UNITED STATES PARACHUTE ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting

February 10-12, 2017
Chattanooga, TN

March 12, 2017
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1. **Call to Order**

The President, Jay Stokes, called the meeting to order at 9:00 on Feb. 10, 2017.

The directors in attendance were Luke Aikins, Chuck Akers, Albert Berchtold, Sherry Butcher, Shauna Finley (Sat/Sun only), Jason Putnam Gordon, Josh Hall, Steve Helffrich, Larry Hill, Shawn Hill, Al King, Jan Meyer, Mike Mullins, Tom Noonan, Chris Nunn, Gary Peek, Jay Stokes, Tony Thacker, Kirk Verner, Michael Wadkins. Absent directors were Jack Pyland and Mike McGowan.

2. **Approval of the Minutes of Previous Meeting**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Motion 1: Passed</th>
<th>Unanimous Consent</th>
<th>(Mr. Stokes)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Move to approve the summer 2016 minutes.&quot;</td>
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3. **Adoption of the Agenda**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Motion 2: Passed</th>
<th>Unanimous Consent</th>
<th>(Mr. Stokes)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Move to approve the agenda.&quot;</td>
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4. **President's Report (Mr. Stokes)**

None submitted.

5. **Alternative Motions of the Full Board (Mr. Stokes)**

No alternative motions were made from July 2016 to February 2017.

6. **Interim Actions of the Executive Committee (Mr. Stokes)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Motion 3: Passed</th>
<th>19-0-0</th>
<th>(Mr. Stokes)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Move to have USPA submit the attached bid for the 2nd FAI World Cup of Wingsuit Flying at the upcoming IPC meeting, January 23-27, 2017, in Faro, Portugal.&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<th>Motion 4: Passed</th>
<th>18-0-0</th>
<th>(Mr. Stokes)</th>
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<tr>
<td>&quot;Move to accept the ‘Draft USPA 2017 Budget’ as the interim operating budget from January 1, 2017, through February 19, 2017.”</td>
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7. **Treasurer's Report (Mr. Berchtold)**

**USPA Reserve Fund**

The USPA reserve fund was valued at $3,224,147 on December 31, 2015. It was valued at $3,249,736 on December 31, 2016. Additions of $48,000 were
made during 2016. A withdrawal of $200,000 was made in order to meet cash flow needs during the year. The total increase to the reserve fund was $25,589, or 0.7%, for the calendar year 2016. The gain/loss from investment activities was $178,295, or 5.93%.

**U.S. Parachute Team Trust Fund**
The U.S. Parachute Team Trust Fund was valued at $1,331,655 on December 31, 2015. Contributions of $61,023 were added during 2016. Distributions of $67,000 were made in support of our U.S. skydiving teams to attend the various WPCs in 2016. The total increase of the fund was $28,537, or 2.1%. There was a gain from investment activities in the amount of $78,757, or 6.15%. Our returns in 2016 were modest and in line with our investment policy and the organization’s risk-assumption profile.

**USPA Headquarters Loan**
The USPA Headquarters loan has been paid in accordance with its terms through 2016. In October 2016 we completed the refinancing of the loan. The swap loan (4.94%) with a March 2018 balloon payment was refinanced into a 5-year fixed mortgage at 3.08%. This will put us on track for final payment of the USPA Headquarters loan in October 2021. The current balance as of January 2017 is $834,355.

**8. IPC Delegate Report**

From the 2016 Plenary Meeting of the International Parachuting Council
Prepared by Randy Connell, Alternate Delegate

The annual meeting of the IPC was held in Faro, Portugal, January 24-29, 2017. The U.S. delegation was comprised of Kirk Verner (delegate), Randy Connell (alt. delegate), Larry Hill, Marylou Laughlin, James Hayhurst, Michael Cooper and Stephen Kramer. Shawn Hill was originally registered but was forced to withdraw prior to arrival due to a family emergency. Shortly after arrival, delegate Kirk Verner received word of a family emergency and chose to return home immediately. Under the IPC rules, voting authorities for the USA devolve to the alternate delegate. Kirk and I went through the published agenda and agreed on the USA position on all matters before he departed. I am thankful for his confidence in my ability, and I am further thankful for the support and advice presented to me by all members of the delegation. I am pleased to report that almost all topics of interest to the USPA and its members were decided in our favor.

The first two days of the meeting are taken up by open committee meetings, where the committee chairs present reports on events in their areas from the prior year and review proposals in an open forum. Proposed bids for
upcoming first-category events are also presented by the bidders. This is followed by a day of closed committee meetings, which are the working sessions. The USA had representatives on the following committees: Formation Skydiving, Wingsuit Flying, Rules & Regulations, Canopy Piloting, Style & Accuracy and Speed Skydiving. Further, committee chairs from Canopy Formation and the Judges Committee sought out our input. This indicates that USPA is well-regarded and respected in the international community and that we carry significant influence. The final two days on the calendar are the Plenary Meeting, where all of the voting takes place.

Details of all proposals are available on demand, either from USPA HQ or from the IPC website. The minutes and all output documents are expected to be published via the IPC website soon. It is questionable whether or not they will be available prior to the winter BOD meeting in Chattanooga, TN. Here is a brief list of topics and results of interest to the USA:

- VFS event expanded to 10 rounds using new formations that were a combination of proposals from USA and Norway. Passed, without dissent.
- Updated definitions of head-up/down orientations. Proposals submitted by USPA members were considered, but ultimately, the committee looked for a simpler way to implement the same idea. Passed, without dissent.
- World Championships in FS/CF/AE/SP for 2018 was awarded to Australia. This was very significant to the U.S., as our 8-way National Champions (also current World Champions) would not have been able to attend if the Russian bid prevailed. Passed 33/9/1.
- 2017 World Cup in WS was awarded to USA. Bid presented by Skydive Fyrosity, a new Group Member DZ in Nevada. The vote on this was rather split due to the high cost of the entry fees. Passed 23/6/1.
- 2018 World Cup of Indoor Skydiving was awarded to Bahrain. USA voted for Norway based on timing of the event; Norway came in second. Bahrain bid features $200,000 in prize monies. This vote was surrounded by significant controversy resulting from comments made by the Israeli delegate. Passed 30/9/1.
- 2019 World Championships of Indoor Skydiving was not awarded. Two bids were presented, neither adopted. This leaves the bidding process open for next year’s Plenary. At least one bid from a tunnel in the USA is expected then.
- A proposal to change the selection method for and fundamental nature of international competition juries was defeated. USA contribution to the discussion has been acknowledged to have changed the minds of several delegates, who took the time to thank me for bringing certain facts out.
- The FAI Gold Parachuting Medal was awarded to B.J. Worth. The election was unanimous following the withdrawal of the Argentinean candidate for the same award.
- The 2018 Plenary Meeting has been scheduled for Sofia, Bulgaria. USA
preferred the Israeli location, but the previously noted comments by the Israeli delegate made this very difficult to support, especially in combination with the extreme cost of the Israel bid.

In closing, I would like to again thank all members of the delegation for their vital support. I believe I have served the interest of our members. Please refer any questions to me at USPA.

Randy Connell
Alternate Delegate to the IPC

9. **Executive Director's Report (Mr. Scott)**

This report summarizes the efforts of 2016. USPA ended the year with 38,555 members, experiencing 2.9% annual growth. We added 6,804 new members for the year. We issued 8,211 licenses, up 7.7% for the year, including 4,026 A licenses, up 8.5% for the year. We issued 2,246 new ratings, up 13.5% for the year.

