

# U.S. J/24 Class Association Annual Meeting Minutes

**Date:** 12/4/2023

**Start:** 7:05 p.m. EST

**Adjourn:** 8:20 p.m. EST

## **Present (X):**

Chris & Julie Howell X  
1 – Finn Hadlock X  
2 – Hillary Keimig  
3 – Aidan Glackin X  
4 – Ted Wiedeke X  
6 – Kelly FitzGerald X  
7 – Mike Stasko X  
8 – James Howard X  
10 – Rick Jarchow X  
12 – Drew Blackburn X  
14 – James Freedman and John Parker X  
15 – Cory Huseby X  
18 – Todd Warnygora X  
19 – Melanie Edwards X  
20 – Jasper Van Vliet X  
21 – Victor Felice for Deke Klatt X  
22 – James Foster  
Marcus Rogers X  
Denny Vaughan  
Joe Buonasera X  
Lee Ann Zaretsky X  
Dan Busch X

## **Agenda:**

1. Call to order and attendance
2. Approval of minutes of last meeting
3. President's Report
4. World Council Meeting Report
5. Class Office Report
6. Financial Report / Budget Approval
7. Youth Program Update
8. Election of Officers
9. 2025 Worlds Qualifiers
10. Technical Report
11. Regatta Reports & Future Planning
12. New Business
13. Next Meeting

## **Description:**

1. **Call to Order and Attendance** – A quorum is present.
2. **Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting** – Chris H. distributed the previous meeting minutes via e-mail. *No comments were made via e-mail or on this call, and the minutes were approved.*
3. **President's Report** – Marcus said 2023 was a hit. Our membership numbers grew, and the USA remains the strongest of the IJCA. He noted that Dan is now an IJCA Executive Committee member. Congratulations to our 2023 winners here including Melanie Edwards, Mike Stasko and Jasper Van Vliet. Our US-hosted events were successes! 2024 will be highlighted by the Worlds in Seattle...stay tuned for information on boat shipping. Well done Districts for your membership numbers this year!
4. **World Council Meeting Report** – Marcus represented the USA at the World Council Meeting. You can review the minutes at <https://j24class.org/organization/class-documents/wcm-minutes/>. The 2026 Worlds was awarded to Australia, and the 2027 Worlds to Rochester, New York. There were no Rules proposals this cycle. The IJCA has updated standard documents for Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions. Remember that numbering has changed, so previous copies of these documents would now contain numerical errors. Generally, there is a focus of the IJCA to make going to events easier and less time consuming.
5. **Class Office Report** – Chris H. reported that the USJCA had 404 members in 2023 (380 full), a recent high. Thank you all for your support of this push! The 2024 wall calendars were mailed to all 2023 members. Sponsors supported the calendar at \$200 per page + the cover; thank you sponsors! Calendars are also available for general sale.

6. **Financial Report** – Chris H. circulated the USJCA Class Budget: Profit & Loss 2023 and Budget 2024. Merchant fees (PayPal) continue to increase, as more renewals are completed online. Marcus noted \$850 to build a perpetual trophy for the Corinthian Nationals. Although we held an East and West Championship in 2023, the plan going forward is one annually.

*Ted Wiedeke made a motion to accept the Budget/P&L as presented, seconded by Joe Buonasera. The motion passed unanimously.*

7. **Youth Program Update** – The Kelly Holmes-Moon Youth Program website is updated at <https://j24usa.com/j24-youth-grant-program/>. In 2023, three recipients were supported and active. One person from Colorado has applied for 2024. Marcus hopes to have four youth and four womens boats at the 2024 Worlds (online petition to come).

