



ACA Board Meeting
Saturday & Sunday, January 10-11, 2026
Mission Bay Aquatics Center

Theme: **Setting the Stage**

Saturday, January 10, 2026

WELCOME AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Suzanne opened the meeting at 9:00 p.m. PT. The agenda is presented in Appendix A.

Attendance. Attendance was taken from those in attendance and from the video logins. **BOD**

Present In Person: Suzanne Britt, Bev Cosslett, Jonas Ecker, Robert Kauffman, Aaron Small

BOD Present by Video: Bill Caruso, Simon Norton (Si), Ryan Rushton, Risa Shimoda, Stefanie Stannard [Note: *Bill and Risa joined later in the minutes.*]

BOD Members Not Present: Zach (Bug) Lokkken,

Staff Present by Video: Beth Spilman, Krista Lenzmeier

Other Attendees: Jamie Eubanks

Quorum was obtained.

Introduction. The group did a barrier-breaking activity where members indicated a fun activity, their term, and position.

Rules of the Meeting. Suz presented some rules for the meeting to help make the meeting to run smoothly. Some rules included raising your hand to speak and to vote, respecting that Zoom members need time to respond, and we want to hear from a variety and the quiet voices.

Minutes. A motion was made to approve the December 10th and 30th minutes. The motion was seconded. It passed, and the minutes were approved. [Note: *Stefanie abstained since she was not on the board then.*]

SETTING THE STAGE FOR 2026

In order to facilitate a productive year, Suz indicated some things that she was implementing. (Appendix B)

Board Directory (Appendix B). The first was the board directory, which is an Excel sheet containing the names, phone numbers, emails, etc. of the BOD (Appendix B).

Onboarding (Appendix B). For the benefit of new members and as a reminder to existing members, Suz listed some requirements. These include an onboarding worksheet (Appendix B), bronze member donation, code of conduct, conflict of interest by February, and Boardspan training. In addition, BOD members need to attend 50% of the board meeting and serve on board meetings. To reduce confusion, she noted when we are speaking to staff, board members should indicate their role as board member or whether they are just a member. [Secretary's Note: *Consult the ACA bylaws, effective 2023, for the full duties and responsibilities of the committees and councils.*]

BOD Officers (Appendix B). There are four board officers: president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer. She provided an overview of the duties and responsibilities of each officer.

Election of Officers. The vice president and secretary have two-year terms, which were up for reelection in 2026. With Brenda's resignation, the treasurer position was vacant with one year remaining on her term.

Election: Secretary. Suz opened nominations for secretary. Bev Cosslett self-nominated. With no other nominations, the nominations were closed. The BOD voted unanimously for Bev to be secretary.

Election: Treasurer. Suz opened nominations for treasurer. Robert Kauffman self-nominated. With no other nominations, the nominations were closed. The BOD voted unanimously for Robert to be treasurer.

Election: Vice President. Suz opened nominations for vice president. Jonas Ecker and Bill Caruso were nominated for the position. Since Bill was not in attendance at this time, a motion was made to table the election of the vice president until Bill could be contacted regarding the position. The motion to table until later in the day passed.

BREAK. A fifteen-minute break was taken.

Election: Vice President. A motion was made to reopen nominations. Aaron Small self-nominated. Another motion was made to leave nominations open until Bill responded. The motion was seconded and passed.

Who is the ACA and the ACA Structure? (Appendix B). Suz briefed the group on the ACA's organizational structure. It has a nonprofit status, which is important to keep, and it is the NGB for Olympic and Paralympic sports.

Jonas discussed the USOPC and the athletes. He noted that there we ten world championship events. The athletes are required to have Safesport and background checks. He answered other questions regarding the athletes and their international competitions.

Committee Structure (Appendix B). First, Suz briefed the board on the standing committees (i.e. Executive, Finance, and Audit committees). The Properties committee which before the bylaws revisions was a standing committee is currently a subcommittee of the Finance Committee. Next, she provided an overview of the non-standing committees, including the Properties, Grievance, Nomination and Governance, and Ethics committees. The association has several ad hoc committees. Most notable is the Policy and Stewardship Committee. In addition, it has had ephemeral committees, including the Strategic Planning, Executive Director Review, and COO Search committees.

Council Structure (Appendix B). Suz indicated there are four councils with seats on the BOD. She noted that the **SEIC** has a complex, well-established structure that requires ACA membership. The **Competition Council** is revitalizing itself with the integration of the USCKT. It has two Olympic disciplines and paralympic disciplines. In addition, the ACA is under the auspice of the USOPC and the Ted Stevens Act, which affect the organizational structure. The Competition Committee requires ACA membership. The **Regional Activity Council** (RAC) is the newest council. It is a grassroots, diverse council with state directors, clubs, and stewardship. Its members join because they want to join the ACA. The **Athletes Activity Council** (AAC) represents all athletes. In accordance with the Ted Stevens Act, most committees require 33 1/3 percent athlete representation. The BOD has four athlete representatives, including one Paralympic representative.

Organizational Charts (Appendix C). The organizational charts reveal the diversity of the largely volunteer organization. Most organizations have one master, which is the board of directors. The ACA and other Olympic disciplines have a second master, the USOPC. Roughly one-half of the organization is funded by membership, and nine of the sixteen staff are part-time or funded by outside sources. In addition, the charts show that the limited staff is servicing a large and diverse volunteer organization.

Elections Resumed. Bill Caruso joined the group by Zoom. Currently, there were three nominations for the vice president position. These were Bill, Jonas and Aaron. Bill thanked the group for the nomination and withdrew his nomination. Jonas withdrew his nomination. Nominations were open for any additional nominations. Stefanie self-nominated. The nominations were closed. The two nominees, Stefanie and Aaron, gave brief statements. The vote of the BOD elected Aaron as vice president.

BREAK.

RAC State Director (Appendix D). Representing the Pacific West RAC, Jamie Eubanks presented an overview of RACs efforts in the region. One recommendation that she made was that they needed more ITs in the region.

LUNCH: 12:08–12:40

Beth provided an overview of the finances. Her presentation included a summary of the organization's revenue and expenses. Roughly half of the association's revenue is from

membership, and other sources of revenue and the other half (48%) is from three grant sources. Second, the USOPC and USPC provide 27% of the revenue. This and the Coast Guard funding is reflected in the organizational chart for the staff, where six of the sixteen staff are funded by grants. Third, there was a discussion on the \$40 membership fee. Beth indicated that the last time membership fees were raised was in 2020.

