

Richard Noritake

I wish to put forth my candidacy to become a USODA board member. I am a lifelong sailor and not only love the sport of sailing but strongly believe in the benefits of sailing for kids and young adults. Sailing teaches our kids a lot about independence, responsibility, fair competition, sportsmanship, and many more admirable qualities. In a culture where our kids are constantly bombarded with electronics, sailing provides an outdoor activity away from screens and social media.

My son, Umi, was able to benefit from being an optimist sailor for 6 years. During that time he progressed from back-of-the-fleet green fleeter to 2 time National Team member, 1/2 dozen international events with Team USA and U.S. National Team and is now a top laser sailor. Seeing firsthand the benefits of what optimist sailing has done for Umi, I believe this provides me with a wealth of experience to contribute back to the sport that provided so much to my son. During the time my son was an optimist sailor, I volunteered for race committee for every local event including all of the Orange Bowls and Team Trials. I now have a 10 year old daughter that is about to move from Green Fleet to RWB. Hence, I have an interest to see USODA continue supporting young sailors as it supported my son.

My background is in finance. I lived in New York City and worked as an investment banker. I now reside in Miami and I am EVP of Capital Markets for a family office. Previously I was CFO for several mid-size companies. I was the Chairman of the Board of Charlee of Dade County, a not-for profit that provided services to abused and neglected children and at risk families. I originally joined Charlee as head of their finance committee. I can certainly help with the finances of USODA but also would like to contribute to the growth and development of young opti sailors and sailing in general.