Skydiving experienced 21 fatalities—four of them students—in the U.S.; the same number as in 2015. Eight, or nearly 40%, of the fatalities were attributed to equipment problems or incorrect emergency procedures. But with increased jump numbers, the fatality rate continues to go down, now at 0.5 fatalities per 100,000 jumps.

USPA ended 2016 with a $3,096 operational deficit, substantially better than the $237,525 operational deficit that was budgeted, and a $196,014 total excess, substantially better than the $87,050 total deficit that was budgeted. All three reserve accounts are up at year-end—investments are at $3,238,976; U.S. Team Trust Fund is at $1,360,192; and the Airport Access & Defense Fund is at $327,181. At $3,275,066, USPA’s net worth is at its highest level ever.

The Executive Director presented the draft 2017 budget for board approval. It projects only a $7,099 operational excess, though a $157,649 total excess after investments are counted. It is becoming clear that inflation and increased overhead costs will soon demand the board consider a dues increase.

The Executive Director reviewed departmental accomplishments for 2016 and reviewed each department’s 2017 goals and/or anticipated challenges. See the Executive Director Report PowerPoint attached to these minutes.

The Executive Director reviewed members’ expectations of USPA. USPA
members expect:

- Informative, insightful safety programs and education
- Licenses and ratings that mean something
- An active, influential government relations effort that:
  - Ensures skydiving’s access to airports and the airspace
  - Works to prevent burdensome and/or costly regulation
- Third-party member insurance that works
- A *Parachutist* magazine that is informative, entertaining and relevant
- A competition program that conducts meets and validates records with integrity
- A USPA that is innovative, using technology to improve service and provide value

The Executive Director reviewed the current challenges to those expectations that need board focus:

**Rating Program**
The integrity of our rating program, particularly tandem instructor and tandem instructor examiner ratings, has been challenged. The aftermath of the tandem double fatality in California revealed faults in our program and raises questions about the integrity of those who receive those ratings. USPA must act to restore faith and confidence in those granted the privileges of those ratings.

**FAA and Landing Areas**
Another office of the FAA has revived the idea of FAA-recognized parachute landing areas, a concept defeated by USPA in 2014. USPA needs to push back just as hard this time.

**Innovation**
USPA needs to catch up with technology. Plastic membership cards (and the many replacements we send) are costly. USPA members want and need to renew their ratings online, and that will also reduce USPA costs. In the age of the internet, *Parachutist* is no longer a news magazine; we need to move *Parachutist* to an online, interactive presence. We’ll still print *Parachutist*, as most members still say they want it that way.

**Drug and Alcohol Abuse**
USPA needs to ensure that rating holders, especially tandem instructors, are clean and sober. This aim is countered by skydiving’s culture of alcohol (beer line, case of beer) and society’s move toward acceptance of marijuana.

**Privatized ATC and User Fees**
Both are active concepts with strong supporters among the aviation
community and within Congress. Both have been strongly opposed by all general aviation users as detrimental to GA interests. The new administration introduces new players and great uncertainty about the administration’s views on these hot-button items. USPA must be prepared to react quickly and forcefully, in consultation with other GA partners.

10. **Old Business**

**Motion 5:** Passed 15-0-4 (Mr. Stokes)
“Move to deny the appeal of Yuri Garmashov, USPA #163264.”

**Motion 6:** Passed 13-5-1 (Mr. Stokes)
“Move to uphold the appeal of Katie Hawkins, USPA #183891.”

**Motion 7:** Passed 14-5-0 (Mr. Stokes)
“Move to disallow Katie Hawkins, USPA #183891, from attaining a PRO rating for a period of 2 years commencing February 10, 2017.”

**Motion 8:** Passed 19-0-0 (Mr. Stokes)
“Move to uphold the appeal of Bernard Williams, USPA #69021.”

**Motion 9:** Passed 14-4-1 (Mr. Stokes)
“Move to disallow Bernard Williams, USPA #69021, from attaining a PRO rating for a period of 90 days commencing February 10, 2017.”

11. **New Business**

**Motion 10:** Passed Unanimous Consent (Mr. Stokes)
“Move that the winter 2018 USPA Board of Directors Meeting be held in San Antonio, TX, on March 2-4, 2018.”

**Motion 11:** Passed Secret Ballot (Mr. Stokes)
“Move to select Chicagoland Skydiving Center as the 2018 Wingsuit and Freefall Nationals host.”

**Motion 12:** Passed Secret Ballot (Mr. Stokes)
“Move to select Skydive Sebastian as the 2018 CP Nationals host.”

**Motion 13:** Failed 1-18-1 (Mr. Stokes)
“Move to declare the board members that work for a manufacturer in conflict for the discussion of the age BSR.”
Motion 14: Failed 0-18-2 (Mr. Stokes)
“Move to declare the board members that own a drop zone in conflict for the discussion of the age BSR.”

Motion 15: Failed 9-10-1 (Mr. Stokes)
“Move to change SIM 2-1.D to:
2-1.D Age requirements
1. For skydives made within the U.S. and its territories and possessions, skydivers are to be at least 18 years of age or,
   a. at least 16 years of age with written consent from both parents, or one parent if one parent is deceased, or a legal guardian. If the parents, or parent, or legal guardian is not present to give written permission at the time of the jump, then the written consent must be notarized. The person making the jump must show proof of age and the parent(s) or guardian must show proof of familial relationship. All persons involved with the jump must be made aware of the jumper's age.
2. For skydives made outside the U.S. and its territories and possessions, the minimum age is specified by the country (or its national air sport control). Such skydivers who are under 16 years of age will not be issued a USPA license.”

12. Committee Reports

A. Competition

Chair: Kirk Verner
Members: Chuck Akers
         Albert Berchtold
         Josh Hall
         Larry Hill
Advisers: Jason Putnam Gordon
          Shawn Hill
          James Hayhurst
          Randy Connell
          Marylou Laughlin
          Steve Kramer

Discussed:
National Championships after-action reports
Removed a judge from FAI judges list (passed 5/0/0)
Question regarding aircraft operations during record attempts
Accept the sole bid for the 2018 National Collegiate Parachuting Championships (passed 4/0/1) at Skydive Arizona

Potential for unusual aircraft at the 2017 National Skydiving Championships

Selection of the 2017 U.S. Teams,

Selection of the U.S. Team leadership for 2017 and 2018:


Discussion about behavior of a U.S. Team member during the 1st FAI World Championships of Wingsuit Flying

**Motion 16:** Passed 17-0-3 (Meyer by name) (Mr. Verner)

"Move to add to SCM Chapter 2:

3.5.2 Any judge on the official panel at a National Championships will have their next membership renewal at no cost to the judge.
3.5.2.1 Judges not on the official panel but who have judged a National Championships at their own expense may receive the following year’s membership at no cost pending recommendation of the Chief Judge and the approval of the USPA Controller.
3.5.2.2 The maximum benefit in a single calendar year is one year of membership.”

Annual changes because of the IPC meeting in Faro, Portugal, include expansion of the VFS event to 10 rounds.

**Motion 17:** Passed 20-0-0 (Mr. Verner)

"Move to adopt changes to the SCM based on IPC changes as discussed."

After-action reports from the 2016 Meet Director(s) and Chief Judge(s) contained suggestions for improvements and clarifications.

**Motion 18:** Passed 20-0-0 (Mr. Verner)

"Move to adopt SCM changes based on submitted after-action reports, as discussed."

Based on member feedback following the 2016 National Championships, we want to expand the MFS event to 8 rounds.
Motion 19: Passed 20-0-0 (Mr. Verner)
"Move to expand the mixed formation skydiving event to 8 rounds."