¹The athletes are a self-funding

Revenue:

Membership 31% Donations 5

Athletes¹16

Insurance 5

Properties 4

Grants: USOPC 17 Grants: USPC

10 Grants: USCG 11 Other 1

Total: 100%

pass-through. **OLD BUSINESS**

Expenses:

Staff & Benefits 33% Prof

Services Contractors 8

Operations 8 USCS Expenses 7

Properties 5 Events 32 Insurance 5

Other 2 Total: 100%

Risa joined the meeting via Zoom at 1:35.

Performance Objectives. The BOD had developed a draft of the performance objectives for the executive director for 2026. The normal process is that the executive committee, in conjunction with Beth, creates a draft of her performance objectives for the next year, which is approved by the BOD. Unfortunately, this year Beth had other responsibilities that prevented her input on the draft performance objectives. The purpose of this session was to finalize the objectives by the entire BOD and Beth. It was determined that the process was cumbersome. Beth indicated she would rework the performance objectives. No further action was taken. [Secretary's Note: *The executive committee with Beth met on Thursday, January 22 and generated a set of performance objectives for approval by the BOD.*]

USA Team Branding Initiative (Appendix E). Beth presented the USA team branding logo. It was developed with a branding firm. It reflects elements of the ACA logo, is consistent with other team brands, and aids in fundraising. Since the logo was new to the BOD, approval was deferred to the Sunday meeting.

Adjournment

With no further business for the day, the meeting was adjourned until Sunday morning. A motion was made, seconded, and passed.

Sunday, January 11, 2026

ATTENDANCE

Suzanne opened the meeting at 9:00 p.m. PT. The agenda is presented in Appendix A.

Attendance. Attendance was taken from those in attendance and from the video logins. **BOD**

Present In Person: Suzanne Britt, Bev Cosslett, Jonas Ecker, Robert Kauffman, Aaron Small

BOD Present by Video: Bill Caruso, Simon Norton (Si), Risa Shimoda, Stefanie Stannard
[Note: *Bill and Risa joined later in the minutes.*]

BOD Members Not Present: Zach (Bug) Lokkken, Ryan Rushton

Staff Present by Video: Beth Spilman, Krista Lenzmeier

Other Attendees:

Quorum was obtained.

Setting the Stage (Appendix F). Suz presented a PowerPoint including the 2026 BOD dates and an overview of the responsibilities of the councils.

COUNCIL & COMMITTEE REPORTS

SEIC (Appendix G). Beth provided the report. SEIC has completed its bi-annual elections. Second, they have approved a new fishing committee. Next, they are uploading the guide materials to Amazon. Fourth, they are marketing both internally and externally the leader and guide materials. Fifth, they are working on the learning management system. Last, there were no new motions for the BOD to pass.

Competition Committee (Appendix H). Risa provided the Competition Committee's report. She noted that the committees have been very active and the number of participants on the council has increased from three to twenty. She jokingly noted that they may need to use Robert's Rules of Order.

Regional Activity Council (RAC) (Appendix I). Bill indicated that the RAC had three goals. First, they were working on Kayaking 101, which is slated for the first Saturday of National Safe Boating Week. They have a goal of ten states participating, which is high, although six to eight is more realistic. In addition, he thanked Krista for her assistance. Second, they are focused on improving outreach and advocacy. Third, RAC seeks to improve coordination, communication, and collaboration between RAC and the other councils and staff.

Consistent with the bylaws, RAC had a motion to approve its elected officers. The motion is in Appendix J. [Secretary's Note: *The motion in Appendix J contains the bylaw section requiring BOD approval, which is informative.*] The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

ACA BOD Minutes: January 10-11, 2026 page / 5

MOTION: *Moved to accept the RAC officers* (see Appendix J). [Disposition: Motion passed unanimously]

BREAK. 10:30 am. Bev left the meeting for the airport. In addition, there was a discussion

on advocacy.

AAC. Jonas indicated he had given his report on Saturday. He noted they needed a paracanoe representative to the BOD. The problem is that there is a dearth of paracanoe paddlers who meet the qualifications. Jonas is planning to send out a survey to the athletes on funding and other issues. Again, there is a need for athletes to serve on the committees.

Nominating Committee (Appendix J). Since Bev was on the way to the airport, Suz gave the report. The committee is working on setting its agenda. It is desired to develop a schedule that is repeatable, which would help avoid some of the election problems in 2024. In addition, Bev has been working on assessing the skill set of the BOD in order that BOD members with specific skill sets can be solicited for the BOD.

Grievance Committee (Appendix K). Stefanie reported on behalf of Hunter that the one pending grievance about which Hunter has written before is set for a hearing later this month. There are two other grievances which haven't been filed, but may be in the future.

Branding Initiative (see Appendix E). The branding initiative was revisited. The issue was whether to approve the brand at this meeting or to wait until February after receiving feedback on the brand. The brand has not been thoroughly reviewed by constituents. There was considerable discussion. There was the issue of immediacy where athletes could use the brand to sell the athletes. The motion would enable the athletes, councils, and committees to distribute and use the brand and receive feedback on it before the February meeting.

MOTION: *Moved to tentatively approve the brand pending final approval at the February meeting.* [Disposition: Motion passed unanimously]

Committee Approval (Appendix L). A working draft of committee assignments needed approval. It needs to be finalized and there were still some appointments to be made. A motion was made to tentatively accept the draft committee assignments. It was seconded and passed unanimously.

MOTION: *Moved to accept the draft committee assignments* (Appendix K). [Disposition: Motion passed unanimously]

Strategic Planning Committee. Suz announced that Pam Dillon indicated she would help guide the organization on its next strategic plan. The operative term is “guide.”

Fundraising Committee. There was a brief discussion on creating a fundraising and/or marketing committee.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 12:10 pm. The motion passed. [Secretary's Note: *These are the last minutes that I will be doing. My term is over and I have moved on to the treasurer's position. Bev Cosslett is the new Secretary and she will do an excellent job.*]

Respectfully Submitted,



Robert B. Kauffman
Secretary

2026 BOD Meeting Schedule: [Thursday meetings at 7:00 pm ET: 4:00 pm PT]	
Friday-Sunday, January 9 th -11 th Thursday, February 12 th Thursday, March 12 th Thursday, April 9 th Thursday, May 14 th Thursday, June 11 th Thursday, July 9 th	Thursday, August 13 th Thursday, September 10 th Friday-Saturday, October 9 th -11 th Annual Meeting: Thursday, November 12 th Thursday, December 10 th

[ACA BOD Minutes: January 10-11, 2026 page / 7](#)



**American Canoe Association
Board of Directors Meeting Agenda
Saturday & Sunday, January 9-10, 2026
Mission Bay Aquatics Center
Agenda**

Theme: *Setting the Stage for 2026*

Saturday, January 9, 2026 (9:00 am–4:00 pm PT / 12:00–7:00 pm ET)

