

Minutes
MISSA Annual District Meeting
2023-2024 School Year
May 21, 2024

1. **Call to Order.** District Director Ted Anderson called the annual meeting to order at 8:04 p.m., following an open District Committee meeting which started at 7 p.m. This meeting is held in accordance with the MISSA District Committee Standing Rules 5.3, which states that “The MISSA Annual District Meeting shall be held during the school year, and the time and place shall be selected by the MISSA District Director and published on the MISSA website. The MISSA District Director shall be responsible for the conduct of the meeting.

2. **Roll Call.** Per MISSA District Committee Standing Rule 5.5, “Each Member School present at the Annual District Committee shall have one vote. The person listed as the Primary Administrator in the hssailing.org website as of seven days before the meeting shall cast the vote for the Member School, unless they have authorized a proxy to vote for the member school...” The rule further states “Each individual person may represent only one school.” Based on these rules, the following Member Schools were present as voting members for the meeting:

East Lansing HS - Susanna Tellschow	Pewaukee HS - Stephen Kiss
Glenbrook South High School - Katie Tinder	New Albany HS - Jamie Jones
Grosse Pointe South High School - Christina Noland	Oconomowoc HS - Emlie Veinot
Latin School - Genie Tan	Sheboygan North High School - Whitney Kent
Lake Forest High School - Will Howard	University of Chicago Lab School - Kurt Thomsen
Minnetonka High School - Samuel Bartel	West Bloomfield - Eric Ellison
	Worthington Kilbourne - Jeff Peck

In addition, the following individuals participated in the meeting and identified themselves as representatives from their schools, but are not the listed primary administrator for their team and did not provide a proxy.

- Adam Falkowski - Bath HS
- Chris Kiergan - St. Ignatius (IL)
- Chris Ryba - St. Ignatius (IL)
- Hector Guzman - New Trier
- Sean Palizza - Culver
- Sarah Renz - Jones
- Dave Alvarado - Westerville North

The following additional District Committee members were present, but did not represent specific Member Schools: Ted Anderson, Sharon Murphy Garber, Lynn Frikker.

- District Director's Report.** Per MISSA District Committee Standing Rule 5.4, "At the Annual District Meeting the District Director shall make a report to the District High Schools on the business of MISSA and the plans for the upcoming year. Ted Anderson provided the following report:

"This has been a very good year. We had 115 active teams, there were 44 regattas hosted in the fall and 38 in the spring.

On behalf of MISSA and ISSA, we are very grateful to all the clubs and programs who stepped up and hosted events. That is the core of everything we do and we depend on hosts being willing to host, RC and judges being willing to work our events, and volunteers and professional staff giving up lots of weekends. Thank you all for making it happen.

We had a lot of good, clean, close competition all year. While one team had a pretty firm hold on the top ranking, I think it is worth pointing out that our top 11 teams come from 6 different states, so we have a lot of good competition going on throughout the district.

17 different MISSA teams represented us at National Championships and National Invitationals - that is a record and it is great that we have been able to make that happen.

We've also taken some important steps to promote more opportunities for our girls. For the first time, we had a separate national championship for girls in the singlehanded Cressy National Championship and we had two girls in the top half of the fleet. We also required at least one girl on every keelboat team, and Lake Forest finished second at keelboat nationals. We also had 5 teams in the top 13 at the ISSA girls national invitational. We have always had strong girl sailors here in MISSA, as evidenced by two of our alumnae, Maggie Shea and Steph Roble returning to the Olympics this summer!

Scheduling-wise I think it is a mixed bag. I continue to be frustrated, as I know many of you do, with our inability to get a full schedule published earlier and get all the NORs posted at least a month ahead of time. As you heard earlier this evening, we are still looking for our Leagues to offer up host venues for some of our fall Tier 2s, and most of our Spring Tier 1s and Tier 2s. We all need to be committed to being able to get venues nailed down sooner.

