

Call to Order

The Governing Board Meeting was called to order by President John Faus at 9:14 AM

Roll Call; In Attendance: Thomas Allen, William Brown, Bill Clausen, Jan Davis, Steve Davis, Ian Edwards, Bill Faude, John Faus, Matthew Fisher, Josh Goldman, Terry Hamilton, Brian Hayes, Valerie Holly-Tardif, Joan/Gary Hurban, George Koch, Victor Lobos, Bill Mauk, Debbie Probst, Rob Ruhlman, Ryan Ruhlman, Mark Schneider, Matthew Schon, David Starck

Reading of the Minutes from the last meeting

Bill Clausen made a motion to dispense with reading of the minutes. It was seconded by Rob Ruhlman, and unanimously approved.

Reports of Officers

President's Report – John Faus

President Faus started off by introducing our first time Governing Board Members. Will Brown and Matthew Schon are both co-chairs of the Boat Grant Program and Joan & Gary Hurban are heading up the Lightning Lab's. Thank you all for attending. He continued by thanking Southern Circuit Chair Terry Hamilton for another terrific Southern Circuit. We saw great sailing and social events in Miami and we are looking forward to our time in St Pete. President Faus reminded the group that there is a lot on the agenda and to be mindful of the time suggestions listed on the meeting agenda.

Treasurers Report – Debbie Probst

Treasurer Probst handed out the 2013 YE and 2014 Budget. She reported that we were up over 2012 for our biggest market (North America), but didn't quite reach our target. Income is reported at \$94,867.88 and Expenses were \$102,089.30 leaving a deficit of \$7,221.42. We incurred some higher expenses in postage and credit cards fees—items which will be corrected in the future by passing the fees along to the user. Improvements and upgrades to the website were higher than anticipated, yet we feel members will benefit from the changes.

Overall we continue to closely monitor our finances to determine whether a dues increase is needed. Utilizing member resources (marketing/technology/editing/etc.) pro bono continues to be our biggest asset. Encouraging memberships and Fleet/Regatta growth will boost our income and postpone a dues increase. However, increased costs in technology keep pushing our limits.

Improvement of membership offerings (12 month membership versus calendar year) and continued monitoring/pressure on Districts/Fleets are anticipated to result in more memberships. More focus also on non-North American districts to require membership for Area Championships. Advertising revenue was down and we realize this is lost revenue. An initiative is in place to ramp up and assess our advertising options through our Marketing/Promotion VPs.

Chief Measurers Report – Bill Clausen – submitted written report:

I would like to thank everyone who helped with measurement last year. The folks in Italy at the Worlds and the crew from Cedar Point ran excellent and efficient Measurement of sails and boats.

I was fortunate to have attended an ISAF International Measurers seminar in December. One of the things I

learned was that we, The Lightning Class, is doing a good job of measurement at our major regattas.

I will be going to the Midwest Districts in June to help set up the measurement process and practice with measurement team at Sheboygan Yacht Club preparing for an efficient measuring process at what we hope will be the largest North Americans in many years. We will be doing a couple of things different in the measuring process at the North Americans this year to make the measuring easier and quicker for the sailors attending!

Thanks to all of you for your cooperation in measuring boats and sails!

In addition, the Chief Measurer reported that the Allen Boat Company molds have been re-certified and the Nickels molds are scheduled to be done in June.

Secretaries Report – Victor Lobos

Secretary Lobos reported that memberships for 2013 ended slightly below budget. We are encouraged that numbers for 2014 can be higher with the new 12 month memberships verses the calendar year memberships. This should certainly help with memberships in South America when the sailing season begins in October/November in the SA Countries. We still need every ones support in encouraging all local fleet members to renew their ILCA Class dues.

Vice Presidents and Committee Reports

Nominating Committee

The nominating committee reported that they were planning for the next slate and asked for any recommendations. Please reach out to the committee (Rob Ruhlman, Brian Hayes or Steve Davis) if you have any recommendations.

International Development

Ian Edwards reported on the Greek revitalization program which has been an amazing success. The 4 boats are in country and being actively sailed. Ian thanked Mark Schneider and all the people who helped acquire/renew and ship the boats. No way any of this could have succeeded without them. The Greeks are discussing the possibility of importing another container of boats. At a meeting just completed in Miami, George Andreadis (VP/Greece) has pledged his support for the effort along with the Yacht Club of Greece. Greece will be hosting the European Championships this June. Immediately before the event there will be a Lightning Lab held in Greece with coaching done by Kimmo Aromaa. Ian went on to report that he will be attending the Europeans along with ILCA Executive Secretary Jeffers. In addition Ian indicated that Lightning activity in Nigeria is very strong and that the Australian Fleet is 'on the rise'.

