



4/7/22

To: The FWSA Long Range Planning Committee

Subject: Year 3 of FWSA Long Range Plan - Accomplishments of 2021-2022 season

The primary charge of the LRP for year 3 and beyond was to continue building upon the changes of year two and lay the foundation for members' assessment of our progress and continued improvement. Proudly, I report on those accomplishments in this summary.

- ✓ Educational programming continued and expanded
- ✓ Successful Interclubs, Championship, and Rainbow Regatta
- ✓ Connected with virtual meetings and trainings and in-person activities and racing
- ✓ Board accountability enhanced through complete Bylaws revision

The continued pandemic interfered with some plans in what was intended to be the "Year to Re-connect" when planned in-person meetings had to be canceled for safer virtual meetings. Nonetheless, FWSA activity continued.

### **Educational Programming:**

Members wanted more Dave Perry, clinics, and safety boat training. FWSA delivered. Enormous effort by Rosemary McMullen, Education Chair, and Amanda Hus, Education Co-Chair, went into our educational program this year and it showed. The following highlights the many educational opportunities offered to FWSA members:

1. Safety Boat Training with Zac Oppenheim: Two events were conducted in Oct and Nov 2021, one at Davis Island Yacht Club and one at Sarasota Sailing Squadron. These two training sites were selected because they met the criteria of being able to provide 4 or 5 mark boats to use for training. FWSA member clubs were invited to attend.
2. Dave Perry, The Pyramid of Success Webinar: Four Zoom series, January 2022. This event was attended by 123 FWSA members. Dave's seminar focused on boat handling, boat speed, and tactics in 420's, Sunfish, and Optimist/Prams. This successful series generated funds for future educational efforts. When we started the LRP, the educational budget was only \$25 to \$50. For the 2021-2022 season the educational budget was \$600. Now we can budget even more to education due to the success of the Dave Perry series. Truly, a win-win for our members and our organization.
3. Sunfish Race Clinics: Four clinics held in February, March, and April 2022 available to all FWSA Sunfish sailors. Two clinics focused on more experienced racers while two clinics focused on less experienced sailors. Ten FWSA members attended each clinic. We were able to take advantage of the

great Sunfish coaches we have in our area. These clinics were taught by U.S. Paralympic sailing coach, Mike Ingham, at the Sarasota Sailing Squadron, and Eckerd College sailing coach, Caroline Young, at the Davis Island Yacht Club.

4. Monthly educational programs: Zoom classes were hosted by the Windlasses and open to all FWSA members. The topics included Protests, Race Committee Communication, including current changes to the Racing Rules of Sailing, flag language and course tactics.

5. Parliamentarian procedures: To help us brush up on proper meeting procedures, our Parliamentarian, Connie Beckman, has scheduled a Zoom class for April 29, 2022 on “How to Conduct a Meeting”.

### **Interclubs, Rainbow, and Championship Regatta:**

Improved Regatta Planning: Lynne Randall, FWSA VP, met with all the Interclub Chairs and Delegates in June 2021 to establish the Interclub Schedule for the 2021-2022 season and provided updated templates for racing documents, including both the NOR and SIs, compliant with the Racing Rules of Sailing (2021-2024). Interclub safety guidelines were reviewed and updated.

Race Committee opportunities: To encourage learning from other clubs we have encouraged hosts to allow visiting members to participate on race committee (RC). The RC for the March Rhumb Runners Interclub included a member of another club. At the Rainbow, both PROs were from visiting clubs along with several RC volunteers. The Dinghy Dames sought out our local female PROs, Margo Currey and Donna Sue Marks.

### Enhanced Regatta Participation:

Interclubs: Participation has never been better within the FWSA. Our Interclubs have been well attended. Based on the recommendation of the LRP, each Club hosts one Interclub per season rather than two. This change allows the host club to put more effort into making it a fun event. In addition, most clubs have added a prize for the 1<sup>st</sup> place rookie. The rookie award encourages newer and less experienced sailors to attend. Most clubs now have an Enthusiast Award to promote attending Interclubs.

Rainbow Regatta: The Rainbow Regatta continues to be our favorite event. This year we had the second highest participation ever, at 91 registered boats. Of those, 63 were Sunfish, the biggest Sunfish Rainbow fleet ever. This year, the Dinghy Dames introduced a practice race the day before the regatta followed by terrific evening social at Jennifer Holmberg’s house on Davis Island. In addition, a rookie award was given for first place for the sailor who is new to sailing and sailing in their first Rainbow Regatta. This increased participation as we had six rookie sailors register.

