

Call to Order

The Governing Board Meeting was called to order by President Rob Ruhlman at 10:37am

Roll Call of Fleets – 12, 26, 36, 42, 77, 109, 147, 166, 194, 196, 318, 329, 335, 462, 488, 501, 510, 511, 519, 521, 522

Reading of the Minutes A motion was made by Bill Clausen to dispense with the reading of the minutes, Ryan Ruhlman seconded and unanimously approved.

Reports of Officers

President's Report – Rob Ruhlman

President Rob Ruhlman expressed his thanks to the Governing Board and the Executive Committee for their service and for attending this meeting. He conveyed his gratitude to the late Clube Armacao dos Buzios for hosting the South American, International Master and World Championships. Additional accolades went to John Bennett and his entire crew, for organizing these incredible regattas. "Well done!"

Treasurers Report – John Faus

Treasurer Victor Lobos sends his regards and is sorry that he could not be here this evening. John continued to report that total income to date was \$71,655.48, which is up 3% compared to 2010 figures. A few thoughts to point out, North American dues are down about 17% which should pick up a bit as we get closer to the North American Championships in a few weeks. South American dues are coming in as budgeted, to date \$1,260 in skipper dues and \$590 in crew dues has been received. European dues are up 128% vs. last year budgeted numbers mostly due to Finland and their excellent membership participation this season as they are hosting the European Championships soon and the Youth Worlds in 2012. To date \$2,565 in skipper dues and \$470 in crew dues have been collected.

Class Royalties and merchandise revenue are very good to date. Expenses are less than 2010 figures or are at budget. Donations to the ILCA Fund are currently down -15.6% compared to this time last year (\$5,134). The Limbaugh Fund is up +23.9%, with \$2,250 coming in to date. The History Fund is up +90% so far with \$1,045 contributed. Donations to the Boat Grant Program are slightly down, -1.9% compared to last year at this time. \$3,103 has been contributed to date. Thank you very much to all of the supporters for helping to further the Lightning Class initiatives.

Chief Measurers Report –Bill Clausen

Bill began by thanking Nelson Schmitt for organizing the measurement team here in Brazil. They did a great job and there have been no issues with measurement. Thank you to all of you skippers and crew for helping to make the measurement go smoothly.

Secretary Report- John Faus

John reminded everyone to encourage Fleet members back home to support the Class by paying Annual Skipper, Associate or Crew dues.

Vice Presidents and Committee Reports

VP Worlds - David Starck

David Starck began by thanking John Bennett for his excellent communication and planning these regattas. He also thanked Tom Starck and Mark Schneider for their assistance in coordinating the shipping of the North American boats. In 2013, the World Championships will be held in Numana, Italy. Rob Ruhlman explained that it is 2 hrs south of Bologna and about 30 minutes from the Port of Ancona. It is a small, touristy town. Housing will be mostly in small hotels 8-10 rooms, the hotels are clustered together. He has been in communication with Renzo Bozzi and is confident that it will be beautiful sailing. The shipping containers can stay at the club. There are two hoists and a boom truck at the sailing center. The main club is in a separate downtown location. The sail to the course is 15-20 minutes. The event will most likely be in mid-to-late June.

VP Youth Worlds - David Starck

In 2012, Finland will host the Youth Worlds. They are very excited to host the event and have developed a promotional flyer to take home with you. Please start organizing and making arrangements for youth teams from your Countries to attend this event. The Class has been doing a few fundraising efforts to raise money for Youth World Travel expenses. He encourages each Country to go back home and start doing similar efforts on your local levels. Please let the Class Office know what we can do to assist you in sending a team (or two) to the Youth Worlds!

North American Championships – Ruhlman/Edwards

Rob began by announcing the 2011 North Americans will be hosted by North Cape Yacht Club and they begin next week. North Cape is ready for the regatta and Laurie Dieball and her team are doing a wonderful job preparing for the event. Ian Edwards continued and gave a short introduction to the 2012 North American Championships that are going to be held at the Houston Yacht Club. The Club is getting really excited to host our event next August. We should expect to see a lighter sea breeze in the afternoon at about 8-12 kts. HYC is a marvelous facility and we are looking forward to a great event. They are working on wonderful charter boat opportunities.

Southern Circuit – Rob Ruhlman

Ruhlman reported that Jo Ann Fisher and Terry Hamilton both of Charleston, SC have agreed to be co-chairs of the 2012 Circuit. He continued to report that he asked Past President, Bill Faude to form a committee to evaluate the current Southern Circuit structure. We are sure to hear from these committee members in the near future. Discussion ensued. One of the obstacles foreign teams face with participating in the Southern Circuit is moving the boats around from venue to venue. It is difficult or nearly impossible to rent a car that will tow a boat. Some solutions suggested were to pair up foreign team with a US team to double deck the two boats to each regatta.