If a competitor violates the terms of the U.S. Team contract, there are consequences.

Motion 20: Passed 19-0-1 (Mr. Verner)
"Move to add the following text to the U.S. Team contract:
20. I acknowledge that a breach of or failure to adhere to the provisions of this agreement may result in disciplinary action, to include being removed from the team by the Team Manager, with subsequent review by the USPA Competition Committee for further disciplinary action.
21. I further acknowledge that breach of or failure to adhere to the provisions of this agreement may cause me to be liable for the return of any or all U.S. Team Trust Fund monies that I may have received."

Upon both recommendation of the 2016 Meet Director and the request of the competitors, simplify the exit requirements of Collegiate 6-way event.

Motion 21: Passed 20-0-0 (Mr. Verner)
“Move to adopt changes to SCM Chapter 7 as discussed with regards to the 6-way speed event.”

B. Constitution and Bylaws

   Chair: Gary Peek
   Members: Jason Putnam Gordon
            Steve Helffrich
   Advisers: Jan Meyer

1. Discussed the disciplinary process for allegations of impropriety by BOD members.

   It is the committee's opinion that BOD members should not be subject to the 1-6 process when the allegations relate to conduct carried out in the BOD member's capacity as a board member, as opposed to conduct that any member could have committed. Between now and the next board meeting, the committee will continue to review this position, which may result in proposed amendments to the constitution and bylaws.

2. Discussion of whether to amend the corporate charter to clarify whether indoor skydiving be considered part of parachuting.
The committee suggests that headquarters publish an article in *Parachutist* magazine containing the following information: how the IPC has recognized indoor skydiving as part of parachuting; how the USPA has been involved, e.g., retaining authority over judging but delegating the choice of the U.S. indoor skydiving team to the IBA and maintaining indoor skydiving records; and how the board is continuing to review USPA's involvement and anticipates asking for membership input in the future.

3. Discuss the expansion of the USPA "Related Party Transaction and Conflict of Interest Policy" related to the draft 2017 document of that name provided by USPA counsel.

Decided that Jason Putnam Gordon will work with USPA counsel to determine final wording.

### C. Executive Committee

- **President:** Jay Stokes
- **Vice President:** Steve Helffrich
- **Secretary:** Jan Meyer
- **Treasurer:** Albert Berchtold
- **Member-at-Large:** Mike Mullins
- **Chairman of the Board:** Al King

#### Motion 22: Passed 19-0-0 (Mr. Stokes)

“Move to authorize the ED to enter into an LOA with Sigma for a 6-month test period beginning February 10, 2017.”

#### Motion 23: Passed 14-4-3 (Mr. Stokes)

“Move to waive SIM Section 2-1.F.9, ‘All student jumps including tandems must be completed between official sunrise and sunset,’ to allow Randy Melfi, USPA #70191, to make a night tandem with Kim Chesher, USPA #297452, on a date to be determined in 2017. Mr. Melfi must make one night jump that night prior to making the tandem jump with Ms. Chesher.”

### Disciplinary Actions

Passed 6-0-0

"Move that all TICs trained by Rob Pooley, #155136, from July 25, 2015, to present must:

- immediately stop performing tandem jumps
• pass a full TI rating course taught by a current USPA Tandem Examiner, at their expense
• present completed paperwork and payment to both UPT and USPA for both ratings, and
• be subject to disciplinary actions if they continue to perform tandem jumps without completing the previous steps"

Passed 6-0-0
"Move that all TICs trained by Rob Pooley, USPA #155136, from February 2011 through July 25, 2015, who have not already received valid Tandem Instructor ratings from UPT or USPA must:
• immediately stop performing tandem jumps
• attend a USPA-developed refresher course taught by a current USPA Tandem Examiner, at their expense
• present completed paperwork and payment to both UPT and USPA for both ratings, if not previously provided
• be subject to disciplinary actions if they continue to perform tandem jumps without completing the previous steps"

Passed 6-0-0
"Move that all TICs trained by Rob Pooley, #155136, from February 2011 through July 25, 2015, who have received valid Tandem Instructor ratings from UPT or USPA must provide evidence they have attended a USPA-developed refresher course taught by a current USPA Tandem Examiner, at their expense, by September 2016.”

Passed 6-0-0
"Move that any TICs trained by Yuri Garmashav, #163264, from April 2014 to the present who have not already received valid UPT and USPA Tandem Instructor ratings must:
• immediately stop performing tandem jumps
• attend a USPA-developed refresher course taught by a current USPA Tandem Examiner, at their expense
• present completed paperwork and payment to both UPT and USPA for both ratings
• be subject to disciplinary actions if they continue to perform tandem jumps without completing the previous steps"

Passed 6-0-0
"Move to waive SIM Section 3-1.E.A. License (1. a. thru f.) to issue an A license posthumously to Andrew Laverty, USPA #295430."

Passed 6-0-0
"Move to suspend the membership of Katie Hawkins, USPA #183891, for one
Failed 3-3-0
"Move to have the membership suspension of Katie Hawkins, USPA #183891, remain in effect during her appeal to the full board."

Passed 6-0-0
“Move to suspend the membership of Bernard Williams, USPA #69021, for a period of 12 months, beginning on the date of his notification by the USPA Secretary.”

Failed 2-4-0
"Move to have the membership suspension of Bernard Williams, USPA member #69021, remain in effect during his appeal to the full board."

Passed 6-0-0
“Move to allow Kevin Purdy, USPA #86129, to retrain Greg Flint, USPA #138410, as a tandem instructor.”

Passed 6-0-0
“Move to revoke the USPA membership and all ratings of William Dause, USPA #300. Any future issuance of his membership and ratings must be approved by the full board.”

Passed 6-0-0
“Move to revoke the USPA membership and all ratings of Rob Pooley, USPA #155136. Any future issuance of his membership and ratings must be approved by the full board.”

Passed 6-0-0
“Move to revoke the USPA membership and all ratings of Yuri Garmashov, USPA #163264. Any future issuance of his membership and ratings must be approved by the full board.”

Passed 6-0-0
“Move to suspend the USPA Tandem Instructor rating for Robert Ames, USPA #173930, for a 60-day period (starting with his notification of the suspension), and Mr. Ames must provide documentation of meeting the reinstatement requirements in his notification of violation determined by the Executive Committee.”

Passed 6-0-0
"Move to suspend the USPA Tandem Instructor rating for Marshall Miller, USPA #202647, for a period of 90 days, beginning upon notification by the
secretary."

Passed 6-0-0
“Move to provide Colin O’Brien, USPA #244844, with a letter of censure.”

D. Finance and Budget

Chair: Albert Berchtold
Members: Shauna Finley
         Al King
         Jack Pyland
         Tony Thacker
Advisers: Lee Schlichtemeier

2016 Financial Report
The committee received and reviewed the 2016 year-end financial reports prior to our meeting. All inquiries were answered by the Executive Director.

2016 Investment Report
The 2016 investment activities were presented in the Treasurer’s Report. The committee discussed our investment results for 2016. The committee discussed our investment strategy to ensure our portfolio remains in agreement with our IPS.

Building Loan
The committee discussed the recent restructuring of the HQ building loan. The loan was restructured from a 4.9% swap loan to a 3.08% fixed 5-year mortgage. The restructuring went smoothly and we look forward to the closing party of the building loan in October 2021.