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

- Lunch menu
- **Role Call**
- **Introduction** of New Members & Current Members
- **Rules of the Meeting**

(e.g. raise hand to be speak & to vote, respect that zoom members need time to respond, etc.) • **Approval of December Minutes** (if quorum) (Note: *There are two December minutes*) •

BOD Directory: (Name, type of director, officer position, term, email, cell, etc.) – Bev

BOD MEMBER'S JOB & RESPONSIBILITIES

- **Contribution:** Bronze member
 - **Background:** Background check, Code of Conduct, Conflict of Interest
(Needs to be completed by February meeting), etc.
- **Board Training & Compliance:** Safesport, Boardspan Training
- **Strategic versus Operational Level** (e.g. ACA Structure, NGB, etc.) P Decision making, reviewing, maintaining and adjusting priority directions. etc.) P BOD objectives (i.e. Do we need additional objectives, etc.)
- **Officer Elections**
 - P Officer Positions (i.e. Summary of bylaws of officer positions)
 - P Treasurer: (Nominations, Statements, Election)
 - P Secretary: (Nominations, Statements, Election)
 - P Vice President: (Nominations, Statements, Election)
- **BREAK** (15 minutes)
- **ACA Organizational Structure**
 - P ACA Organization Structure
 - P Nonprofit status
 - P NGB for Olympic and paralympic sport
 - P Overview of organizational structure [APP02]
- **BOD**
 - P Overview of standing committees – (details on Sunday agenda)
 - P Overview with committees
- **Councils**
 - P Council details
 - P Council 2026 tentative goals, meeting dates
 - P Individual council chairs speak about committees
- **Staff Overview**
 - P Staff liaisons and focus
 - P Staff tentative goals/work 2026
- **LUNCH** (12:00–1:00 pm PT/3:00–4:00 pm ET)
- **Overview of ACA finances** (i.e. Sources of revenues and expenses, but not number; February meeting) – Beth
- **Performance Objectives** (i.e. refine draft objectives) [APP03]

Sunday, January 10, 2026 (9:00–11:00 am PT / 12:00–2:00 pm ET)

COUNCIL REPORTS

- **SEIC:** [APP04] – Ryan
- **Regional Activity Council (RAC)** – Bill
- **Competition Council** - [APPxx] – Risa
- **Athlete Advisory Council (AAC):** TBD
- **Nomination Committee:** [APP06] – Bev
- **Grievance Committee:** [APP07] – rbk

2026 BOD Meeting Schedule: [Thursday meetings at 7:30 am PT / 10:30 am ET]

NEW BUSINESS

- Business from the floor

ADJOURNMENT (11:00 am PT / 2:00 pm ET)

- BOD Dinner:

Friday-Sunday, January 9 th -11 th	Thursday, Au
Thursday, February 12 th	Thursday, Se
Thursday, March 12 th	Friday-Satur
Thursday, April 9 th	Annual Meet
Thursday, May 14 th	Thursday, No
Thursday, June 11 th	Thursday, De
Thursday, July 9 th	

Setting the Stage



January 2026 Board of Directors Meeting San Diego, CA

1/22/2026



ACA Board Meeting

- Welcome and Introductions
- Meeting Rules
 - Everyone Raise your hand to vote
 - Listen for the most silent voice
 - Be intentional about how we disagree
 - listening fully,
 - assume good intent, and
 - focus on solutions rather than positions

- Zoom responses take time
- Zoom Participants
 - Can have a hard time hearing
 - Raise your hand to speak
 - Raise your hand to vote



ACA Board Meeting BOD Directory

Suzanne Britt	Delegate At-Large	2025-20 26	President & Acting Treasurer
---------------	-------------------	---------------	---------------------------------

Bev Cosslett	Delegate At-Large	2024-20 26	Vice President
Robert Kauffman	Independent	2024-20 26	Secretary
Jonas Ecker	USOPC Athletes' Commission & Sprint Athlete	2024-20 26	
Aaron Small	Slalom Athlete	2024-20 26	
Zach Lokken	At-Large Athlete	2024-20 26	
Open	Paracanoe Athlete	2024-20 26	
Risa Shimoda	Competition Council Chair	2026-20 27	
Ryan Rushton	SEIC Chair	2024-20 26	
Bill Caruso	RAC Chair	2026-20 27	
Si Norton	Delegate At-Large	2026-20 27	
Stef Stannard	Delegate At-Large	2024-20 26	

ACA Board Meeting On-Boarding Information



- Requirements
 - Review board responsibilities information:
<https://boardsource.org/resources/board-responsibilities-structures-faqs/>
 - Bronze Membership
 - Safesport, Background Check, Code of Conduct, Conflict of Interest
 - Boardspan Training
 - Annual Giving

2
1/22/2026



ACA Board Meeting On-Boarding Information

- Commitment
 - 2 year term January 1 to December 31
 - Can be re-elected up to 5 consecutive terms
 - Attend at least 50% of all regularly scheduled meetings •
Expected to serve on at least one standing or ad hoc Board committee
- Responsibility
 - Active Listening
 - Staff Communication – Define Role
 - Leadership and Governance
 - Strategic and Financial Oversight
 - Policy and Compliance



ACA Board Meeting Board Officers

- **Board President**
- Shall exercise general authority over the affairs of the ACA with the Board of Directors.
- Shall preside at all Annual and other National Membership Meetings, and all meetings of the Board of Directors and its Executive Committee.
- Shall have the authority to make all required appointments within the ACA and to remove any such appointee
 - Unless such authority is vested in other persons in the Bylaws

3
1/22/2026



ACA Board Meeting Board Officers

- **Board Vice President**
- Shall perform the duties of the President in the President's absence,
- Shall assume the unexpired term of the President in the event of the death, resignation or removal of the President



ACA Board Meeting Board Officers

- **Board Treasurer**

- Shall control and manage the funds and securities of the ACA •
under the provisions specified by law, the Bylaws, and the Board of Directors. •
Shall report of the ACA's significant financial transactions, the
general financial condition, and the budget for the next fiscal
year. • Chair of the Finance and the Audit Committee
- Approve Executive Director's expense reports
- Annually – responds to Auditor questions
 - Fraud Questionaire



ACA Board Meeting Board Officers

- **Board Secretary**

- Shall record the minutes of all Annual Membership Meetings and
any special meetings of the Members, and meetings of the Board of
Directors and its Executive Committee.
- Provides the Agenda for board meetings

- Communicates Meeting dates, time, zoom link
- Collects information for entry into the google meeting directory
- Shall oversee the conduct of all elections within the Association.