Boat Grant

Will Brown reported that the committee awarded two grants this year. Whitney Kent is from Milwaukee, WI and Ben Spector is from Charleston, SC. The winners were chosen because of their outstanding applications and their aggressive regatta scheduling plans. The boat grant committee believes that going forward, the best prospects for boat grant winners are people in the correct age group who have had previous experience with the Lightning. Our members were asked to encourage crewmembers or other sailors in the fleet to apply. The Class has been very successful in turning boat grant winners into ongoing fleet members. This is because we do a great job of mentoring and welcoming the teams. The biggest challenge for the program is: WE NEED APPLICANTS. This next year the committee will be out more aggressively promoting the program. A great way is to make presentations at College Sailing Team meetings. Bill Faude did a presentation to 200 students from

the Midwest at last year's Strictly Sail show. Most of the audience had no idea that the boat grant program existed. This will be improved.

Youth Worlds

David Starck reported that Regatta Chair Ian Jones is doing a great job preparing for the event at the Buffalo Canoe Club that will take place in June. All of the boats will be provided and are all 15000+ series. We are looking at 8-10 countries being represented. Rob Ruhlman is the PRO.

VP NAs – Josh Goldman recapped the NAs in Cedar Point. 68 boats competed. Reports from competitors were uniformly very positive. There is a feeling that the later August dates might have kept some members from attending because of school and fall sports beginning for some families. We sent out a short survey to past participants and got some really good feedback. For this reason, Josh announced that the Class is exploring a 4-day format for 2015 when both the World Championships and the Pan American Games will be in June/July. The host will be Southern Yacht Club in New Orleans and the thinking is that the regatta will take place in October. Coordinating work will be done with the major Fall regattas in Annapolis, Charleston and Nashville so that their attendance is not impacted. The 2015 WMJs will be held in Tawas Bay, MI during the traditional August (pre-school) time slot. Josh commented that Faude and Wake seemed to have the 2014 North Americans in good order going forward. He mentioned that the regatta blog was the best place to get up to date information on the regatta and encouraged everyone planning to attend to book rooms immediately. Call for 2016 host bids will be posted around Sept 1st.

VP Lightning Labs- Joan and Gary Hurban reported that there is a lot of energy behind Lightning Labs for 2014. As of today the schedule for the year is as follows:

ACCs in New Bedford will have a lab hosted by David Starck

Nyack, NY will have a lab on May 31-June 1 hosted by Justin Coplan

Annapolis, MD (SSA) will host a lab on May 9 before the No Gas regatta hosted by Allen Terhune.

There will be a lab in Athens, Greece at the end of April coached by Kimmo Aromaa.

San Diego, CA (Mission Bay YC) would like to host a lab and needs a coach.

Delta Lake has requested a lab and one will be attempted.

Pam and Clay Murphy have requested a lab at their home club. That lab will need a coach volunteer.

Keith Taboada added that Bay Head is in preliminary organizational mode to host a lab.

If your Fleet or District would like to host a lab, please contact the Class Office or Joan and Gary directly.

Southern Circuit

Terry Hamilton reported that the Southern Circuit so far has been a major success. 53 boats sailed in Miami and 57 are so far signed up for St. Pete and it looks like more than 60 will be on the line. This in a year when we are told that other class' attendance is down sharply. It is good to see that the attendance is increased vs. last year and even better that it appears to be mapping with what was indicated by the survey that was done in 2012 which indicated that a 2-venue circuit would increase participation. Terry reported that the mentor program has also been very well received. There are 12 coaches participating and 19 boats in the program. Several debriefs were held in Miami as well as a weather/strategy briefing each morning. It appears that some non-mentor participants are 'crashing' the debriefs...which is interesting!

VP Special Projects - James Taylor – reported on the US Pan Am Trials. We put the regatta out for bid according to initial requirements suggested by US Sailing. We received 3 strong bids for the Event: Rush Creek Yacht club in Heath, TX, Southern Yacht Club, New Orleans, LA and Davis Island Yacht Club, Tampa, FL. After reviewing the bids and grading them, the Rush Creek Proposal was sent to US Sailing as the class recommendation for the Pan Am Trials.

