



Long Range Plan

What should we be doing in the next 1-5 years to best meet our needs?

LOVE IT!

Camaraderie, Support of Women's Sailing and Racing, Rainbow Regatta, Interclubs, Championship Regatta, Meetings, Ship's Store, Young Woman Sailor of the Year

Who are We?

Some of our fellow club members don't know enough about the FWSA to comment. We all need to educate our members about FWSA and encourage participation.

Biggest Benefit

FWSA supports our individual clubs and sailors by connecting us through interclub regattas, meetings, and other activities.

Make New Friends

Who are all these wonderful women sailors? Let's create more opportunities to interact at our meetings and races so we can get to know each other.

Good News! There are plenty of ways to improve.

Members responded with lots of suggestions for improvements. **Seven main themes stood out:**

- 1.** Make the FWSA meetings more interactive, more engaging with less time spent on routine reports, in order to more effectively use our limited time together.
- 2.** Hold fewer interclubs to encourage greater participation in each one with more coordination amongst the interclub chairs and FWSA VP.
- 3.** Sponsor more educational programs and clinics to improve sailing and racing skills, along with race management and small safety & mark boat handling skills.
- 4.** Set consistent dates for Rainbow and Championship Regattas.
- 5.** Incorporate more crewed boat experiences.
- 6.** Enhance communication amongst clubs through improved FWSA website.
- 7.** Create mechanisms to hold the board accountable for implementing change.



Year One 2019-2020

Meetings

Meeting planning is a board responsibility shared with the host club. Board oversight is needed for speakers, reports and inter-club exchanges.

■ Require written club reports be submitted in advance to FWSA secretary. Clubs then may be invited by secretary to orally present new ideas or original programs

■ Experiment with different formats for more information exchange amongst clubs. Suggestions include seating people based on topics of interest such as recruitment of new members, learn-to-sail programs, retention, types of boats, etc. Include a board member at each table. A table representative gives a report to the whole group so we learn from each other. Try some “forced” seating arrangements.

■ Club updates shared in writing via different formats - online, consolidated by club secretary and distributed to first delegates, available in writing at the meetings.

■ Solicit ideas for educational programming from clubs’ education chairs. Meet together with FWSA Education chair. Schedule a minimum of one clinic to improve sailing and racing skills.

■ Appoint a social chair to ensure inclusion of social activities at meetings, interclubs, Rainbow, etc. Making connections and friendships with women from other clubs is an important part of what members value.

Interclubs

■ Each club selects one date and creates a themed IC. Interclubs can include crewed boat options if possible. Educational component can be included such as coaching, rules, tactics, local tides, etc. Encourage greater interactions amongst the attending clubs.

■ Board selects a small group to figure out impact on Spirit Award and suggest alternatives for our current point system.

■ Encourage hosting club to have a Plan B activity or program should the weather not permit sailing that day.

Here are five “Quick Fixes” for meetings:

1. Introduce new members at meetings
2. Shorten reports and award presentations
3. Start meetings half-hour later.
4. Cut costs by eliminating breakfast food.
5. In May, new VP meets with outgoing and incoming IC chairs to share knowledge and set dates for next season’s events.

- Start interclubs half hour later.
- Invite people to serve as volunteers on race committee.
- Have standardized templates for NOR, SI and course diagrams. Make sure they are accessible to IC chairs.

Rainbow Regatta

- VP and Rainbow Regatta Chair work together to plan the event.
- Schedule later in the Spring (April) after the time change. Try to avoid scheduling during schools' spring breaks.
- Information about Rainbow readily available on website.
- Lessons learned from previous Rainbow Regattas shared, accessible online.

Championship Regatta

- Hold in late Fall so clubs have more time to organize and practice.
- Provide training on crewed boats to encourage more participation amongst clubs with limited exposure to and availability of crewed boats.
- Continue to include both spinnaker and non-spinnaker divisions,
- VP and clubs' Interclub chairs brainstorm how to grow the event. As a signature event, there are often fewer than 10 boats participating.

Website

- Dates of interclubs posted earlier. Race documents easily accessible.
- Post other regattas and events possibly of interest to members.
- Emphasize clubs' responsibility to submit information.
- Contact information updated regularly, including the webmaster's contact info and email address.

Board Accountability

- Implementation of the LRP is a board responsibility. Best approach to oversight to be discussed by board and presented to membership by board president.
- Currently, the FWSA budget line item for education is very limited yet education is hugely important to members creating a discrepancy between values and budgeting. Discuss ways to increase money for educational programming, including speakers and seminars.
- Long range planning committee to meet annually to evaluate progress made by the board and the organization towards stated goals, and shares evaluation with the board.

Year Two 2020-2021

- Continue to build from changes in first year. Solicit feedback, assess progress, make more changes as needed.

Educational Program Expansion

- Club educational chairs meet at least once annually with the FWSA Education Chair to plan programming. Events should be encouraged amongst clubs for greater participation. Encourage and expand sharing of subject matter expertise from clubs on different topics including rules, flags, race strategy and tactics, etc. Special interest was expressed in two additional areas:

Crewed boats

- Assess club assets and inventory boats by clubs.
- Create a subgroup to evaluate pros & cons of different boats to determine if one or two boats best meet members' needs to encourage greater consistency across clubs and to provide guidance to clubs looking to add the option of crewed boats.
- Recognize that some clubs do not have resources or venue for larger boats. Encourage clubs to sail together to increase crewed boat opportunities and training. Offer coaching to improve skills for one-design racing.

Race Management Training

- Create, discuss and adopt safety guidelines for interclubs to be used consistently.

- Offer annual race management training to increase member s’ knowledge of expectations for interclubs and regattas, as well as to increase the professionalism and consistency of events.
- Offer safety and mark boat training to increase members knowledge.
- Offer RC opportunities at interclubs.
- Partner with US Sailing to offer professional sailing and racing related training.



Year Three and Beyond 2021-2023

- Continue to build from changes in second year. Solicit feedback, assess progress, make more changes as needed.

Building a Stronger Website

Develop an information resource section to encourage greater usage of the website by serving as a go-to spot for sailing resources.

2018-2019 LRP Committee Members

- Bitter Ends - Anne Chotkowski & Pam Miller
- Broad Reachers - Marti Cochran & Joanne Simmons
- Bow Chasers- Mary Lou Dean & Theresa Haverkamp
- Dinghy Dames - Susie Colunio & Lynne Randall, Chair
- Luffing Lassies - Judy Hodgson & Candy McGovern
- Mainsheet Mamas- Carroll McClain & Julie Sargent
- Rhumb Runners - Annie Davidson
- Salty Sisters - Gloria Davis & Cam Kilgroe
- TI Tackers - Lue Charron & Judy Hutton
- Windlasses - Robin Babka & Cheryl Young

Protecting our Future through Recruitment of New Members

Many of our members are aging out of active sailing, and want to stay involved in different ways. To grow our clubs, recruitment and retention of new and younger members becomes ever more relevant to each club. In addition to sharing of approaches taken by clubs, create a task force to explore new and creative ways to reach out to younger women.

Start Long Range Planning Process Again to Keep Improving!