ACA Board Meeting Board Officers Election

- Nominations
 - By Position
- Statements
- Election/Vote

- Board Secretary
- Board Treasurer
- Board Vice President

5
1/22/2026



ACA Board Meeting Who is the ACA

- 145 year old organization (founded in

- 1880) • Non-profit 501(c)3 organization
- National Governing Body for Olympic/Paralympic
 - Sprint, Slalom, Paracanoe
- Member Organization
 - 15,000 members and 300+ clubs, various affiliates •
- Members Representation to board – Councils, Athletes •
- Diverse Organization
 - Recreation, Stewardship, Competition, Public Policy, Insurance, Safety/Education/Instruction.



ACA Board Meeting

Who is the ACA

- 145 year old organization (founded in 1880) • Non-profit 501(c)3 organization
- National Governing Body for Olympic/Paralympic
 - Sprint, Slalom, Paracanoe
 - Compliance Requirements
- Member Organization
 - 15,000 members and 300+ clubs, various affiliates
- Diverse Organization
 - Recreation, Stewardship, Competition, Public Policy, Insurance, Safety/Education/Instruction.

ACA Board Meeting Board Committees

- **Standing Committees**

- Executive Committee
 - 4 Officers
 - 2 BOD Athlete Reps
- Finance Committee
 - Properties Sub-Committee
- Audit Committee
 - Same members as Finance Committee
 - Meets separately from Finance Committee

ACA Board Meeting Board Committees

- **Non-Board Committees**

- Nominating & Governance Committee
 - Members defined by the Bylaws
 - Recommends BOD Candidates
 - Monitors BOD skill balance
 - Recommends Board Election Policy
- Grievance Committee
 - 3 members – all lawyers
 - Any grievance filed in the ACA
 - Returned Safesport Complaints
- Ethics Committee
- Properties Committee

ACA Board Meeting Board Committees

- **Ad-Hoc Committees**
 - Strategic Planning
 - Restart July 2026
 - Internal Policy/Governance Committee
 - Inactive
 - External Policy Committee

ACA Board Meeting National Activity Councils

- **Safety, Education and Instruction Council** • Instructors
 - Education
 - Certification
 - Chair
 - Ryan Rushton
 - rush360kayaking@gmail.com

ACA Board Meeting National Activity Councils

- Competition Council
 - 15-17 Disciplines
 - All components of competition
 - Chair
 - Risa Shimoda
 - risa@theshimodagroup.com
- Regional Activity Council
 - State Directors
 - Recreational Paddlers
 - PAC Clubs
 - Stewardship/Public Policy
 - Chair
 - Bill Caruso
 - wjcarusogmail.com

ACA Board Meeting National Activity Councils

- Athlete Advisory Council

- Athletes voice in governance of the ACA
- Represents all Athletes
- Recommends & Selects Athlete Reps to the various committees
- All BOD Athlete members are AAC members
- Chair
 - Jonas Ecker
 - jwecker000@gmail.com

ACA Organizational Chart

Board of Directors

Elite Athletes

VII-2B
ACA Membership vvi

**Elite Athletes - Slalom,
Independent Director
At Large Directors**

(3) National Activity Council Directors Affiliated Organizations
Athlete Advisory

Sprint, Paracanoe & At Large Director (4)
SEIC Chair
(VII-2A)

Competition Council Chair RAC Chair
or At Large Director (1)
(1)

Council

IX-2
ACA BOD
VII-2B(i-iii)
VII-2A(i)
VII-2A(ii) VII-2A(iii)
VII-2C/VII-2E
VII-2D VII-2E

Executive Director

Administrative

B

SEIC

Organization Chart

C

Competition Organization Chart

D

RAC

Organization Chart

Standing Committees

VIII-1

Executive Committee

Non Board Committees

VIII-3

Nominating & Governance

Organization Chart

VIII-1A

Committee

VIII-3B

Notes: 1) The relevant sections of the ACA Bylaws are displayed in the lower right corner. 2) The election of the National Activity Council Directors by the membership is a formality since the chairs are elected by their councils and run unopposed in the membership elections (dotted line).

3) The Executive Committee is composed of the chair, vice chair, secretary, and immediate past chair.

Finance Committee

VIII-1B

Properties

Subcommittee

VIII-3A

Audit Committee

VIII-1C

Ethics Committee VIII-3C

Grievance Committee VIII-3D

ACA Organizational Chart Administration/Staff

A

BOD

Organization Chart

Board of Directors

Executive Director Beth Spilman
(CEO & CFO)

Chief Operating Officer (COO) Krista Lenzmeier

Competition
Safety, Education &
Accounting
Stewardship & Public
Compliance
Communications
Emma Walther Volunteer Coordinator
Slalom
Jed Hinkley F

Kaycee Maas +

Competition
Instruction
Kelsey Bracewell E

Policy
Brett Mayer *
MacKenzie Holbrook G

Andy Ghizila +

Competition Liaison
Sprint
Michele Eray *

Sprint Coach Jersey Dz +
SEIC
Liaison

Safety, Education & Instruction
Ben Morton *
RAC
Liaison
Functional Categories

Slalom Coach
Sprint Coach
Membership Michelle Flynn

Rafal Smolen +

Joe Harper + * Part-time, 1099 employees + Funded by USOPC or US Coast Guard

Insurance Kristal Pastell

Revised: 1/6/26

ACA Organizational Chart SEIC Council

Intro to Paddling VI-16a

River Kayak

B

SEIC
Organization Chart

VI-18

Board of Directors
National Activity
Council Director

Chair

Ryan Rushton

V-1

Surf Kayak

VI-20

E
SEIC
Liaison

SEIC
Executive Committee VI-1

Safety & Rescue

VI-22
Universal Paddling Fishing VI-24

VI-26

Canoe

Coastal Kayak Packrafting
SEIC

Discipline Committees

VI-17
VI-19
Rafting

VI-21
Stand Up

Paddleboarding VI-23
VI-25

Standards Committee

VI-2

Notes: 1) The relevant sections of the SEIC Operating Procedures are displayed in the lower right corner. 2) Each Discipline Committee has its own chair, vice chair, secretary, and immediate past chair (Not diagramed). 3) The Executive Committee is composed of the chair, vice chair, secretary, and immediate past chair. 4) Revised 1/6/26 Nominations Committee

Curriculum Committee

VI-3 VI-4

ACA Organizational Chart Competition Council

C

Competition
Organization
Chart

Notes: 1) The relevant sections of the Competition Council Operating Procedures are displayed in the lower right corner. 2) Each Discipline Committee has its own chair, vice chair, secretary, and immediate past chair (Not diagramed). 3) The Executive Committee is composed of the chair, vice chair, secretary, and immediate past chair. Board of Directors National Activity Council Director

