

# Underwater Society of America

## 2024 Annual Membership Meeting Minutes

5 October 2024

*1pm-2:30pm CST*

1. Call to Order/Attendance (5 minutes): Karen Thullner, Don Mathews, Carol Rose, Keith Mille, Andrew Creedon, Shawn Joy, Wendy Okafuji, Anne Giesecke, Jia Richardson, Bill Van Deman
2. Approval of 2023 Minutes (5 minutes): MSA
3. Approval of 2024 Agenda: MSA
4. Treasurer's Report (15 minutes)
  - a. Fiscal Year 2023 - Located on website.
    - i. USOA
    - ii. By Sport
  - b. Approval of 2025 Budget Located on website
  - c. Insurance is in good shape. We have 40+ clubs/venues in the program for Fin, UWH, UWR. Spear is separate event insurance.
5. Recap and approval of Sports Commission 2023 Meeting (15 minutes)
  - a. Finswimming: Diego Rodriguez
  - b. Spearfishing: Scott Turgeon
  - c. UWH: Beven McWilliams, acting UWH Director
  - d. UWR: Shawn Joy for Timmy Burke
  - e. Recap:
    - i. Diego & Shawn were in attendance
    - ii. No new rules for any of the sports
    - iii. Discussed some fundraising across the board for USOA rather than for individual events, along with more social media outreach. Melody Engle is organizing our social media to give a consistent brand/message. Need a representative from each sport to manage social media.
    - iv. Discussed situation with Spearfishing PanAm. US will most likely not send a team. US can petition CMAS to be able to participate in Worlds (Brazil). Carol will work with Scott to draft a letter to CMAS.
6. Recap and approval of Board of Governors' 2024 Meeting (15 minutes)
  - a. Includes EC + representatives from clubs/councils.
  - b. Discussed drafting a "welcome letter" from USOA to new clubs explaining what USOA does and how we can help new clubs.
  - c. Discussed marine sanctuaries. Anne will draft a memo to send to the membership with information and ways the members can help.
7. Elections (15 minutes) - see voting tally below
  - a. President: Andrew Creedon

- b. Treasurer: Will follow up with Melody Engle to see if she is willing to take on the position
    - c. National Sports Directors
      - i. Finswimming: Diego Rodrigues
      - ii. Spearfishing: Scott Turgeon
- 8. By-law changes - None
- 9. Standardized Competitive Rule Changes - None
- 10. Approval of membership dues structure - No change
  - a. \$30 USOA plus \$20 UWH, \$15 UWR, \$15 Fin Swimming, \$15 Visual
- 11. Set 2025 Meeting (5 minutes): October 4, 2025 (tentative)
- 12. Open floor
  - a. Don Mathews: Transfer the KDP account to Don since it reverted to dual authentication. Also wanted to confirm that the sound system process transfers to the new treasurer.
  - b. Shawn Joy: Is the spear under a different insurance plan? Event insurance for Nationals only, the land portion only. Participants must get their own in-water coverage. Individual clubs can get their own event insurance - check with Wendy for the link.
- 13. Transition
  - a. KT & Wendy will work with Andrew & Melody (if she accepts) to transition accounts, responsibilities, etc. Currently USOA EC monthly meetings are scheduled for the 1st Thursday of each month but that can be changed.
- 14. Adjournment: 1:30 pm CST

# Underwater Society of America

## 2023 Annual Membership Meeting Minutes

7 October 2023

1pm-2:30pm CST

15. 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
16. Approval of 2022 Minutes (5 minutes) Approved
17. Approval of 2023 Agenda Approved
18. 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
19. 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. PanAmericans 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?

20. 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.

21. 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

22. 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)

23. 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)

24. 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\\*MTY5NjY0NTc3NS40LjEuMTY5NjY0ODE4NC4wLjAuMA..#\\_ga=2.142668021.1393365130.1696645780-163979602.1696381103](https://cdn1.sportngin.com/attachments/document/6be4-3035288/USOA_Visual_Committee_Rules_2023.pdf?_gl=1*yrh4ku*_ga*MTYzOTc5NjAyLjE2OTYzODExMDM.*_ga_PQ25JN9PJ8*MTY5NjY0NTc3NS40LjEuMTY5NjY0ODE4NC4wLjAuMA..#_ga=2.142668021.1393365130.1696645780-163979602.1696381103)

MTY5NjU1NjcwMi4wLjAuMA..#\_ga=2.125168399.420408651.1696551830-163979602.1696381103

25. Approval of membership dues structure: Approved
26. Set 2024 Meeting (5 minutes): October 5, 2024 (tentative)
27. Adjournment: 2:11pm CST

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

**USOA Vice President: Bill VanDeman**  
**\*\*\*\*\***

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**  
**\*\*\*\*\***

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**  
**\*\*\*\*\***

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**  
**\*\*\*\*\***

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**  
**\*\*\*\*\***

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**  
**\*\*\*\*\***

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

Votes tallied: 97  
 Abstentions: 8