Rules and Regulations – Darryl Waskow

Earlier this year the Class updated our Rules to comply with ISAF's changes. We are working on a template for Sailing Instructions to incorporate these new rules. If anyone has any questions regarding the Class Rules he would be happy to answer them.

Additional written reports submitted:

VP, ISAF AND PAN AM'S REPORT Submitted by DAVID SPRAGUE, JULY 20 2011

PAN AMERICAN GAMES: October 2011

The Lightning will again be at the 2011 Pan American Games in Neuvo Vallarta (near Puerto Vallarta) in Mid October this year. Again the Class will have 7 boats competing in the Games. I will be attending the games as the Chief Measurer for all the Classes and will also be working with the Class to ensure a fair games. The next Games will be in Toronto in 2015 and the classes have not been picked as of yet. There will be lobbying going on for the next year or so and I hope that all the Lightning people at the games will work to be part of their country's delegation to the Pan American Sailing Federation meeting during the games to help support the Lightning.

ISAF (International Sailing Federation):

ISAF does not particularly deal with individual classes because it is mainly concerned with Olympic Sailing and the Racing Rules of Sailing. Hence the ISAF has little to do with ILCA except to continue to find ways to tax the classes and impose "world wide solutions" when classes have found little need for their "Eurocratic" tendencies. This trend has continued for the past few years while the ISAF has moved away from a governing concept of all sailors and has moved to a very tightly concentrated Member National Authority focus. Recent changes to the ISAF Constitution have taken any Class vote that was previously available on the ISAF Board of Directors and concentrated the Board into a small and non representative group. This group is elected, not on a Representation by Population basis, but rather one where each country, even if it has only a few sailors at one club, now has the same vote as a country such as the United States or Great Britain or Brazil or Argentina. Countries that pay a token fee of approximately under \$100 and have maybe a dozen sailors have the same vote as a country that pays \$18,000 and has hundreds of thousands of sailors. This move and the elimination of the class vote at the Board of Directors will mean that ISAF will continue to ignore legitimate International Class needs and focus on the Olympics in the foreseeable future.

I plan to continue to help the Lightning Class and other Classes get a fair hearing at ISAF as I will be attending the ISAF Meetings in Puerto Rico this fall.

VP SPECIAL PROJECTS, SOUTHERN DEVELOPMENT – Clarke Newman

We have had a pretty good year in the area of Southern Development. We have expanded the Texas District, and we added the Mexico District and added two fleets, 521 (Houston) and 523 (Valle). Ian Edwards and Aroldo de Rienzo are to be commended for getting these fleets up and running. The boat stock is much newer, with many new boats coming into the Texas District particularly. Activity in the Southern District has also been relatively strong, primarily at Southern Yacht Club in New Orleans, Louisiana and at Buccaneer Yacht Club in Mobile, Alabama. Larry Frost and Bob Bernhardt are the engines behind that activity. Our goal is to reactivate the dormant fleets in the Southern District. More will follow on this issue.

Obviously, getting the 2012 ILCA North American Championships was a big deal for Lightning sailing in the South. Plans are well underway in getting that project going. Ian Edwards and the crew at Houston Yacht Club are doing great work there. We plan to distribute promotional materials at the 2011 NA's. The Texas District will be very much behind this effort.

The Southwestern Circuit continues to show strong participation, and went from six to seven events this year. 2010 SWC participation was up 30% from 2009. We have already had events in Mississippi (Spring Fling Regatta), Texas (Texas District Championships), Louisiana (Juby Wynn/Southern District Championships), and Tennessee (Mississippi Valley District

Championships). We have three events remaining for 2011—September 24 & 25 at Fairhope Yacht Club in Fairhope, Alabama, October 8 & 9 at Rush Creek Yacht Club in Heath, Texas, and November 12 & 13 at Pensacola, Florida. John Womble is to be commended for his work on the Southwestern Circuit since the beginning.