Chair
Risa Shimoda

F

Competition
Liaison

Competition Council Executive Committee VI-A

Chair

III-E

Vice Chair

III-E
III-E

Secretary

III-E
III-E

Competition Council Board (26 Members)

Immediate Past

CC Chair

III-E
III-E

National Board of Directors (2)

III-E

CC Chair

Appointments (2) III-E

At Large Members (2)

III-E

Nominations

VI-B

Slalom

VI-C6a

Sprint (Olympic) VI-C6b

Marathon (ICF) VI-C6e

Dragon Boat (ICF) VI-C6g

Council Committees (Chairs)

III-E/VI-C6

Whitewater Freestyle (ICF)

VI-C6i

Paracanoe

(Paralympic)

VI-C6c

Kayak Polo (ICF)

VI-C6d

Surfski/Ocean

Racing (ICF)

VI-C6f

Wildwater (ICF) VI-C6h

Outrigger (IVF) VI-C6j

National Collegiate Paddling

VI-C6k

Whitewater Open Canoe Downriver VI-C6l

Canoe Open

Slalom

VI-C6m

Canoe Poling

VI-C6n

Canoe Sailing (ICF) VI-C6o

FreeStyle

(flatwater)

VI-C6p

Proposed RAC Schematic (08.22.22 final)

ACA Board of Directors

(with RAC Chair as a full voting member as authorized as a
Chair of a National Activity Council)

ACA National Activity Council:

Regions & Affiliated Clubs (RAC) Council

(up to 15 voting members)

Executive Committee (up to 5 Officers):

Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Past Chair, and

Affiliated Clubs Representative

Regional Representatives (up to 10 Reps)

Liaisons (Non-Voting, Outside of Quorum, up to 5)

ACA Board Member Liaison (Ex Officio, 1)

Division Chair Group Liaison (Ex Officio, 1)

Properties Committee Liaison (Ex Officio, 1)

National Activity Council Liaisons(Ex Officio, 1 each)

ACA Regional Representatives – up to 10 Regions

(each representative chairs regional meetings)

- **Northeast:** Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont
- **East Coast:** Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, Washington DC
- **Southeast:** Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee
- **Gulf States:** Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Texas
- **Midwest:** Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin
- **Heartland:** Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota
- **Rocky Mountain:** Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming
- **Pacific West:** Alaska, California, Hawaii, Nevada, Oregon, Washington
- **US Territories:** Guam, Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands, other US territories
- **International:** Countries outside the United States and US Territories

to represent ACA grassroots interests

ACA Affiliated Clubs

500+ Paddle America Clubs (PACs)
and other affiliates

ACA State Directors (50+)

with additional assisting officers as needed

Regional Activity Council

IMPACT ON PACIFIC WEST

RAC HAS SHIFTED THE WEST FROM ISOLATED EFFORTS TO A CONNECTED, TRUST-BASED COMMUNITY.

- SHARED RESOURCES
- VISIBLE PATHWAYS
- MOMENTUM

WHAT WE ARE SEEING NOW

- NEW INITIATIVES
- PARTNERSHIPS
- ENGAGEMENT

THE RESULT OF GROUNDWORK LAID THROUGH RELATIONSHIPS,
COLLABORATION, AND VOLUNTEER-DRIVEN LEADERSHIP.

CALIFORNIA- ANTHEA

REINVIGORATED SURF

KAYAK COMMUNITY

SUCCESSFUL CERTIFICATION

COURSES

STRONG SOCIAL MEDIA

ENGAGEMENT HIGHLIGHTING ACA VALUE
WASHINGTON- ROBERT

ACTIVE, EFFECTIVE REGIONAL
COMMUNICATION VIA [FACEBOOK](#)

FORMING CONNECTIONS WITH SAFE
BOATING LAW ADMINISTRATORS

HONORABLE CONTENDER FOR THE

ANNUAL INSTRUCTOR CONTEST

OREGON- NICOLE

STATEWIDE PFD FITTING INITIATIVE WITH SCHOOLS, OUTFITTERS,
INSTRUCTORS, AND BOATING ADMINISTRATORS

HAWAII- MARK

REENGAGED THE STATE AFTER YEARS OF INACTIVITY

PLANNING A SAFE BOATING DAY THE FIRST IN A LONG TIME

RENEWED INTEREST IN CONNECTING CERTIFIED

INSTRUCTORS

CROSS REGION

KNOWLEDGE SHARING

FRAMEWORKS AND EXPERIENCE ARE SHARED AND ADAPTED ACROSS
REGIONS

- CONNECTIONS WITH STATE PARKS
- CONNECTIONS WITH BOATING LAW ADMINISTRATORS

NEW AND MOTIVATED DIRECTORS BENEFIT IMMEDIATELY FROM
ESTABLISHED MODELS

THE RAC ENABLES:

FASTER STARTUP OF MEANINGFUL PROGRAMS SMARTER USE

OF VOLUNTEER ENERGY REGIONALLY TAILORED SOLUTIONS

MULTI REGION EFFORTS

INSTRUCTOR UPDATE WEEKENDS:

FUNCTIONED AS PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCES RATHER THAN ISOLATED COURSES INCREASED
INSTRUCTOR CERTIFICATION NUMBERS AND IT INTEREST RECONNECTED PADDLERS TO ACA VALUES
OF SAFETY, INSTRUCTION, AND QUALITY CREATED CROSS-DISCIPLINE LEARNING AND COLLABORATION

MULTI REGION EFFORTS

ENCOURAGED TRUE BEGINNER-LEVEL INSTRUCTION ALIGNED WITH ACA'S SAFETY MISSION
ENCOURAGED CLASS REPORTING BY INSTRUCTORS

IMPROVED ACA'S ABILITY TO DEMONSTRATE IMPACT THROUGH REPORTABLE NUMBERS (CRITICAL
FOR GRANTS AND AGENCY PARTNERSHIPS)

VOLUNTEER MODEL

STATE DIRECTORS ARE SUPPORTED, NOT
PRESSURED INDIVIDUALS LEAD WHERE THEY ARE
STRONGEST SHARED GOALS, FLEXIBLE EXECUTION

HIGHER OWNERSHIP, SUSTAINABILITY, AND
FOLLOW-THROUGH

WHAT THE RAC CONTINUES TO BUILD

STRONG INTERPERSONAL NETWORKS ACROSS STATES, REGIONS,
DISCIPLINES, AND ORGANIZATIONS CLEARER AWARENESS OF *WHO*

AND

WHAT OUR RESOURCES ARE (PEOPLE, FACILITIES, EXPERTISE) A CULTURE OF
MUTUAL SUPPORT

CONFIDENCE AND TRUST THAT REGIONAL INITIATIVES CAN HAPPEN

UNIFIED USA

NATIONAL

TEAM

BRANDING

INITIATIVE

THE OPPORTUNITY

Our athletes compete on the world stage as representatives of the United States. While their performance reflects excellence, dedication, and national pride, our current visual identity does not consistently place “USA” at the center of that story across disciplines.

