



The January general meeting picked up right where our last general meeting, which was in November, left off ... with El Niño and rain. Thanks to all of you who sailed down the drenched roadways to join us. Considering the inclement weather, there was a nice turnout to hear and participate in a full agenda.

The meeting began with an election, via acclimation, of Risa Scott to the position of WSA-OC Membership Director. Shannon Harshman - the previous holder of this position and elected to serve for 2016 - chose to resign, as she had scheduling conflicts. Risa was elected unanimously and will serve, with the rest of the Board, for 2016.

Gail Hine, a WORSAs founding member and SCYA Staff Commodore conducted the swearing in, officially installing the 2016 WSA-OC Board of Directors. The 2016 Board members are: Commodore, Valerie Rhodes; Vice Commodore, Kathleen Brown; Rear Commodore, Gabi Schwaiger; Treasurer, Wayne Wallace; Secretary Brenda Highley; Membership Director, Risa Scott; Director (Racing), Karen Pacella and Director (Programs), Melanie Green.

After Gail completed her official swearing in duties she and Kathie Ohmer-Arnold provided a brief history of the Women's Sailing Convention (see sidebar for more information) and it's WISP origins - teaching women how to be better sailing partners - way back in 1975. The first WSA was held in 1989 and is celebrating it's 27th year in 2016. Women's sailing and the convention has come a long way since then.

Susie Campbell provided a brief synopsis of her brainchild, the Ocean Awareness Challenge, which will take place September 9 - 11, 2016 at Emerald Bay on Catalina Island. The OAC is an event geared to provide knowledge and information, via marine professionals, of issues facing the world's oceans and what we can do to improve them.

After a short break, the members were divided into four smaller groups for a Speed Strategy Session. Each group spent 10 minutes providing input to each group leader on the following topics: Racing, Philanthropy, Programs and On the Water Events. The purpose was for the members to directly provide suggestions, comments and ideas of what they'd like to see on the WSA-OC agenda and calendar for 2016. The strategy session was very well received resulting in pages of new ideas.