This resulted in a lot of discussion between US Sailing and the ILCA Executive Committee. After all of these discussions and explaining why certain events would not work, we ended up with the Winter Championships in St. Pete in 2015 as the event that will serve as the US Pan Am trials. James was warmly and respectfully thanked for his job working with US Sailing and organizing these trials.

ILCA Fund Committee – Steve Davis gave special thanks to Bill Fastiggi who has been serving as Chairman of this committee. The committee has reauthorized funds to continue the ILCA's program assisting in shipping boats purchased by owners outside of North America. Boats that receive financial assistance are privately purchased. In the future preference will be given to containers going to countries that have yet to receive assistance. Currently the ILCA fund balance is \$210,000. The funds are invested in CDs and other equally conservative investments with preservation of capital the primary objective.

Limbaugh Fund Committee – Matt Fisher reported that the Limbaugh fund allocated \$1500 during 2013 to fund entry fees for juniors to the North American's, ACC's and Youth Worlds. Equally, the fund will contribute 50% of the entry fee for any teams under the age of 30, who request it, for the regular 2014 North American Championships. Matt Fisher and Kip Hamblet will be working on publicizing these options so more youth sailors can take advantage of the funding.

Charters ratified or revoked

Secretary Faus announced that there has been a request for a new fleet in Greece, #525 Lightning Sailing Academy, Voula Greece. The three charter members include Iannis Pangakis #15245, Apostolos Kalpakas #15312 and Fleet Captain, Nick Vazakas #14197. Ian Edwards moved to ratify this charter. Matt Fisher seconded, all approved.

Ratifications of the Executive Committee Rulings

The Governing board ratified an executive committee decision to make the qualifying quota for the 2014 North Americans in Sheboygan 1:1.

Unfinished Business

Bill Faude submitted a written report on the website statistics: Lightningclass.org

Traffic is rapidly increasing:

Week of 2/19/2012: Visits: 5,065, Page Views: 13,791

Week of 3/4/2012: Visits: 5,608, Page Views: 16,705

Week of 2/24/2013: Visits: 8,420, Page Views: 18,463

Week of 3/3/2013: Visits: 7,084, Page Views: 16,997

Week of 2/23/2014: Visits: 10,718, Page Views: 38,051

Week of 3/2/2014: Visits: 10,111, Page Views: 37,528

Visits and pages/visit are both increasing. Traffic is roughly consistent throughout the week. Traffic comes most often directly to the url, not from one major entry point elsewhere on the web. This seems to indicate that most site traffic is from current members.

New Business

Complete text of the following amendments is posted on the ILCA Website:

<http://lightningclass.org/membership/other/14/GBitemsforvoteMarch2014.asp>

Temporary Amendment (Item A): Todd Wake and Larry MacDonald have submitted a temporary, 1 year proposal to allow any skipper who competes in the Junior NA's who has not previously qualified through their District, and are in good standing with the Association, shall be entitled to enter the 2014 North American Championship Regatta. Bill Mauk made a motion to approve the temporary amendment as presented; it was seconded by Bill Clausen and all approved. **Motion passed.**

Temporary Amendment (Item B): VP of NA's Josh Goldman presented a 1 year proposed change to the Document Governing All Sanctioned Lightning Class Championships, Articles Which Apply Specifically to the North American Championship, Racing Conditions, Article XIII. This amendment is similar to the amendment passed a few years ago pertaining to the North American Championships that were held in Houston, Texas. This 1 year amendment is aimed at the 2015 North American Championships that will be held outside of our normal August timeframe. The VP of NA's and the Executive Committee endorse this temporary amendment and would like to compress the number of days required for this event and maintain the intent of the current rules and current practices. This will allow for increased participation while acknowledging the scheduling difficulties presented by the Pan Am Games, International Masters and World Championships in July 2015 and the WJM NAs in August 2015. A motion to approve the temporary amendment as posted was made and seconded. **The motion passed.**

Proposed Amendments to the Document Governing All Sanctioned Lightning Class Championships (Item C): Amendments/Changes 1-20 are the result of a task force put together by President Faus and lead by VP of Rules Darryl Waskow and committee members Bill Faude, Rob Ruhlman, Dick Moyer and Josh Goldman. This group was given the task of reviewing our current class rules and updating the language to conform with current practices. The Document Governing All Sanctioned Lightning Class Championships contains 20 individual proposed amendments/changes.

Item/Change 1: Motion to approve by Mauk, seconded by Clausen. Motion passed.