This initiative creates a unified,

athlete-centered USA National
Team mark that:

Clearly represents the United
States at first glance Aligns
visually and philosophically
with the ACA brand Brings
cohesion across competitive
disciplines

Meets expectations and
standards set by other
National Governing Bodies

SUPPORTING OUR

ATHLETES At its core, this

initiative is about athlete support.

Placing “USA” at the center of the branding: Elevates athletes’ national identity when competing internationally
Strengthens pride, recognition, and legitimacy on the world stage

Helps athletes present themselves consistently to sponsors, media, and partners
Reinforces that these athletes are part of a nationally unified team, not isolated programs

A clear, strong national identity benefits athletes both competitively and professionally.

ALIGNMENT WITH THE ACA BRAND

This new USA National Team mark is intentionally designed to work with the ACA identity, not separate from it.

Visual cohesion ensures ACA remains clearly connected as the National Governing Body
The relationship between the

USA mark and the ACA mark
strengthens brand clarity
Consistent use reinforces trust,
professionalism, and
organizational leadership
Rather than fragmenting our
brand, this approach creates a
clear hierarchy and partnership
between ACA and USA National
Teams.

UNITY ACROSS COMPETITIVE DISCIPLINES

One of the most important
benefits of this

initiative is cross-discipline unity.
Slalom, Sprint, Wildwater, Canoe
Polo,

Paracanoe, and emerging
disciplines
share a common national
identity

Athletes recognize themselves
as part of

a larger USA paddlesports team
Events, communications, and
apparel

feel connected rather than
siloed

This creates a stronger internal
culture and

a clearer external message: one

USA

paddlesports team, many disciplines, shared excellence.

FROM THIS:

TO THIS:

ALIGNMENT WITH

NATIONAL

GOVERNING BODY

STANDARDS

Across Olympic and Paralympic sport, national team branding incorporating USA or U.S. is the

norm.

This initiative:

Aligns ACA with best practices
used by peer NGBs

Strengthens credibility with
international federations,
sponsors, and partners

Positions ACA competitively
within the broader U.S.

Olympic
and Paralympic movement

This is not just a design update,
it's a governance

USA Archery

USA Artistic Swimming

USA Baseball

USA Basketball

US Biathlon

USA Bobsled and Skeleton US Bowling Congress

USA Boxing
American Canoe Association USA Climbing
USA Curling
USA Cycling
USA Diving
US Equestrian
USA Fencing
USA Field Hockey
US Figure Skating
USA Football
USA Golf
USA Gymnastics
USA Hockey
USA Judo
USA National Karate-do Federation USA Luge
USA Pentathlon
USA Raquetball
USA Roller Sports
USRowing
USA Rugby
US Sailing
USA Shooting
US Ski & Snowboard
US Soccer
USA Softball
US Speedskating
US Squash
USA Swimming
USA Table Tennis
USA Taekwondo
USA Team Handball

US Tennis Association USA Track & Field
USA Triathlon
USA Volleyball
USA Water Polo
USA Water Ski & Wake Sports USA Weightlifting
USA Wrestling

aligned branding standard.

CLOSING

This initiative is a strategic investment in our athletes, our identity, and the future of ACA-led competition. It honors the pride of representing the United States, strengthens cohesion across paddlesports, and ensures ACA's national

teams are presented with the clarity, unity, and professionalism expected of a National Governing Body.

1/22/2026

Board of Directors
Meeting January 11, 2026
Sunday
San Diego, CA
Setting the Stage

ACA Board Meeting
2026 BOD Meeting

Schedule • Thursday meetings at 7:30 pm ET

- Friday-Sunday, January 9th-11thIn Person San Diego
- Thursday, February 12th
- Thursday, March 12th
- Thursday, April 9th
- Thursday, May 14th
- Thursday, June 11th
- Thursday, July 9th
- Thursday, August 13th

- Thursday, September 10th
- Friday-Saturday, October 9th-11th **In Person**
- Annual Meeting: **TBD**
- Thursday, November 12th
- Thursday, December 10th

1
1/22/2026

ACA Board Meeting National Activity Councils

- **Safety, Education and Instruction**

- **Council** • Instructors

- Education
 - Certification
 - Chair
 - Ryan Rushton
 - rush360kayaking@gmail.com

ACA Board Meeting SEIC

- **2026 Meeting Dates**

- Spring 2026 - February 28 from 10AM to 4PM Eastern •
 - Summer 2026 - June 16th from 7PM to 9PM Eastern •
 - Fall 2026 - September 28th from 7PM to 9PM Eastern •
 - Winter 2026 - December 5th from 10AM to 4PM Eastern

ACA Board Meeting National Activity Councils

- Competition Council
 - 15-17 Disciplines
 - All components of competition
 - Chair
 - Risa Shimoda
 - risa@theshimodagroup.com

ACA Board Meeting Competition Council

- Proposed Dates (all start at 8pm ET / 5pm PT)
 - will finalize at January mtg
- Thursday, January 29, 2026
- Thursday, March 26, 2026
- Thursday, May 28, 2026
- Thursday, July 30, 2026
- Thursday, September 24, 2026
- Thursday November 19, Tuesday November 24, or Thursday, December

3, 2026 (Nov 26th is Thanksgiving)

- Recommendation: Thursday, December 3, 2026

3
1/22/2026

ACA Board Meeting Competition Council

- **Goals for 2026**
- Each discipline will be asked to
- 1) Define their discipline's rulebook,
- 2) design a ranking system (can use COR as a bootstrap), monitor their community's competition calendar and athlete participation, produce a National Championships competition, and (if applicable) select a National Team for international competitions and facilitate the team's participation in those competitions as best as possible with the resources we have.

ACA Board Meeting National Activity Councils

- Regional Activity Council
 - State Directors
 - Recreational Paddlers
 - PAC Clubs

- Stewardship/Public Policy
- Chair
 - Bill Caruso
 - wjcarusogmail.com

4
1/22/2026

ACA Board Meeting National Activity Councils

• **RAC 2026 Goals:**

- Improving on Kayaking 101 successes from previous years by expanding number of states participating and increasing notoriety for the effort on behalf of ACA
- Improving our outreach and advocacy at the local and state level coordinated with ACA staff and working to obtain requisite software tools to accomplish this effort.
- Continuing to improve coordination, communication and collaboration between the RAC, other ACA counsels and ACA staff.