A few positives on scheduling over the last couple years. We have been successful pushing to have Mallory and Phebe King after Memorial Day, which extends our spring season and takes some pressure trying to schedule pre-qualifiers before ice-out in some locations. This year we were able to hold Great Lakes Champs early enough to use it as the qualifier for ACCs, and make sure we send our best teams to that event. I have received a lot of positive feedback on that change and we will work to try to continue scheduling along those lines.

Communication is one area where I know we can improve. When we moved to this structure, my hope was that we would increase involvement and communication by having a committee for each League. Our rules state that each League has a League Committee to coordinate scheduling and operations within the league, chaired by the League Rep. I really think we need to push to make this happen more consistently in every area. In some Leagues it has been more formal and structural, while in others it is more informal.

I had made a conscious decision to back off a bit in communicating from the District (MISSA) because we want teams to see the League as the primary interface and the main point of communication. I think that was a mistake - it really needs to be both, not one or the other.

So going forward I am going to re-establish a biweekly email blast to the whole mailing list, and also insist on a more formal league committee within each area, with call dates and links published ahead of time and minutes published on the League website, just like we do at the district level for MISSA. To do this, the League Reps will need help so the immediate focus will be finding people willing to step up and help make it happen. Especially with adding a fourth league, it will be important to get this right, and I am hoping everyone will work together to improve things.

The goal is for the Leagues to become stronger and encourage good local communication, with MISSA providing coordination and oversight at the district level, as well as representing our interest on the national ISSA Board. Sharon Murphy Garber, Lynn Frikker, and myself all serve on the ISSA Board of Directors as well.

On that note, I wanted to discuss a couple of issues that have taken up some discussion at the ISSA level. The first is an ongoing discussion about how berths are allocated for nationals. Historically, this has been just based on the number of dues-paying teams in each district. As MISSA grew significantly, we took berths away from other districts. (We tripled in size over six years and at the time COVID hit us, were the largest district in the country by over 30 teams.) There has been discussion about changing the way berths were allocated, and this year some of the other districts pushed for a change where Mallory berths would be based on the number of teams with 4 or more 9th-12th graders and Baker berths were based on teams with 6 or more 9th-12th graders. We opposed those changes, but they passed a vote. As it turns out, MISSA has 18.4% of the registered teams, but if you look at 4-person teams, we actually have 19% and for 6-person teams, we have 18.7%. So it won't change our allocations, but does cause some other reallocations. This is still an active issue with no final resolution.

Another national issue is the inclusion of middle school/junior high aged sailors in high school events. Many on the ISSA board wanted to do that strictly and with immediate effect. While I do think high school sailing should be for high school students, I know that

some of our programs depend on younger students to keep their programs viable and that there are not a lot of alternatives in most places in the midwest for sailors that age, so as a board we studied the issue, listened to a lot of viewpoints, and at the end of the day, the decision was to eliminate 7th graders from all ISSA sanctioned regattas starting next year. More guidance will be coming out, but basically, a regatta that mentions ISSA or MISSA rules in the NOR can only include students in grades 8-12, and of course only in grades 9-12 if it is a qualifier or counts toward rankings.

I wanted to take this opportunity to express my personal gratitude to all the members of the MISSA District Committee - it can be a thankless job, but I thank you for your good work. I'd like to especially thank Sharon and Jeff for their many years of service. One of the goals for this coming year is to make sure that all institutional knowledge is shared so we can afford to let people step down when they are ready. Right now, I don't feel like we can afford to let go of Sharon and Jeff, but we are hoping to get some new energy and voices that step up and can take on their responsibilities over the next year."

4. **Treasurer's Report.** Jeff was unable to attend this meeting, and sent a brief report by email, which Ted read.
 - "MISSA Cash Balances as of 5/21/2024: \$31,263.36
 - Income Statement will be available after June 30, 2024, MISSA's Fiscal Year End. As of today, we have several outstanding invoices pending receipt and payment. YTD gross revenues slightly exceed YTD expenses.
 - PayPal has been an effective means of collecting member dues. We have 114 active MISSA schools.
 - Thanks to all for prompt payment.