Item/Change 2: Motion to approve by Faude, seconded by Clausen. Motion passed.

Item/Change 3: Motion to approve by Mauk, seconded by Clausen. Motion passed.

Call to question wording on "line attached" language. Address in the future.

Item/Change 4: Motion to approve by Mauk, seconded by Clausen. Motion passed.

Item/Change 5: Motion to approve by Mauk, seconded by Clausen. Motion ruled invalid and did not pass.

Item/Change 6: Motion to approve by Mauk, seconded by Clausen. Motion passed.

Item/Change 7: Motion to approve by Mauk, seconded by Clausen. Motion passed.

Item/Change 8: Motion to approve by Mauk, seconded by Clausen. Motion passed.

Item/Change 9: Motion to approve with the word "group" being replaced by "District" was made, seconded by Clausen. Motion passed.

Item/Change 10: Motion to approve by Mauk, seconded by Clausen. Motion did NOT pass.

Item/Change 11: Motion to approve by Mauk, seconded by Lobos. Motion passed.

Item/Change 12: Motion to approve by Mauk, seconded by Lobos. Motion passed.

Item/Change 13: Motion to approve by Mauk, seconded by Clausen. Motion passed.

Item/Change 14: Motion to approve by Mauk, seconded by Clausen. Motion did NOT pass.

Item/Change 15: Motion to approve by Mauk, seconded by Clausen. Motion passed.

Item/Change 16: Motion to approve by Mauk, seconded by Clausen. Motion passed.

Item/Change 17: Motion to approve by Mauk, seconded by Clausen. Motion passed.
Item/Change 18: Motion to approve by Mauk, seconded by Clausen. Motion passed.
Item/Change 19: Motion to approve by Holly, seconded by Lobos. Motion passed.
Item/Change 20: Motion to approve by Lobos, seconded by Mauk. Motion passed.

Other new business:

Insurance – Ian Jones was tasked by the Executive Committee to look into coverage for the Class as a whole. A committee was made up of Bill Faude, John Faus, Hugh Hutchison, Lenny Krawcheck, David Peck, Norm Peck, Jones and Secretary Jeffers. The biggest concern is liability if someone gets hurt (or dies) while on or off the water at an ILCA event. The committee recommends the Class purchase a general liability and marine coverage policy offered by the Gowrie Group Burgee Program to cover these and many other issues. The policy covers the Class and also the regatta organizers. It also covers the boats owned by the ILCA including the Boat Grant Boats. The total premium is \$5,052. In addition the committee recommends purchasing additional coverage for Directors and Officers. This provides financial protection for the directors and officers if they are sued in conjunction with the performance of their duties as they relate to the Class. The total premium for this coverage is \$958. The Executive Committee concurs with the committee's recommendation to purchase both policies. A motion was made to approve the funds to insure the Class, its officers and assets. The motion was seconded and approved. **Motion passed.**

A Sail Exploration – Bill Faude (Full 2 page Report:

http://lightningclass.org/membership/other/14/A_SailProject_VPMarketingReportMarch.pdf)

There is an effort to explore a masthead asymmetrical kite with a prod...or a bow sprit as some call it. The idea is to try a new sail configuration. Initially using the current aluminum spars (probably stiffened slightly side to side up top). Then, IF and only IF we agree using such a mast-head A-Sail is much more fun, we would consider approving it using a sprit and the aluminum rig. Shortly an effort will begin within North to design an A-Sail that would hoist to the top of the rig. This is in the very formative stages. Clearly, appropriate/cost effective existing sail alternatives will also be evaluated. It may or may not be a good thing for us. But we know nothing until a proper trial is accomplished. It is important to do this type of research when the class is strong...not when we are in crisis and must then look to be reacting to save ourselves.

Lightning Coffee Table Book – George Francis

Class Historian Corky Gray is proposing a book project for the Class focusing on the history of the Class. He has begun to compile stories, articles and photos. This project is just in the beginning stages. Discussion ensued. The committee will evaluate options to move forward including funding (kick starter or pre-sales) and will present a plan to the Executive Committee when things begin to come together.

VP of Europe and South America – Bill Mauk made a suggestion that as an International Class we need leadership in these rolls. He proposes the nominating committee add these positions to the next slate.

The next meeting will be held in Sheboygan, WI during the North American Championships in August.

Bill Clausen made a motion to adjourn, Josh Goldman seconded. All approved. Meeting adjourned at 12:12pm.