ACA Board Meeting RAC

• **2026 Virtual Meetings:**

- 1st Tuesday of every month, 8:00PM ET:

- January 6
- February 3
- March 3
- April 7
- May 5
- June 2
- July 7
- August 4
- September 1

- October 6
- November 3 - voting day...may want reschedule
- December 1

5
1/22/2026

ACA Board Meeting National Activity Councils

- Athlete Advisory Council
 - Athletes voice in governance of the ACA
 - Represents all Athletes
 - Recommends & Selects Athlete Reps to the various committees
 - All BOD Athlete members are AAC members
- Chair
 - Jonas Ecker
 - jwecker000@gmail.com

SEIC Report Update:

The following is from an email from Kelsey dated 1/6/26.

We have made some notable progress regarding the leader/guide path - all of the workbooks have been published via Amazon print-on-demand. This now totals 16 books that are available on either kindle (digital) or print.

These precede the larger marketing efforts about the leader pathway, which we will begin in the early spring.

Guide books:

https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0GD8G8K5V?binding=paperback&ref=dbs_m_mng_rwt_sft_tpb_k_tkin

Leader books:

https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0F9MLGHBW?binding=paperback&ref=dbs_m_mng_rwt_sft_t

p_bk_tkin&qid=1767719380&sr=1-2
Competition Council Report 1/9-10/26

The following report was taken from an email from Risa dated 1/8/26.

The CC participation has begun to grow to its potential and is now unwieldy! As a result, we will be suggesting a compartmentalization of disciplines, to discuss in our January meeting. These might be Domestic (e.g., canoe poling), ICF only (e.g., Wildwater, slalom) and Affiliates (e.g., Outrigger) who report to both the ICF and another international system. Other committees whose updates we would welcome are the Athlete Committee (which we should have been platforming already), SEIC and the RAC. We also need to identify official liaisons for the SEIC and RAC.

We will begin using Robert's Rules!!!

We will also discuss a program we'd like to recommend to PACs that awards points for any, ANY competition related achievement including adding a competition to a scheduled event, identifying a newly certified coach or boasting a member who qualified for a US Team. At year's end we give the winning club a special acknowledgement of some sort.

Goals for 2026 - Each discipline will be asked to

1) Define their discipline's rulebook, 2) design a ranking system (can use COR as a bootstrap), monitor their community's competition calendar and athlete participation, produce a National Championships competition, and (if applicable) select a National Team for international competitions and facilitate the team's participation in those competitions as best as possible with the resources we have.

Risa

The following is from an email dated 1/6/26 from Bev Cosslett

According to the ACA Bylaws, the RAC must request approval of the elected officials. I would like to add the following Motion below.

Reference:

ARTICLE IX - NATIONAL ACTIVITY COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES, Section 1 (B) Composition. National Activity Councils shall be composed of the elected representatives of National Activity Committees and other units as accepted by each National Activity Council and approved by the Board of Directors.

Motion: Regional Activity Council requests approval of the elected representatives including:

Chair: Bill Caruso

Vice Chair: Bev Cosslett

Secretary: Moriya Beck

Affiliate Club Representative: BG Smith

Northeast Regional Director: Michelle Stoddard
East Coast Regional Director: Eian Jackson
Southeast Regional Director: Andrea White
Gulf States Regional Director: Movetia Salter
Midwest Regional Director: Marcos Garcia Norris
Heartland Regional Director: Pete Jizba
Rocky Mountain Regional Director: Sean Tracy
Pacific West Regional Director: Jamie Eubanks
International Regional Director: Stanley Esquivel Mesen

BOD Self Assessment Skillset

January 2026

Summary - Average Ratings

Fundraising: 2.38
Account & Audit: 2.5
Risk & Compliance: 2.5
Strategic Planning: 2.88
Financial Literacy: 2.88
Public Policy & Advocacy: 2.88
Marketing & Brand Strategy: 2.88
Community & Volunteer Engagement: 3.13
Governance & Bylaws: 3.5
Project Management: 3.63

Program Development & Evaluation: 3.75

Leadership & Facilitation: 4.38

AVERAGE RATING: 3.5

I have reviewed policies when I was previously a BOD member. I reviewed policies on behalf of the faculty for the Board of Regents in Maryland and had several policy initiatives including academic integrity and evaluation of system presidents.

I studied non profit management in Grad School - as part of my M. Ed. I've worked for and with many non-profits and NGO's.

AVERAGE RATING: 3.88

As a department chair, I was responsible for developing a strategic plan for the program which was evaluated as part of the accreditation process. In addition, I reviewed other program's strategic plans as an accreditation visitor.

I consult with a few organizations on their strategic planning processes, and teach strategic thinking vs tactical thinking as one of my many workshop topics.

AVERAGE RATING: 4.38

As an ACA board member, I was responsible for developing the executive director evaluation process for the executive director. Regarding the two previous initiatives with the Board of Regents, I had to develop consensus within the faculty, with the students and staff, with System, with the university presidents, and with, of course, the Board of Regents.

35 years leading projects all over the world, and teaching leadership to people from 175 countries. I've run many conflict transformation and

AVERAGE RATING: 2.88

I worked in a bank. I graduated with an undergraduate degree in business which included

intermediate accounting. As part of teaching our organization and administration course, I taught basic accounting principles, income statements, balance sheets, and, of course, budgeting. I've built and managed many project budgets up to 1.2 million.

AVERAGE RATING: 2.5

As previously noted, I have a basic understanding of most everything mentioned. However, I don't have the mentioned professional certifications.

AVERAGE RATING: 2.38

I have fairly extensive grant writing experience. I have done professional workshops on it, taught it in class, and have written grants and implemented them. My funding total is \$1,100,000. I have had less experience in the other items like a professional fundraiser, some familiarity but not an area of strength.

AVERAGE RATING: 3.25

I have taught risk management, published a text book on risk management, done workshops on risk management, and published papers on risk management. I am not a lawyer. However, I have served as an expert witness on numerous cases. My primary area of expertise is boating safety. I have less experience in insurance and regulatory matters.

Risk Management consulting and specialist. I review and assess risk management plans for schools, camps and outdoor education outfits.

AVERAGE RATING: 3.75

I have extensive experience developing programs. I developed a recreation and parks program at Frostburg State University which was designed to meet COPART accreditation. I redesigned it to meet the new standards in 2013 which emphasized evaluation. Also, I developed the president's evaluation on shared governance which was at the board level. In addition, I was a COPART visitor and leader of teams which evaluated academic programs in terms of COPART accreditation standards.

I've been running education and development programs for many decades.