Championship Regatta: Traditionally, the Championship includes both spinnaker and non-spinnaker classes. The hosts, the Windlasses, decided to offer only non-spinnaker boats this year. As a result, we think it helped to increase participation (11 teams participated). In addition, they offered a rookie award for the first-place team who sailed the Championship for the first time. Less experienced 420 sailors were encouraged to participate. However, the FWSA has the perpetual Bankston spinnaker trophy for the Championship and more experienced FWSA members like to sail the spinnaker, even if it

is a small fleet. Next year's hosts will decide, based on the availability of their crewed boats, what to offer in the fall of 2022.

### **Crewed Boat Opportunities:**

An inventory was conducted this year (see Attachment 1). As you can see from the inventory, the Salty Sisters have access to the largest contingency of crewed boats.

For next year's calendar, there have been several suggested ways to increase opportunities for crewed boat racing and sailing, including placing more crewed boat sailing into the Interclub Calendar and inviting other clubs to join in on regular sailing days with the clubs who have crewed boats. This needs to be discussed when putting the Interclub Calendar together in the summer.

### **Meetings and Communication:**

Changed meetings - The Pandemic has changed the way we think about meetings. We have been and continue to think first and foremost about the safety of our FWSA members. This year, two Covid waves happened right before the general meetings. For the first general meeting we were still trying to determine the proper mask protocol at the national level. It became apparent that we needed to hold a virtual meeting. By January, we were again faced with a Covid wave but it was cold. Even though we were scheduled to be outside, we needed to be inside a tent together, with the flaps down and heaters going. Again, that is not a safe protocol. We continue to be hopeful that May will be beautiful. We have an outdoor pavilion reserved. We plan to conduct the business part of the meeting and then play some games and socialize in the open air. I think this will help us all get to know each other better in a more relaxed setting having fun and socializing. Covid has taught us a lot about what is important in our lives and about survival. "We can't change the wind but we can adjust our sails" and we will continue to do that.

Handbook - Members gladly paid \$7 for their handbooks, a small yet profound change. Previously, the printing costs of the directory, provided free, drained the entire FWSA budget. The education chair's contact information was added to the 2021-2022 FWSA Handbook.

Website: Gloria Davis has made some needed changes to the organization of the FWSA website but there is only so much that can be done with the current platform. Reserve funds are now in place to hire someone to change the FWSA website platform. Gloria will coordinate with Paula Shur to start this process. I hope we see some big changes in the near future.

Publicity: Our Publicity Chair, Pam Miller, wrote numerous articles covering our events and one of her articles covering the Bitter Ends Interclub was posted in the Venice Gondolier. Due to her efforts, an interview was conducted with Beth Owens, Rainbow Regatta Chair, and published in Sail-World. In addition, there will be a Rainbow article published in 83 Degrees digital magazine. Her efforts helped get our organization recognized. This publicity helps to get more women interested in joining our organization.

**Board Accountability:**

Bylaws Revision: A total revision of the Bylaws was accomplished this year with a lot of hard work from our Bylaws Chair, Jan Clark, Co-Chair, Diane Schmidt, and Parliamentarian, Connie Beckman. These changes refined job descriptions and brought our Bylaws more up to date. While not in the LRP, the work accomplished helps to make the FWSA a stronger and more accountable organization.

Member survey: The Long-Range Planning Committee, under the leadership of Joanne Simmons and Marti Cochran, solicited new committee members and will conduct a member survey to learn what the wishes of the membership are for the 2022-2023 season and beyond.

**Final thoughts about the year in review:**

I announced that the 2021-2022 season would be “the year to re-connect”. I envisioned the Pandemic would be behind us by September 2021 and we would be back to business as usual. It didn’t happen the way I had hoped but many things did happen and, in some ways, the Pandemic made us stronger as an organization. Our clubs found smart ways to conduct their Intro to Sailing classes even in the height of the Pandemic. We continued to conduct our meetings, Interclubs, and education even when we needed to brown bag our lunch, wear our masks, or zoom. You know what? No one complained and we kept our sailing and friendships strong. So, we did “re-connect” because we never disconnected. We kept thinking outside the box. This is the attitude we must continue to take as the world continues to face the challenges of a global pandemic.

The LRP has been instrumental in helping us to focus our efforts and make our organization function better. Through the goals of the LRP, we now offer something quantitative to our members. Our educational efforts are now front and center of FWSA programming. As a result, we have successfully created more educational opportunities for our members in their homes and at locations around the FWSA member area. Lastly, the future of the FWSA is only bound by our imagination so let’s build upon what we have started.

Respectfully Submitted,

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FWSA President

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FWSA, VP