This past winter, the Texas and the Mexico people sailed several events in Mexico that were detailed in the *Flashes* earlier in the year. Currently, we are planning a “TEX/MEX” circuit that will begin with the Southwestern Circuit event at Rush Creek counting for this event as well. This event will be followed by regattas in Valle de Bravo, Mexico on January 14 & 15, February 4 & 5, and February 25 & 26. That would give us plenty of time to get boats back for the Southern Circuit. The final event of the TX/MEX Circuit would be the 2012 Texas District Championships at HYC. This event will also count towards the 2012 Southwestern Circuit Championships. An emphasis would be placed on group transport to minimize the costs of getting boats to Valle. The boats would stay in Mexico in January and February. We had such a great time last year that we want to expand the concept and use these events to support the development of Lightning sailing in Mexico in the run up to the 2012 Pan Am Games in Puerto Vallarta.

Boat Grant Report - Debbie Probst

2 grant teams have been sailing quite a bit and in different areas of the country so we've had good coverage. We will be advertising the program intensively to college sailors this fall in the hopes of getting more applicants. Donations are down a bit but we haven't made much of a plea for funds and equipment beyond the membership form.

Southeastern District Report – Karen Dial, District Commodore

The Southeastern District is experiencing a dramatic increase both in numbers and in interest thanks to the Charleston Fleet. We currently have an average of 12 boats attending our traveling series regattas and have earned 11 slots at the NAs which we hope to fill at LaSalle this year. The best indicator of the upsurge is that our members are asking for more regattas in our traveling series! We have added the Charleston Fleet invitational October 22-23 this year and hope to add more in 2012.

Unfinished Business:

Re-definition of Area Discussion

Rob Ruhlman began by stating we need to re-define our Area's as described in our Class Rules. The current areas are described as North America, South America and Europe. We now have Lightning activity in Australia, Africa and India. As a Class we need to incorporate these areas into our Rules. Discussion ensued. Two issues stem from the current wording. One, we need to be able to qualify all Countries with active Lightning activity for the World Championships. And two, Rotation of the World Championships, how do you consider it? Rob acknowledged Ian Edwards recommended changes that he sent to the Executive Committee. Clarification was made; we are not looking to take any World Championship slots away from any of the current Countries.

International Fleet Development – John Faus

John began by thanking Mark and Cindi Schneider for all of their efforts in helping to coordinate the shipping of the Fleet Development containers. The current approved funding is good until 2012. The Executive Committee will recommend to the ILCA Fund Committee to continue this program. A motion on the floor was made by Ian Edwards and seconded by Mike Barnes to support the Executive Committee's ruling. All were in favor, no opposed.

New Business:

Nominating Committee – Steve Davis

Steve Davis presented the proposed slate for 2012. The Slate is as follows:

President	Rob Ruhlman	Special Projects	Steve Davis
Secretary	John Faus	Special Projects	Bill Fastiggi
Treasurer	Victor Lobos	Special Projects	Brian Hayes
Chief Measurer	Bill Clausen	Special Projects	William Faude
Assistant Measurer	Joe Buczkowski	Special Projects	Julian Calvin
Assistant Measurer	R. Neil Hayes	Special Projects	Clarke Newman
Assistant Measurer	James Carson	Special Projects	Will Brown
Assistant Measurer	Ryan Ruhlman	World Championships	David Starck
Assistant Measurer	Glen Reitingier	Youth World Championships	David Starck
Assistant Measurer	Nelson Schmitt	Youth World Championships	Lauri Hemming
Classic Boats	Robert Astrove	Brazil	John Bennett
ISAF/Pan American Games	David Sprague	Canada	Richard Walsh
Southern Circuit	Vacant	Canada	Valerie Holly
Midwinter Regatta	Carol Ewing	Chile	Victor Lobos
North Americans Liaison	Todd Johnson	Colombia	Mauricio Valenzuela
Rules and Regulations	Dean Cady	Ecuador	Paco Sola
Rules and Regulations	Darryl Waskow	Finland	Antero Punttila
Special Projects	Ian Edwards	Greece	George Andreadis
Special Projects	Debbie Probst	Italy	Renzo Bozzi
Special Projects	James Taylor	Switzerland	Vacant
Special Projects	Todd Wake		

A motion was made by Jonathan Lange and seconded by David Starck to close nominations and approve the slate as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Laura Jeffers thanked the participants here in Brazil for honoring the life of Olivia Constance by placing a small pink Olivia sticker on their boats. The Constance Family is a big part of the Lightning community in the Dixie District and to show them this much support during this difficult time is heartfelt. It goes to show that the "Lightning Family" goes well beyond your own Lightning Fleet.

Fleets that had not paid their dues were reminded to see Laura Jeffers.

Rob Ruhlman thanked Class Secretary Laura Jeffers for doing a great job.

A motion to close the meeting was made by Philip Lange and seconded by Bill Clausen. Meeting adjourned at 11:30am.