Employee 401(k) Plan
The committee discussed the recent legislation regarding 401(k) fees and financial reporting. With these recent changes to a fee-based schedule, the committee discussed the administration, participant and custodial fees involved in the plan. Overall this legislation has had a positive effect on the fees paid (i.e., lowering them). These fees are sometimes paid by the employer and sometimes paid by the employee. The committee discussed and came to a consensus for these fees to be paid by USPA rather than the plan participants/employees.

Dues and Rate Increases
The committee discussed individual and Group Member dues along with license and rating fees. These discussions reviewed these dues and fees in
relation to inflation and CPI. This discussion has been tabled and will be presented at the summer meeting.

**Motion 24:** Passed 20-0-0 (Mr. Berchtold)

“Move to accept the (electronically) attached document titled ‘USPA 2017 Budget Draft’ as the 2017 USPA Operating Budget.”

The committee discussed the organization’s current per diem rate as it relates to GSA rates.

**Motion 25:** Passed 14-5-1 (Mr. Berchtold)

“Move to change the USPA per diem rate to $51 per day, effective July 1, 2017.”

**E. Governance**

**Chair:** Jan Meyer  
**Members:** Sherry Butcher  
Steve Helffrich  
Mike McGowan  
Michael Wadkins  
**Advisers:** Gary Peek  
Elijah Florio  
Clint Vincent

Three election items of balloting time period, paper ballots and foreigners voting for an RD of their choice will be discussed in an article in the July *Parachutist*.

The statement, "Disciplinary actions will be considered as approval of a regional director’s action that do not require full board approval," will be added to the 1-6 SOP.

The paragraph about the Letter of Notification will be written and made to apply to the letter from the secretary, too.

The committee is considering a change to add 1-6.4.C.5, “Temporary grounding up to 60 days,” where grounding means they cannot jump but can do other ground tasks allowed by any rating they may hold.
Motion 26:  Passed  16-3-1  (Ms. Meyer)
“Move to delete 1-6.4.E and to change 1-6.5.A to:
1. A Compliance Group will be formed of:
   a. the Director of Safety and Training
   b. the relevant Regional Director(s)
   c. a National Director, not on the Executive Committee, appointed by
      the president
   d. 2 other directors, usually the chairs of the Safety & Training and
      Group Membership Committees, appointed by the president.

2. In the event that any USPA official is unable to carry out their duties or
   the Regional Director is the same as another appointed CG member, the
   president will appoint a replacement person to act on the behalf of the
   official.

Add the statement, ‘The president may dismiss a regional director in the
   case of concurrent jurisdiction.’ to the 1-6 SOP.”

Motion 27:  Passed  20-0-0  (Ms. Meyer)
“Move to delete ‘Executive Committee’ and replace with ‘secretary’ in
Governance Manual 1-6.5.I.2 and add a sub paragraph that says, 'After
review and/or minor revisions the secretary will forward
all documents to the president to further submit to the Executive Committee
for a vote.' ”

Motion 28:  Passed  20-0-0  (Ms. Meyer)
“Move to delete Governance Manual Section 7-2.3.D.”

The chair thanks staff members Clint Vincent, Elijah Florio and Ed Scott for
their hard work, attention to detail and meeting all deadlines. Committee
members also are congratulated on their hard work.

F. Group Membership

Chair:  Chuck Akers
Members:  Jason Putnam Gordon
         Larry Hill
         Al King
         Jan Meyer
         Chris Nunn
         Jack Pyland
Advisers:  Randy Ottinger
           Nancy Koreen
The committee discussed USPA policies and benefits affecting Group Member vs non-Group Member drop zones and ways to add value to Group Members by providing new services.

The committee discussed changes to the Group Membership Manual, Group Membership pledge and Governance Manual to align and accurately reflect the legal relationship between USPA and Group Members.

The committee adopted the changes and sent the Governance Manual changes to the Governance Committee.

Motion 29: Passed 19-1-0 (Mr. Akers)
“Move to adopt proposed changes to the Group Membership Manual and Group Member Pledge.”

The chair wishes to thank the entire committee for their work on all these issues.

G. Membership Services

Chair: Steve Helffrich
Members: Chuck Akers
Sherry Butcher
Shauna Finley
Josh Hall
Shawn Hill

Advisers: Michael Wadkins
Michelle Garvin
Elijah Florio
Clint Vincent

Motion 30: Passed 20-0-0 (Mr. Helffrich)
“Move to award Victor Gelner, USPA #310993, a restricted USPA A license, restricted to tandem jumps only, upon submission to USPA documented completion of 25 tandem jumps.”

Motion 31: Passed 19-0-0 (Mr. Helffrich)
“Move to authorize the Executive Director to enter into an agreement with Protech Associates for the development and implementation of the new USPA membership database.”
**Motion 32:** Passed 18-0-0 (Mr. Helffrich)

“Move to postpone definitely to the 2017 summer meeting the following motion: Move to increase USPA membership dues to the following amounts:
- Domestic NEW member: $79.00
- Domestic Renewal: $69.00
- Foreign NEW: $99.00
- Foreign Renewal: $89.00
Also increase member A, B, C and D license fees to $40.00
Effective date of these increases to be 1-1-18.”

### H. Regional Directors

**Chair:** Jack Pyland  
**Members:** All Regional Directors  
**Advisers:** Jim Crouch, Randy Ottinger

Jan Meyer explained changes to Governance Manual 1-6 to the Regional Directors.

### I. Safety and Training

**Chair:** Michael Wadkins  
**Members:** Luke Aikins, Sherry Butcher, Al King, Mike Mullins, Chris Nunn, Jack Pyland  
**Advisers:** Shauna Finley, Jason Putnam Gordon, Tom Noonan, Gary Peek, Tony Thacker, Jim Crouch, Byran Burke, Ray Lallo

The committee discussed raising the qualifying jump numbers to become a tandem IE. The committee decided that no action was required because there is no empirical data showing a need to raise the qualifying numbers from 500 to 2,500 or 1,500 tandems and 3 years.
The committee discussed raising the number of full courses required for TIE candidates to teach under direct supervision from one course to three courses and may implement this at a later date.

The committee decided not to raise the tandem IE renewal requirements for number of rating courses taught.

The committee has tasked a sub-committee, Tom Noonan, Jim Crouch and Michael Wadkins, to develop guidelines for administrative or performance deficiencies as an examiner that will require examiners to complete a retraining program and/or suspension/revocation. Once approved, this list will go out to all the IEs and become effective immediately.

The committee is setting up a procedure for TIE candidates that requires the S&T Committee to review and approve the candidate's packet and qualifications.

The committee decided not to implement a background check for rating candidates.

The committee emphasized that the current wording of emergency procedure practice for TI candidates requires each candidate to practice all tandem system emergency procedures while fully geared up and hooked to a person wearing the passenger harness. Language in the IRM will be changed to emphasize the procedures.

The committee discussed tandem instructor emergency procedure practice and the importance of practicing tandem emergency procedures. As a result, the rating renewal form will be modified to add a check box to verify that the tandem instructor has reviewed emergency procedures within the last six months. Additional language will be added to the tandem instructor rating course regarding the frequency of practicing emergency procedures.

The committee decided not to raise the qualifying jump numbers to become a tandem instructor.

The committee decided not to implement a temporary 30-day tandem instructor card while headquarters processed their course paperwork.

The committee discussed requiring a minimum time as a method-specific instructor before an instructor can be an IE. This will be taken up again at the next meeting.
A discussion to change the expiration date for all rating holders to March 1 was deferred to the Membership Committee.

The committee felt that there was no need to change SIM Section 2-1 5.c.

