

# Underwater Society of America

## 2023 Annual Membership Meeting

7 October 2023  
1pm-2:30pm CST

1. Call to Order/Attendance (5 minutes)
  - a.
2. Approval of 2022 Minutes (5 minutes)
3. Approval of 2023 Agenda
4. Treasurer's Report (15 minutes)
  - a. Fiscal Year 2021
    - i. USOA
    - ii. By Sport
  - b. Approval of 2024 Budget
5. Recap and approval of Sports Commission 2023 Meeting (15 minutes)
  - a. Finswimming: Diego Rodriguez
  - b. Spearfishing: Scott Turgeon
  - c. UWH: Megann Largent, UWH Director
  - d. UWR: Cristian Parra
6. Recap and approval of Board of Governors' 2023 Meeting (15 minutes)
7. DEMA attendance going forward
8. Elections (15 minutes) - see voting tally below
  - a. Vice President:
  - b. Secretary:
  - c. National Sports Directors
    - i. UWH
    - ii. UWR
9. By-law changes
  - 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)
10. Standardized Competitive Rule Changes
  - a. [https://cdn1.sportngin.com/attachments/document/f3bd-3051506/Standardized\\_Compertitive\\_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_Compertitive_Rules_-_SCR_2023.pdf?_gl=1*i4jzb4*_ga*MTYzOTc5NjAyLjE2OTYzODExMDM.*_ga_PQ25JN9PJ8*MTY5NjY0NTc3NS40LjEuMTY5NjY0ODE4NC4wLjAuMA..#_ga=2.51509481.1393365130.1696645780-163979602.1696381103)
11. Addition of Visual as a Sport
  - 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)

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uMA..#\_ga=2.125168399.420408651.1696551830-163979602.1696381103

12. Approval of membership dues structure:
13. Set 2024 Meeting (5 minutes): October 5, 2024 (tentative)
14. Adjournment:

**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