8. **Election of Officers** – The slate of Officers is as follows (elections annually, two-year tradition as President):

President: Marcus Rogers

Vice President: Denny Vaughn

Technical Chair: Finn Hadlock

Finance Chair: Joseph Buonasera

Governors' Representative: Lee Ann Zaretsky

*Dan Busch made a motion to accept the slate as presented, seconded by Kelly FitzGerald. The motion passed unanimously. Welcome Finn!*

9. **2025 Worlds Qualifiers** – The USJCA will have 10 qualifying berths in 2024 for the 2025 World Championship in the UK. The following events are proposed:

Midwinters (1)

Nationals (1)

North Americans (1)

Northeast Regionals (1)

Southeast Regionals (1)

Southwest Regionals (1)

Western Regionals (1)

Great Lakes Regionals (1)

East Coast Championship (1)

Worlds (1) top US finisher outside top three (top 3 automatically qualify by IJCA).

The berths at Nationals and North Americans are in addition to the IJCA berths. We will also have berths for women and youth teams that don't count against our 10 berths.

*Finn Hadlock made a motion to accept the 2025 Worlds qualifiers as presented, seconded by Rick Jarchow. The motion passed unanimously.*

Finn has had local discussions about combining a Worlds qualifier for events two years prior to US-hosted Worlds (ex. qualifying in 2025 and 2026 for 2027).

10. **Technical Report** – The IJCA approved a sail royalty tag price increase from \$35 to \$50 (sales have been low in many one-design Classes). Kelly asked Finn to work with the ITC to find a balance between streamlining inspection while still maintaining Class integrity. Aidan thinks there are many scale variables, and many measurement certificates are years old. More consistent local measurement is vital. He does not recommend the “all-up” weight. Rick agrees that measurement should be set before events. He suggests we also look at the sails. Finn will work with Curt Barnes offline to get caught up on ITC documents, ideas and drafts.

**11. Regatta Reports & Future Planning –**

- 2024 Midwinter Championship, Davis Island YC, Tampa, FL, February 23-25
- 2024 North American Championship, St. Petersburg YC, St. Petersburg, FL, April 11-14: this is currently planned for a four-day event ending on Saturday. Finn feels a three-day event ending on Sunday is best for crew, and multiple people felt strongly about ending on a Sunday. Three versus four days is mostly dependent on location, but preference was toward three. NAC NOR to come this week. Boats can be stored at DIYC after Midwinters...see contact information in that NOR.
- 2024 Corinthian US National Championship, Sayville YC, Blue Point, NY, May 15-19: Joe shared that the Notice of Race will be finalized mid-month. Should be good wind!
- 2024 US National Championship, Wayzata YC, Wayzata, MN, September 6-8: Cory has a meeting with the Fleet Captains in January to launch marketing. David Breitner won the Worlds berth at the Great Lakes Championship, following an appeal.
- 2024 World Championship, Corinthian Yacht Club of Seattle, WA, September 28-October 5: Marcus is working with Michal Johnson regarding inspections. Expect 60+ boats, with 40 US. Going to be a beautiful event! The OA and IJCA have been discussing whether to approve Vakaros for the Championship at no cost to the entrants. Aidan suggested that we let a few other Classes use it first. Rick thinks it can be rather subjective. It's the way of the future!

Regarding 2025 Midwinters in Miami, the local OA has suggested the dates of January 17-19. This is an earlier timeframe than we have done. Aidan and Finn think the January dates are preferred to February, which typically falls on school winter breaks (limiting crew). Joe wondered about the financial strain of a mid-January Championship. Rick thinks this timing could put a stress on crew. The group asked to have an alternate date presented before choosing one of the two.

A Request for Proposal was issued for the 2025 & 2026 US National Championships & Corinthian National Championships, with a deadline of January 10, 2024.

**12. New Business –** Paul Abdullah won Southeast Regionals and Amy Woodard won the District 8 Championship at Kings Day.

John Parker is stepping down as District 14 Governor, welcome James Freedman!

Rick speculated whether we should consider Midwinters East and West? Jasper said they can struggle with Western Regionals, as Southern California boats rarely travel. He will discuss this idea with the San Diego folks.

Kelly noted how many young and female teams are racing J/24s in Europe. Chris explained that club boats are provided. Let's discuss this further at future meetings.

**13. Next Meeting –** Tuesday, March 5 at 7:00 pm ET

**Action Items:**

Merry Christmas!

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, March 5 at 7:00 pm ET