The committee discussed a mandatory minimum time before retaking a rating course if the candidate failed the first one. No action was taken at this time, but it will be reconsidered in the future.

The committee decided not to rewrite SIM Section 2-1.6.

The committee discussed removing night jump requirements from the D license and took no action.

A discussion of the definition of a student and when skydivers are required to be USPA members was tabled.

A discussion of redefining the BSRs and possibly changing the name to Basic Skydiving Requirements was tabled.

Jen Sharp briefed the committee on the progress of online rating renewals.

A waiver request from Brian Germain, USPA #50685, was denied.

A waiver request from Jeff King, USPA #249902, was denied.

Motion 33: Passed 20-0-0 (Mr. Wadkins)

“Move to waive SIM Section 2-1.C.2 to allow Bernard Piosek, USPA #90218, to conduct tandems for a period of 6 months while awaiting his FAA approval to renew his medical certificate. The 6-month effective start date will be Feb 11, 2017.”

Motion 34: Passed 19-0-1 (Mr. Wadkins)

“Move to add SIM Section 2-1.F.4.c.(9), Tandem instructors must have at least 200 tandem skydives before any camera device may be used, held or attached to the tandem instructor or tandem student.”

Motion 35: Passed 20-0-0 (Mr. Wadkins)

“Move to waive SIM Section 2-1 F.1 and F.2 to allow Jim Crouch, USPA #93630, to train and supervise students.”
Motion 36: Passed 17-0-2 (Mr. Wadkins)
“Move to waive SIM Section 2-1.H.4. to allow members of the Red Bull Air Force demo team, listed below, to deploy no lower than 1,000 feet AGL to conduct demonstration jumps during the 2017 airshow season contingent on FAA approval.
Red Bull Air Force demo team members: Luke Aikins, USPA #74853; Andy Farrington, USPA #112308; Jon Devore, USPA #182308; Mike Swanson, USPA #67730; Jeff Provenzano, USPA #113923; Miles Daisher, USPA #114553; Sean MacCormac, USPA #113484; and Charles Bryan, USPA #91708”

Motion 37: Passed 19-0-1 (Mr. Wadkins)
“Move to insert, ‘This requirement excludes scenarios where—during a training jump—a student’s instructor(s) and videographer may be within this distance,’ after ‘is prohibited’ to SIM Section BSR 2-1, K. 7.
The section will read as follows:
‘Freefall within 500 feet vertically or horizontally of any student under parachute, including tandem students, is prohibited. (This requirement excludes scenarios where—during a training jump—a student’s instructor(s) and videographer may be within this distance.) Freefall within 500 feet vertically or horizontally of any licensed skydiver under canopy requires prior planning and agreement between the canopy pilot and the skydiver in freefall.’”

Motion 38: Passed 20-0-0 (Mr. Wadkins)
“Add to the IRM (Getting Started) Section 4, A. Scope and Purpose and in the Instructor Examiner Portion Section 15. A. 4.: Effective June 1st, 2017, only USPA Coach Examiners and Instructor Examiners may submit candidate rating proficiency cards and required course documentation for the candidates in their rating courses to USPA Headquarters for processing.”

Motion 39: Passed 19-1-0 (Mr. Wadkins)
“Candidates may earn the instructional rating who have met the following:

Coach
4. Jumpers may attend the USPA Coach Course who have met all the following requirements:
a. reached the age of 18 years
b. earned a USPA B license
c. completed at least 100 jumps
5. Candidates may earn the USPA Coach rating who have met all of the following requirements:
a. completed the USPA Coach Proficiency Card  
b. satisfactorily completed a USPA Coach Rating Course

AFF  
4. Candidates may attend the USPA AFF Instructor Rating Course who have met all the following requirements:  
   a. reached the age of 18 years  
   b. holds or has held any USPA instructional rating  
   c. must have held a USPA Coach or Instructor rating for at least 12 months, or have at least 500 jumps  
   d. holds a USPA C license  
   e. logged six hours of freefall time  
5. Candidates may earn the USPA AFF Instructor Rating who have completed the following:  
   a. completed the USPA AFF Instructor Proficiency Card (applicable portions)  
   b. successfully proven ability by successfully completing the written and practical AFF evaluation process with a (non-legacy) USPA AFF Instructor Examiner (AFF IE)

IAD and Static Line  
4. Candidates may attend the USPA IAD or Static-Line Instructor Rating course who have met all the following requirements:  
   a. reached the age of 18 years  
   b. holds or has held any USPA instructional rating  
   c. earned a USPA C license and made at least 200 jumps  
5. Candidates may earn the USPA IAD or Static-Line Rating who have completed the following:  
   a. completed the USPA IAD and Static-Line Instructor Proficiency Card (applicable portions)  
   b. satisfactorily completed a USPA IAD or Static-Line Instructor Certification Course

Tandem  
4. Candidates may attend the USPA Tandem Instructor Rating Course who have met all the following requirements:  
   a. reached the age of 18 years  
   b. holds or has held any USPA instructional rating  
   c. earned a USPA D license  
   d. logged 500 jumps on a ram-air canopy  
   e. a minimum of three years experience in parachuting (FAR 105.45)  
   f. presented a current FAA Class 3 Medical Certificate or the equivalent acceptable to USPA. (1) USPA will issue a Tandem Instructor rating, even if the medical certificate will expire prior to the expiration date of the rating. (2) Each USPA Tandem Instructor is responsible to keep his or her medical
certificate current. (3) Currently acceptable medical certificates include the FAA Class 3 Medical Certificate, military flight physical, Navy diver physical or, for foreign jumpers, the civil aviation medical accepted in the country in which he or she resides. (4) The original medical certificate must be verified by the examiner and a copy must be submitted to USPA Headquarters for the initial rating and at each rating renewal.

5. Candidates may earn the USPA Tandem Instructor rating who have completed the following:
   a. demonstrated five practice tandem cutaways wearing tandem equipment and with a simulated student in the student harness in the presence of a USPA Tandem Instructor or Tandem IE
   b. completed the USPA Tandem Instructor Proficiency Card
   c. satisfactorily completed a USPA Tandem Instructor Rating Course including training for at least one manufacturer’s brand model (type) of tandem jumping equipment

6. Tandem rating types and abbreviations”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Motion 40: Passed 20-0-0 (Mr. Wadkins)</th>
<th>“Move to require validation of AFF IE candidate’s requirements through the S&amp;T Committee.”</th>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Motion 41: Passed 20-0-0 (Mr. Wadkins)</th>
<th>“Change to read IRM AFF Section 6. D. Evaluation Schedule - Air Evaluations 3. c. – Evaluations begin when the evaluator’s torso clears the threshold of the door or step and ends - for all at 4,000 ft. or with evaluator’s end-of-dive wave-off (very vigorous wave-off, or with evaluator actual deployment and actual ride through by the candidate) – Effective June 1, 2017”</th>
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</thead>
</table>

13. **Adjournment**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Motion 42: Passed 20-0-0 (Mr. Thacker)</th>
<th>“Move to adjourn.”</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

The President adjourned the meeting at 3:58 p.m. on February 12, 2017.