AVERAGE RATING: 3.63

In addition to the previously mentioned projects, I conducted a project where we studied and made recommendations to the Maryland DNR on the fatalities on the Potomac River. I wrote the response to the RFP, was project manager, hired a hydrology engineer and interpreter, managed the financial resources, and completed the project on time. In addition, I was the project manager on all the grants that we received. I don't have a PM certification.

Lots of experience with with and I taught Program Planning and Management at a Graduate Level.

AVERAGE RATING: 3.13

I have done this but nothing spectacular.

AVERAGE RATING: 2.88

I have done this on a limited basis at the local level. I initiated the River Park at Canal Place in Cumberland which is grinding along at a slow pace.

AVERAGE RATING: 2.88

I participated in the development and review of the current ACA logo. I taught marketing principles as part of the O&A course at Frostburg.

Grievance Committee Update

The following is from an email from Hunter Brantetter dated 1/4/26.

The one pending grievance about which I have written before is set for a hearing later this month. The respondent has filed a motion to dismiss that is functionally an offer of a conditional judgment in an effort to resolve the issue. My understanding is that in advance of the hearing, the hearing panel intends to meet and rule on the motion.

I am also aware of at least two matters that could potentially become ACA grievances, but neither has been realized yet, so there's nothing to report on either one.

ACA BOD

ACTIVE Committees Associated with the Board of Directors
as of 1/22/2026 15:55

Type Committee Members Formed Email Cell Phone

Board Standing Executive Committee 1/11/2026
canoejudge@aol.com or

Suzanne Britt BOD President canoe12judgesb@gmail.com 206-617-1217
Aaron Small BOD Vice-President/At-large Athlete Rep scckaaron@gmail.com 206-388-6654
Bev Cosslett BOD Secretary bevcosslett4@gmail.com 914-299-0919
Robert Kaufman BOD Treasurer kauffman.rbk@gmail.com 240-727-8985
Jonas Ecker BOD Team USA Athlete Rep jwecker000@gmail.com 360-383-6659

Board Standing Finance Committee 1/11/2026

Robert Kaufman BOD Treasurer kauffman.rbk@gmail.com 240-727-8985
canoejudge@aol.com or
Suzanne Britt BOD ex-officio canoe12judgesb@gmail.com 206-617-1217
Risa Shimoda BOD Athlete Rep risa@theshimodagroup.com 301-502-6548

BOD Athlete Rep

Jerry Dunne Properties Chair jerry.dunne645@gmail.com 917-656-7753
Riaz Shaikh ACA Member riaz.shaikh@gmail.com 917-913-3342
Beth Spilman Staff ex-officio bspilman@americancanoe.org 540-907-4460
Emma Walther Staff ex-officio ewalther@americancanoe.org

Board Standing Audit Committee 2/1/2025

Robert Kaufman BOD Treasurer kauffman.rbk@gmail.com 240-727-8985
Suzanne Britt BOD ex-officio canoejudge@aol.com or canoe 206-617-1217
Risa Shimoda BOD Athlete Rep risa@theshimodagroup.com 301-502-6548

BOD Athlete Rep

Jerry Dunne Properties Chair jerry.dunne645@gmail.com 917-656-7753
Riaz Shaikh ACA Member riaz.shaikh@gmail.com 917-913-3342
Beth Spilman Staff ex-officio bspilman@americancanoe.org 540-907-4460
Emma Walther Staff ex-officio ewalther@americancanoe.org

NonBoard Standing

NonBoard
Property Management

NonBoard Standing

Subcommittee 1/11/2026

Jerry Dunne Atlantic Division/Sebago/BOD Pres Appointmnt jerry.dunne645@gmail.com Standing Ethics Committee.
917-656-7753 John Nowicky Sugar Island Trustee Chair jnowicky@gmail.com 551-
427-4798 Bev Cosslett BOD Secretary bevcosslett4@gmail.com 914-299-0919

NonBoard
Standing Grievance Committee 12/31/2026

Nominating and Governance
Committee 1/11/2026

615-364-7615 Jerry Dunne BOD Appointment jerry.dunne645@gmail.com 917-656-7753
Stef Stannard BOD Appointment stef@kayakfoundation.org 347-652-4481

National
Activity
Safety Safety, Education and
Councils
Instruction Council (SEIC)

Robert Kaufman BOD President Appointment to SEIC kauffman.rbk@gmail.com

240-727-8985 Page 1

ACA BOD

Bev Cosslett BOD VP / BOD President Appointmnt bevcosslett4@gmail.com
914-299-0919 Bill Caruso RAC (PAC & State Director Rep) wjcaruso@gmail.com
856-625-3096 Robin Pope SEIC robinpope3@hotmail.com 828-506-2259 Stef Stannard
SEIC stef@kayakfoundation.org 347-652-4481 Risa Shimoda Athlete Rep
risa@theshimodagroup.com 301-502-6549 Gus Cook Athlete Rep

Chair Position Voted by BOD
1 other Position voted on by BOD
Athlete Rep

Hunter Branstetter BOD Appointment / Athlete Rep hunter.branstetter@gmail.com

**ACTIVE Committees Associated with the Board of Directors
as of 1/22/2026 15:55**

Type Committee Members Formed Email Cell Phone

National
Activity
Councils Competition Council (CC)
Risa Shimoda BOD President Appointment to CC risa@theshimodagroup.com 301-502-6549

National
Activity
Councils Regional Activity Council (RAC)
Bev Cosslett BOD rep would be ex-offio bevcosslett4@gmail.com 914-299-0919

National
Activity
Councils Athlete Advisory Council 1/11/2026
Jonas Ecker Team USA Athlete Commission Primary Rep (10 yr)
Casey Team USA Athlete Commission Alternative Rep (10 yr)
Aaron Small BOD at-Large Athlete Rep (10 yr)
BOD Paracanoe Athlete Rep (10 yr)
Zak Lokken BOD Slalom Athlete Rep (10 yr)
?
?
?
?
?

Board Ad Hoc Governance (Internal Policy & Procedures) 2/4/2024
Hunter Branstetter Cmttee Chair Athlete Rep hunter.branstetter@gmail.com 615-364-7615

?
??
??
??

Board Ad Hoc Governance (External/Stewardship Policy) 2/4/2024
Robin Pope BOD appointment robinpop3@hotmail.com 828-506-2259
Brett Mayer Staff bmayer@americancanoe.org

??
??
??

Board Ad Hoc Strategic Planning 7/1/2026
Pam Dillon Former BOD & ED, pamsdillon@aol.com 703-895-9824
canoejudge@aol.com or

Suzanne Britt BOD President
??
??
??

Board Ad Hoc Fundraising 1/11/2026 Page 2

canoe12judgesb@gmail.com 206-617-1217