



**Gulf Yachting Association  
Annual Meeting  
Saturday May 4, 2024  
Fairhope Yacht Club**

**Call to Order** – 10:00 am by Commodore Randy Fitzpatrick-Wainwright

**Executive Committee & Other members present:** Commodore Randy Fitzpatrick Wainwright (FYC), Rear Commodore Richard “Boo” Heausler (BWYC/SYC), Immediate Past Commodore Robbie Schmidt (SYC), Secretary-Treasurer, Shannon Weatherly (PCYC) and Parliamentarian Cary Trapani (BWYC).

**Roll Call** – 19 Clubs were present: BWYC, BucYC, FWYC, FYC, GLYC, GMSC, GYC, JYC, LFYC, LBYC, NavyPYC, PCYC, PYC, PBYC, PontYC, SRYC, SYC, StABYC and TYC - a quorum was met.

FYC Commodore Phillip Durant led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Invocation by Past Commodore Shawn Kirk (SYC). The follow deceased commodores and sailing friends were recognized with a moment of silence: Bowden L. “Bo” Palmer (MYC), John B. Waskom (JYC), Elmo John Cerise, Jr (SYC), Ann Stieffel (BWYC), James “Jim” Webb Steadman (SRYC), Dr. Stephen Hancy, Jr (PBYC).

**Introduction of all the Ex-Com members & other members as listed above.**

**GYA Past Commodores Recognized-** Henry G. “Harry” Chapman (BWYC/SYC), David Boylard (PontYC/NOYC/TYC/PCYC), Michael Hage (GYC), Shan Kirk (SYC), Jimmy Ruthven (StABYC) John Morrow (GYC/StABYC), Thomas D. Beery (SRYC), Tom A. Batty (MYC/BucYC), Catherine Cromartie (FYC), Gary Rogers (JYC), Pete O’Neal (BucYC), Basil Kennedy (BWYC)

**Conduct of the Meeting** – Parliamentarian Cary Trapani (BWYC) stated that we honor Robert’s Rules of order. Anyone may make a motion, take part in discussion once recognized. Seated club commodores or their representatives are the only voting members of the GYA Board. Reports are limited to 5 minutes, comments to 3 minutes. No one may speak until recognized by the chair. He reminded those that once you speak on a subject, you will be allowed to speak once more after everyone has spoken on the subject, please keep all comments directly to the chair.

**Minutes** – Shawn Kirk (SYC) made a motion, seconded by John Morrow (GYC/StABYC) to waive the reading of the minutes from January 13, 2024 Winter Meeting hosted at Biloxi Maritime and Seafood Industry Museum and to accept as presented, unanimously approved.

**Financial Report- Secretary-Treasurer-** Shannon Weatherly reported Account Balances as of April 30, 2024:

\$33,177.43	Checking Account	\$31,348.42	Invest 1 (Trophy)
\$31,719.34	Invest 2 (GYA)	\$96,245.19	Total of all accounts.

**Executive Committee** – Commodore Wainwright reported the Executive Committee was held in the Jubilee Room at FYC last night. She announced that PC Michael Hage will serve as the Nominating Chair for the Nominating Committee for next year's officers.

**COMMITTEE & COUNCIL REPORTS**

**Racing Regulations** – Richard “Boo” Heausler (BWYC/SYC) reported that there are no regulation changes pending at this time.

**Capdevielle Committee** – Paul Kleinschrodt (BucYC) No report.

**By-Laws** - PC Catherine Cromartie presented the noticed By-Law change for voting. The purpose of these changes are to eliminate the need for BOD approval to hold the Opening Regatta on a date other than the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in May and to remove the possibility of an improperly held Annual or Semi-Annual meeting. Motion by PC Kennedy and 2<sup>nd</sup> by PC Hage to approve Discussion followed, motion passed.

Current:

- A. Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting shall be held the first Saturday in May unless otherwise requested by the incoming Commodore and approved by the Board of Directors. The meeting shall be hosted by the yacht club of the Commodore, or such other yacht club selected by the Commodore with the approval of the Executive Committee.
- B. Semiannual Meeting. The Semiannual Meeting shall be held the Saturday morning of each Labor Day weekend unless otherwise ordered by the Board of Directors, at the yacht club hosting the GYA Championship for the Lipton Trophy.

Proposed:

- A. Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting shall be held the day of the first scheduled Opening Regatta race and shall be hosted by the yacht club of the Commodore or such other yacht club selected by the Commodore with the approval of the Executive Committee.
- B. Semiannual Meeting. The Semiannual Meeting shall be held the day of the first scheduled race of the GYA Championship for the Lipton Trophy at the yacht club hosting the championship.

**Race Management** – Robbie Schmidt, SYC, The Race Management committee has finalized preparing the standardized NOR and SI's for Capdevielle events and they are located on the Capdevielle page of the GYA website. Currently, the committee is revising the Qualified Observer program as it pertains to the Excellence in Race Management Award.

**Schedule** - Randy Fitzpatrick- Wainwright FYC, no report.

**Appeals** – Charles Harp, PYC, No appeals currently.

**Judges** – Con Lancaster, SRYC, Doc is now a national judge. We need more Judges, and he asked each club to encourage sailors/members to become a certified judge.

**Membership Committee** – PC Danny Killeen, PCYC, no report.

**GYA Foundation** – PC Danny Killeen, no report.

**Trophy** – Chris Dabney (FYC) PC Kennedy presented the GYA Past Commodores Trophy that will be awarded for Race 4 of the Sir Thomas Lipton Cup (If there is a race 4). The trophy will be dated back to 2022 when the 5<sup>th</sup> race was implemented.

**Sail Measurement** – William Zehner (StABYC) , no report.

**US Sailing Championships** – Cinton Edwards, BWYC, PC Rogers reported that the JYC is hosting the qualifiers for the Sears Championships in August 2024. The qualifier is June 21-23 in J22's.

**Youth Committee**– Scott Hartwell (FYC) reported the award for the winners of each circuit will be presented at the last event trophy presentation for each circuit. Also, the US Sailing Sears cup will be held at San Diego YC in J22's this year. The Area D qualifier is at JYC and we should have two teams competing for our area.

**US Sailing Representative** – Shannon Weatherly, No Report.

**Offshore Council** – Scott Sonnier (SYC) Report is attached hereto.

**PHRF/Handicap**– Kevin Blank (FWYC) See report attached hereto.

**One Design** – Zac Fanberg (BWYC), No report.

**Unfinished Business and General Orders**- none.

**New Business** – PC Michael Hage will serve as Nominating Chair of the Nominating Committee for 2025.

**Announcements:** The Semi-Annual meeting will be held at Pensacola YC August 30-September 1. The GYA Winter Meeting and Awards Banquet will be held at Fairhope Yacht Club January 11, 2025. It will be a 1 day event.

**Closing Remarks** – GYA Past Commodore Michael Hage (GYC) made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by GYA Past Commodore Shan Kirk (SYC) -

**Adjourned** – 1048 am

Respectfully submitted by:  
Shannon Weatherly