Jan Meyer
USPA Secretary
National Director
by the numbers

- 2.9% total membership
- 5% new members
- 7.7% all licenses
- 8.5% A licenses
- 13.5% all ratings
- 1% group members
- 21 fatalities
- 0.5 fatalities per 100,000 jumps

10-Year Membership Totals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Regular Members</th>
<th>New Members</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>31,264</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>38,555</td>
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</table>
Group Membership
10-Year Period

Domestic | Foreign Affiliate


2016 Fatalities

- (4) Equipment Problem
- (4) Incorrect Emergency Procedures
- (2) Cutaway (No Reserve)
- (2) Freefall Collision
- (2) Landing Problem
- (2) Medical
- (1) Airplane Strike
- (1) Camera Entanglement
- (1) Canopy Collision
- (1) Low Turn (Intentional)
- (1) Low Turn (Unintentional)
Skydiving Fatalities
20-Year Period w/5-Year Averages

Student Skydiving Fatalities
20-Year Period w/5-Year Averages
department review

safety & training

2016 challenges & achievements

- Make a Save
  - Began the Make-A-Save campaign
- Compliance Group
  - Assisted with 27 separate Compliance Group investigations

2017 goals

- online ratings
  - Develop online rating-renewal system
- online testing
  - Develop online license program
- PRO rating
  - Update the PRO rating program and tests
- VR video
  - Develop virtual reality video for students and emergency procedures
**department review**

**competition**

### 2016 challenges & achievements

- **119 Records**
  - 9 World
  - 6 Continental
  - 21 National
  - 83 State
- **2 World Championships**
  - Mondial – Chicago, IL
  - Wingsuit WPC – Zephyrhills, FL
- **Online records**
  - Launched online records database
- **52 new judge ratings**
  - 5 international
  - 16 national
  - 31 regional

### 2017 goals

**competitions**
- 3 National Championships
- 1 World Cup

**NAA process**
- Improve the records and operating license process with the National Aeronautic Association

**judges**
- Get all international judges to category 1 (required 10 re-evaluations)
- Finish standardization of all judge training (currently at 40%)
**department review**

**sport promotion**

---

**2016 challenges & achievements**

- **Learn to Skydive**
  - Introduced Learn to Skydive Month in May
  - DZs offered one free ground school during the month
  - 35 DZs participated

- **New e-newsletter**
  - Created new-member e-newsletter that goes out each month to all new USPA members with information about the association and how to continue in the sport.

- **Sisters in Skydiving**
  - Continue to grow Sisters in Skydiving
  - 685 total Big Sisters; 60 added in 2015
  - 27 SIS events worldwide

---

**2017 goals**

- **Collaborate with iFly**
  - Work with iFLY wind tunnels on reciprocal marketing programs, including advertising, SIS tunnel events, etc.

- **DZO Conference**
  - Organize 2017 DZO Conference

- **Learn to Skydive Month**
  - Promote second year, enlisting more DZs and improving pilot program

- **Media outreach**
  - Continue to get coverage of Nationals and medalists

- **Sisters in Skydiving**
  - Expand SIS to include more events and women’s leadership roles
**department review**

**government relations**

---

### 2016 challenges & achievements

- **NTSB investigation**: USPA staff invited to be a party in an NTSB investigation of a fatal jump plane crash.
- **Landing area standards**: Recent FAA-recommended standards for landing areas received immediate, forceful opposition.
- **FAA hangar policy**: USPA comments following new FAA hangar policy to include skydiving businesses.

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### 2017 goals

- **Landing areas**: Continue push back on FAA-recommended landing areas.
- **Access**: Continue defense of skydiving’s access to airport and airspace.
- **Legislative actions**: Support for possible legislation actions on privatized ATC (air traffic control) and GA (general aviation) user fees.
- **State taxes**: Court case for federal preemption.

department review
information technology

online courses
Began to structure process for online course facilitation.

SkydiveSchool.org
Began transition of SkydiveSchool.org to HTML5 platform.

2016 challenges & achievements

website modifications
• Rebuilt S&TA lookup
• Rebuilt examiner lookup
• Reconstructed judges lookup
• Imported accident reports
• Imported and upgraded competition records database

2017 goals

project management
Act as project manager for new membership database transition.

course oversight
Institute digital framework for rating course oversight (Safety & Training).

online rating renewal
Develop utilities and certification tools for rating renewals.
2016 challenges & achievements

- Record year
  - 90,174 members
- Portal transactions
  - 20,207 total transactions
  - 1,684 average monthly transactions
- Renewal process
  - Renewal process revised from postal to email resulting in savings of $56,400 in 2016

2017 goals

- New database
  - Implement new membership database
- Portal transactions
  - Continue push for more member portal transactions
department review
communications

2016 challenges & achievements

- website
  - Improved loading times
  - Made website friendlier on
    mobile devices
- staffing change
  - Transitioned to a new
    full-time graphic
    designer
- upright advertising
  - Increased advertiser relations and
    number of advertisers
  - Increased ad revenue over 2015 by
    $12,000

2017 goals

- diversify advertising
  - Introduce more robust online advertising
    opportunities.
- redesign Parachutist Online
  - Utilize single sign-on with new database
    to allow member access to full Parachutist
    content.
- evaluate Parachutist
  - Determine potential content redistribution to
    online-only with new Parachutist Online in
    order to decrease total print size and cost
- reinvigorate websites
  - Increase “intuitive” experience
  - Decrease page load times
  - Ensure mobile compatibility
  - Utilize single sign-on with new database
    to allow member access to full Parachutist
    content.
- redesign Parachutist Online
  - Introduce more robust online advertising
    opportunities.
2016 Financials

- $3,904 Operating Deficit
+ $196,014 Total Excess

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Operating Excess (Deficit) 2009-2016

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Operating Margin 2009-2016

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</table>
2016 Financials

Reserve Accounts
2009-2016

- Investment Reserves: $3,238,976
- Team Trust Fund: $1,360,192
- Airport Access & Defense: $327,181

Totals Assets vs. Net Worth
2009-2016

- Total Assets: $5,923,537
- Total Net Worth: $3,275,066
member expectations

safety
Informative, insightful safety programs and education

insurance
Third-party member insurance that works

ratings
Licenses and ratings that mean something

Parachutist
A Parachutist magazine that is informative, entertaining and relevant

innovation
A USPA that is innovative, using technology to improve service and provide value

competition
A competition program that conducts meets and validates records with integrity

government relations
An active, substantial government relations effort that ensures skydiving’s access to airports and the airspace, and works to prevent burdensome and/or costly regulation

first-jump programs
First-jump programs that engender and deserve public trust

today’s environment

Rating program
The integrity of our rating program has been challenged. USPA must act to restore faith and confidence in those granted the privileges of those ratings.

FAA and Landing Areas
Another office of the FAA revived the idea of FAA-recognized parachute landing areas. Airports and the FAA will justify DZ denials on the inability for a DZ to meet the “advised” landing area dimensions and conditions.

Innovation
USPA needs to catch up with technology. Plastic membership cards are costly, USPA members want and need to renew their ratings online, we need to move Parachutist to an online, interactive presence.

Drug and Alcohol Abuse
USPA needs to ensure that rating holders are clean and sober. This aim is countered by skydiving’s culture of alcohol, and society’s move toward acceptance of marijuana.

Privatized ATC and User Fees
Both are active concepts with strong supporters among the aviation community and within Congress. Both have been strongly opposed by all general aviation users as detrimental to GA interests.
Section 1: Group Membership Program

1-1 INTRODUCTION

A. The United States Parachute Association (USPA), the official national representative body for skydiving in the United States, and skydiving schools, centers, and clubs have a mutual interest in fostering and promoting skydiving.

B. Because of this mutual interest, a special class of Group Membership in the USPA-Group Membership—has been established in accordance with Article I.1.D of the USPA By-Laws. DZs in the U.S. and its territories are eligible to become "Group Members." Other DZs are eligible to become a special category of Group Members called "Foreign Affiliates."

