2 world master records and 8 continental records, the 2 world championships were in Senior and Master categories
    - iii. Sent teams to the World Cup in Coral Springs, FL with records broken!
    - iv. Planning for a Fin Nationals in 2023
  - b. Spearfishing: Scott Turgeon
    - i. Successful 2022 Nationals in Arizona/Utah in April.
    - ii. Next 2023 Nationals bid has been approved. It will be held in Kona in June (4 days long, 1 day of competition).
    - iii. PanAmericans are the first week of November. The men must be in the top 5 in order to qualify for the Worlds in 2023. The women's team will not be competing but a single US woman (Rosibel Molinda) will compete individually.
    - iv. Worlds in 2023: The top 4 men and top 4 woman will be competing on the teams this year for the first time in many years. Worlds will be in Laredo, Spain in September 2023.
    - v. Annual Spearfishing meeting held at Nationals. 4 new rules were passed:
      1. Master's division will be included for the next Nationals (age 55+)
      2. Optional 2 man team for the men's division. The host has discretion.
      3. Allow point per pound and point per fish or point per fish.
      4. At the annual meeting, the club representatives may nominate and select a new National Director.
    - vi. AOY for 2021 is Mikhail Kusnokov

- vii. New club formed: Welcome NY Blackfish! First new club that has been formed in recent memory. They may be interested in hosting Nationals in the future.
  - c. UWH: Megann Largent, UWH Director not present. KT gave recap
    - i. Nationals in June in Denver, CO
    - ii. UWH & USOA is working with Atlatis in the promotion of juniors programs, and timing & sound systems.
    - iii. PCCs will be October 8 in Lake Castaic, CA.
    - iv. A number of regional tournaments were held in 2022.
    - v. Nationals teams selections are in process for Worlds next year. Women & Men are having tryouts in Oregon in November.
  - d. UWR: Timmy Burke
    - i. For the first time Rugby has a traveling trophy.
    - ii. Nationals 3 weeks ago in CT. NJ Hammerheads won the Women's Division and Newark UWR won the Men's Division. Both will be going to the Berlin Champion's cup (a very coveted tournament held every year).
    - iii. Tournament in Coral Springs with Inter UWR that was well attended with 10 teams. Both the women & men national teams were there playing as a team.
    - iv. Bid is out for Nationals 2023, timeframe March-June. Once Nationals date is set the rest of the schedule can be determined.
    - v. New club Inter Florida attended Nationals so they now have voting rights.
    - vi. 2 new clubs added in the previous two years.
    - vii. Nationals teams are in the selection process.
- 6. Recap and approval of Board of Governors' 2022 Meeting (15 minutes)
  - a. Anne Giesecke to speak: not available due to hurricane. Her report is on the USOA site. Anne follows legislation related to the marine environment for USOA.
  - b. Approval of the Standardized Competitive Rule updates with a few minor cosmetic and wording changes.
  - c. Discussed USOA providing uniforms for the nationals teams for all sports to provide a more cohesive look to the US teams. Please contact your sports director for more information.
  - d. Looking for a person to fill in the Artificial Reefs Director position.
  - e. Diego has helped tremendously with being a CMAS liaison and translation
  - f. History update.
  - g. Insurance update.
  - h. 705 members in 2022 to date. Sport Directors have been very diligent about making sure athletes are USOA members.
  - i. NOGI award update.
  - j. Ocean Pals poster contest update
  - k. RVP updates. Scott reported for Bill about FL State Championships scheduled for next weekend but cancelled due to hurricane. Phil requested that the catch records be put on the website; Carol will obtain those. Carol's report for the NW is on the website. SW is working on Freshwater Worlds Spear as a CMAS event - meeting will be held in the next week or two.

7. DEMA attendance going forward
  - a. USOA is attending in 2022.
  - b. Currently the plan was to attend every other year.
  - c. We lose our booth space priority if we skip a year.
  - d. Purpose of going to DEMA is increasing our exposure to USOA, our sports programs, etc. Question is whether we get a benefit for attending these types of trade shows for the money spent.
  - e. Proposal to add a maximum of \$1200 to the budget for 2023 for DEMA. All beyond the EC, Joe & Charlie pay for their own badges. Everyone who attends needs to be a USOA member. MS Approved unanimously. Wendy will amend the budget for 2023.
8. Elections (15 minutes) - see voting tally below
  - a. President: Karen Thullner
  - b. Treasurer: Wendy Okafuji
  - c. National Sports Directors
    - i. Finswimming: Diego Rodriguez
    - ii. Spearfishing: Scott Turgeon
9. By-law changes
  - a. <https://www.underwater-society.org/page/show/7431617-annual-reports-2022>
10. Standardized Competitive Rule Changes
  - a. <https://www.underwater-society.org/page/show/7431617-annual-reports-2022>
11. Approval of membership dues structure: Approved
12. Set 2023 Meeting (5 minutes): October 7, 2023 (tentative)
13. Adjournment: MS Adjourned