5. League Reports

Central League - Will Howard reported that they are working on scheduling for next year and commented that the Central coaches are working very well together. He noted that the Central League had very strong performance this year and earned all the berths for Mallory, Baker, Cressy, and Keelboat nationals. He thanked the MISSA District Committee and all the regatta hosts for their support.

West League - Samuel Bartel noted that the West was working on scheduling more new events, such as the Wisconsin State Championship, and that the warmer spring this year helped with getting in pre-qualifiers and having more events.

East League - no report

6. **Nominating Committee Report and Slate.** MISSA District Committee Standing Rule 4.2 states "A nominating committee appointed by the MISSA Corporate President will make nominations for the District Committee Members and District Director who will be elected by a simple majority vote of the membership present at the Annual District

Meeting. This nominating committee will be comprised of one to three members who may be from the current board of directors, past officers/directors, or parents with extensive experience in high school sailing.”

Ted Anderson reported that he had asked former MISSA President Frank Ustach and Jessica Haverstock from USSailing to serve on the nominating committee, and that every on the MISSA email mist had been sent a link to have the opportunity to provide information to the nominating committee or to request to be contacted by the nominating committee.

The nominating committee provided the following slate:

District Director: Ted Anderson

District Committee Members:

- Sharon Garber
- Jeff Hudson
- Sam Bartel
- Will Howard
- Lynn Frikker
- Katie Tinder
- Whitney Kent

In addition, the nominating committee provided the following report:

1. *MISSA By-Laws - <https://missa.hssailing.org/about/missa-by-laws> - you can see the rules for nominating, electing, committee responsibilities, league changes, etc.*
2. *Once the slate is approved then the above District Committee will vote on and approve League Directors, Treasurer, Secretary, and at large spots within the slate.*
3. *It is the intention of Jeff Hudson and Sharon Garber, longtime committee members and volunteers to MISSA, to step down from their current committee roles as Secretary and Treasurer sometime during the '24/'25 season. Once the District Committee feels that committed and knowledgeable replacements are ready to step in and fulfill those roles it will be announced.*
4. *It is the intention of the MISSA District committee to add a 4th League to MISSA in OH once the committee is voted in.*
5. *Recommendations from Frank/Jess' conversations with many people throughout the district before putting the slate forward:*

- a. *The MISSA District Committee should host a standing monthly call with the calendar set for the academic school year. MISSA should also host in person meetings in the fall at Great Lakes/Shepherd and spring at Mallory. With such a geographically large district the annual meeting should be hosted online, where the District Committee slate will be voted on annually for the 1 year term limits per the MISSA by-laws.*
- b. *League Directors should host a monthly call that is set and published to the entire league before the season starts for their entire districts (coaches & involved parents). This is where questions, concerns, scheduling, league hosting responsibilities, NORs, etc. should be addressed or discussed and then brought to the monthly District Committee call for reference during League Directors updates.*
 - i. *Once league directors are voted in, they should create a league committee (3 members – League Director and 2 Asst Directors) to help manage calls, meeting minutes and conversations within the league at events. These people should be looked at for future MISSA district slates or district director positions after they have time to become familiar with by-laws and ISSA/MISSA processes.*

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Ustach (Frank.Ustach@gmail.com)

Jessica Haverstock (jhaverstock@gmail.com)

7. Election

Eric Ellison made a motion to elect the slate as presented by the nominating committee and there were several seconds. A ballot was conducted through zoom chat and the slate was adopted unanimously.

8. Appointment

Per MISSA District Committee Standing Rule 4.4, “In addition to the elected District Committee Members, the MISSA President may appoint additional individuals to the MISSA District Committee.” Ted Anderson appointed Jamie Jones to the District Committee.

9. **Adjournment.** By unanimous consent, meeting was adjourned at 8:34 p.m. Ted Anderson invited all attendees to stay on the call after the conclusion of the official meeting to share and discuss any concerns, questions, or ideas.