1-2 PURPOSE

A. It is to the advantage of skydiving schools, centers and clubs as well as the USPA membership to encourage unity within the sport.

B. More importantly, the chances of the success and survival of the sport are much greater if all facets of skydiving present an image of solidarity when dealing with the general public and especially with all levels of government.

C. By accepting membership in the USPA, of skydiving schools, centers and clubs as members, both they and the USPA and those businesses themselves will benefit through improved communications with the skydiving public and within the skydiving industry.

D. Such membership will aid in the prompt channeling of information about local problems, regional attitudes, and trends to USPA. This will assist USPA in promoting and defending the sport.

E. USPA will be able to more effectively represent skydiving, provide improved member services and assist the members to speak with a stronger and more unified voice.

The purpose of Group Membership, and including Foreign Affiliation, therefore, is to establish a business and professional relationship that strengthens the bonds of unity within the skydiving community and enhances the growth of the sport.

1-3 BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

Each U.S. Group Member and Foreign Affiliate is eligible for the following benefits either as part of the membership or on a user fee basis:

A. Credentials

1. Use of the authorized phrase, as indicated on the USPA Group Membership Certificate.

Example "Group Member of the United States Parachute Association" or "Foreign Affiliate of the United States Parachute Association."

2. Authorization to use the USPA Group Member logo or the USPA Foreign Affiliate logo within the guidelines of the Governance Manual, Section 4-3.

3. An appropriate and attractive "Certificate of Membership."

B. Free advertising

1. A no-cost phone and website listing in issues of Parachutist magazine.

2. Free listing of DZ events in Parachutist's Main Events department.

3. A no-cost listing in USPA's online DZ Directory.

4. An active link from USPA's website to the DZ's website.

C. Eligibility to sell USPA Introductory Individual Memberships, to cover skydivers with low-cost third-party liability insurance. (U.S. Group Members only)

D. Twenty-four/seven access to online verification of USPA member credentials.


F. Access to USPA legal case files.

G. Eligibility for financial support from the Airport Access and Defense Fund. (U.S. Group Members only)

H. Legal referrals and at-cost expert testimony on a case-by-case basis.

I. Government relations support at the state and federal levels on issues affecting state and nationwide skydiving. (U.S. Group Members only)

Timely e-mail notification of issues relating to DZ operations.

K. USPA sport promotional programs.

1-4 REQUIREMENTS

A. The Group Member Pledge is part of the Group Membership application for all applicants within the U.S. and U.S. territories. A copy of the application is located in the appendix.

1. This Group Member Pledge represents a commitment on the part of the Group Member to provide service and conduct business within accepted ethical guidelines.

2. This commitment will foster a healthy business environment without causing an undue burden on any party.

3. Failure to comply with the terms of the Group Membership Pledge may result in removal from the Group Membership Program by the USPA, forfeiture of Fees and cancellation of benefits and services provided by USPA.
Foreign Affiliates are required to maintain at least one current USPA rated Instructor on staff and to affirm that commitment in the Foreign Affiliate Pledge.

1-5 SKYDIVING SERVICE CODE OF CONDUCT

A. All USPA Group Members should strive to meet the guidelines listed in the Skydiving Service Code of Conduct.
   1. As an organization offering and facilitating skydiving services, and as a Group Member of the United States Parachute Association,
   2. We declare a dedication to safety as our highest goal, empowering ourselves and others to make decisions so that the highest possible standards of safety are maintained.
   3. We display respect for all staff and customers and do not tolerate harassment or discrimination based on race, creed, gender, age, and disability, subject to safe practices.
   4. We foster honesty, integrity, and fairness in our business relationships with customers, contractors, suppliers, and employees and strive to minimize misunderstandings and conflict.
   5. We refrain from disparaging other individuals and organizations, whether written, spoken, or implied, but work to uphold and foster a positive image of skydiving.
   6. We strive, individually and organizationally, to enhance our professional skills and knowledge, and to assist others in doing so.
   7. We understand that, as a service business, we must operate on sound ethical, management, and financial principles.
   8. We will develop and display a refund policy and make it available to customers prior to financial transactions.

1-6 PROCEDURES FOR NEW AND RENEWING GROUP MEMBERS AND FOREIGN AFFILIATES

A. Application
   1. New applicants: Application forms may be obtained from USPA Headquarters or the USPA website. Types of membership are defined on the applications and questions or clarification can be obtained from USPA Headquarters. Copies are located in the appendix of this document.
   2. Renewing applicants: Prior to expiration of membership, USPA Headquarters will distribute the necessary information and forms for membership renewal. Applicable fees, due dates and required documents for renewal will be indicated on the renewal form. Additional documentation may be requested during the membership year. All requested documentation is required in order for membership to be renewed. Failure to provide the requested documentation or required dues may result in non-renewal or removal from the Program, forfeiture of fees and cancellation of benefits and services provided by USPA.

B. Regional Director Approval of Initial Applications
   1. Upon receipt of the completed initial application and fee from a person not then a U.S. Group Member or Foreign Affiliate, USPA Headquarters will forward a copy of this application to the appropriate Regional Director. USPA's Director of Safety & Training serves as the Regional Director for foreign affiliates.
   2. The Director has up to 30 days to respond to Headquarters with his or her advice as to whether or not the application to become a Group Member should be approved. The Regional Director may visit or call the new applicant prior to approving the application.
   3. After 30 days has passed, if the Regional Director has not provided HQ with a recommendation regarding membership, the application will be referred to the Executive Committee for disposition.
   4. In certain cases, USPA Headquarters may refer applications to the USPA Executive Committee for approval or denial.

C. The first year of membership may be prorated based on the date the application is submitted. Upon renewal, the membership will be valid for a period of one year.

D. Membership may be suspended for a period not to exceed 60 days or revoked by the Regional Director for cause at any time with written notice and explanation or revoked as provided in Section 1-6 of the USPA Governance Manual, as in effect from time to time, subject to appeal as provided therein.

E. The Group Member or Foreign Affiliate may appeal to the Executive Committee in writing within 30 days of the suspension or revocation and the Executive Committee must act on the appeal within 90 days. The A U.S. Group Member or Foreign Affiliate may terminate the membership for any reason with 30 days written notice to USPA and shall not be entitled to refund of any applicable annual membership fee.
In applying for Group Membership, you will be agreeing to the terms of the Group Member Pledge set forth below. Please read them carefully. Failure to comply with the terms may result in suspension or removal from the Group Membership Program by the USPA, forfeiture of fees and cancellation of benefits and services provided by the USPA, or other disciplinary action provided for in the USPA Governance Manual as in effect from time to time.

The individual or entity for whom this Application is completed hereby applies for Group Membership, agrees to follow the terms of the Group Member Pledge set forth below, and intends this Application, once accepted by the USPA, to be an enforceable agreement that includes the Group Member Pledge below and the terms of the USPA's acceptance set forth further below. The individual or entity for whom this Application is completed further agrees that with respect to any dispute, claim or controversy arising under, out of, in connection with or relating to this Agreement, any provision hereof or any rights of the undersigned applicant as a Group Member of the USPA shall be instituted only in the United States federal courts located in the City of Richmond, Virginia or in the Virginia state courts located in the City of Fredericksburg, Virginia and (along with the USPA) hereby knowingly, voluntarily, intentionally and with the advice of counsel waives any rights to a trial by jury with respect to any dispute, claim or controversy based on this agreement, or relating to, arising out of, under, or in connection with, this agreement, or any course of conduct, course of dealing, statements (oral or written), or actions relating to this Agreement. This waiver will apply regardless of how any cause of action is denominated and regardless of what relief is sought. If this waiver is ineffective as to one or more causes of action for any reason, this waiver will remain effective as to all other causes of action.

GROUP MEMBER PLEDGE

The undersigned applicant pledges and agrees to:

• Comply with the USPA Basic Safety Requirements (BSRs), which include compliance with the Federal Aviation Regulations relevant to skydiving operations, including aircraft operations.

• Ensure that all pilots employed or utilized for the purpose of parachute operations hold at least a commercial pilot certificate and a second-class medical certificate.

• Ensure that all aircraft utilized for the purpose of parachute operations comply with commercial maintenance requirements described in U.S. Federal Aviation Regulations Part 91.409(a) through (f) as applicable.

• Ensure skydiving staff of the Group Member (i.e., the undersigned applicant) are appropriately qualified and trained in accordance with the Skydiver’s Information Manual and (where applicable) hold current USPA ratings commensurate with their duties.

• Establish landing procedures that will include separation of high-speed and normal landings. These landing procedures must be prominently displayed and communicated to all jumpers at the drop zone.

• Support USPA promotional programs at the drop zone.

• Require introductory or regular individual USPA membership of:
  1. all licensed U.S. skydivers (a skydiver is considered a student until licensed)
  2. non-resident foreign nationals who do not have proof of membership in their national aeroclub

• Include USPA and manufacturers, distributors and dealers of skydive equipment in the Group Member hold-harmless release, consistent with state laws. (Please provide a copy of the waiver with this application.)

The undersigned applicant further understands that granting of Group Membership is purely at the discretion of the USPA. The USPA may make its decision to grant an application based upon information and sources that, at its sole discretion, it finds appropriate. The undersigned applicant further understands that the USPA retains the right to suspend or terminate the undersigned applicant’s Group Membership in accordance with procedures set forth in the USPA Governance Manual as in effect from time to time, and the undersigned applicant reserves the right to terminate its Group Membership on thirty (30) days’ notice to the USPA. Should the undersigned applicant’s Group Membership be terminated by the USPA or by the undersigned applicant, there will be no refund of initial application fees or renewal fees.

I certify that the above is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. On behalf of the undersigned applicant, I intend my transmission of any facsimile or scan of a document containing my signature to be the delivery of a document executed with my signature on behalf of the undersigned applicant.

ACCEPTANCE BY THE DROP ZONE OWNER

Name of Drop Zone Owner (individual or entity that is legal owner)  Date

Signature of Drop Zone Owner, if an individual, or of authorized agent of Drop Zone Owner, if an entity (i.e., President, Manager, General Partner, etc.), acting on behalf of the above-named Drop Zone Owner

Title of authorized agent signing on behalf of entity Drop Zone Owner

ACCEPTANCE BY THE USPA

The applicant that has completed and executed the foregoing document is accepted for Group Membership in the USPA and shall be afforded the benefits and privileges afforded to U.S. Group Members set forth in the USPA Group Membership Manual, subject to the other provisions of that Manual, as in effect from time to time (taking into account modifications thereto from time to time), and to the terms of the foregoing Application (including the waiver by the USPA and the applicant of any right to trial by jury).

Witness the signature of the undersigned officer of the United States Parachute Association, Inc., a New York not-for-profit corporation headquartered in Virginia, as of the date set forth below.

USPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING CHATTANOOGA, TN, FEBRUARY 10-12, 2017  PAGE 42 OF 43
In applying for Group Membership as a Foreign Affiliate, you will be agreeing to the terms of the Foreign Affiliate Pledge set forth below. Please read them carefully. Failure to comply with the terms may result in suspension or removal from the Foreign Affiliate Program by the USPA, forfeiture of fees and cancellation of benefits and services provided by the USPA, or other disciplinary action provided for in the USPA Governance Manual as in effect from time to time.

The individual or entity for whom this Application is completed hereby applies for Group Membership as a Foreign Affiliate, agrees to follow the terms of the Foreign Affiliate Pledge set forth below, and intends this Application, once accepted by the USPA, to be an enforceable agreement that includes the Foreign Affiliate Pledge below and the terms of the USPA’s acceptance set forth further below. The individual or entity for whom this Application is completed further agrees that with respect to any dispute, claim or controversy arising under, out of, in connection with or relating to this Agreement, or any course of conduct, course of dealing, statements (oral or written), or actions relating to this Agreement, any action at law, suit in equity or other judicial proceeding for the enforcement of this Agreement, any provision hereof or any rights of the undersigned applicant as a Group Member or Foreign Affiliate of the USPA shall be instituted only in the United States federal courts located in the City of Richmond, Virginia or in the Virginia state courts located in the City of Fredericksburg, Virginia and (along with the USPA) hereby knowingly, voluntarily, intentionally and with the advice of counsel waives any rights to a trial by jury with respect to any dispute, claim or controversy based on this Agreement, or relating to, arising out of, under, or in connection with, this Agreement, or any course of conduct, course of dealing, statements (oral or written), or actions relating to this Agreement. This waiver will apply regardless of how any cause of action is denominated and regardless of what relief is sought. If this waiver is ineffective as to one or more causes of action for any reason, this waiver will remain effective as to all other causes of action.

**FOREIGN AFFILIATE PLEDGE**

The undersigned applicant pledges and agrees to maintain at least one current USPA rated Instructor on the staff of the undersigned applicant at all times. Please provide the name(s) and membership number(s) of your USPA rated Instructor(s):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>USPA Membership #</th>
<th>Last Name, First Name</th>
<th>Instructor Rating(s)</th>
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The undersigned applicant further understands that granting of Group Membership as a Foreign Affiliate is purely at the discretion of the USPA. The USPA may make its decision to grant an application based upon information and sources that, at its sole discretion, it finds appropriate. The undersigned applicant further understands that the USPA retains the right to suspend or terminate the undersigned applicant’s Group Membership in accordance with procedures set forth in the USPA Governance Manual as in effect from time to time, and the undersigned applicant reserves the right to terminate its Group Membership on thirty (30) days’ notice to the USPA. Should the undersigned applicant’s Group Membership be terminated by the USPA or by the undersigned applicant, there will be no refund of initial application fees or renewal fees.

I certify that the above is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. On behalf of the undersigned applicant, I intend my transmission of any facsimile or scan of a document containing my signature to be the delivery of a document executed with my signature on behalf of the undersigned applicant.

**ACCEPTANCE BY THE DROP ZONE OWNER**

Name of Drop Zone Owner (individual or entity that is legal owner)                                      Date

Signature of Drop Zone Owner, if an individual, or of authorized agent of Drop Zone Owner, if an entity (i.e., President, Manager, General Partner, etc.), acting on behalf of the above-named Drop Zone Owner

Title of authorized agent signing on behalf of entity Drop Zone Owner

**ACCEPTANCE BY THE USPA**

The applicant that has completed and executed the foregoing document is accepted for Group Membership in the USPA as a Foreign Affiliate and shall be afforded the benefits and privileges afforded to Foreign Affiliates set forth in the USPA Group Membership Manual, subject to the other provisions of that Manual, as in effect from time to time (taking into account modifications thereto from time to time), and to the terms of the foregoing Application (including the waiver by the USPA and the applicant of any right to trial by jury).

Witness the signature of the undersigned officer of the United States Parachute Association, Inc., a New York not-for-profit corporation headquartered in Virginia, as of the date set forth below.

**USPA, INC.**

By:                                                                                               Its: __________________________ Date: _______________

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