Gowrie Group Proud Sponsor of 2016 US Sailing Leadership Forum

Press Release
For Immediate Release
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Gowrie Group is proud to be the Platinum Sponsor of US Sailing Leadership Forum 2016, to be held February 4-6th in San Diego, California. US Sailing’s tagline for this event is “Connect. Discover. Grow.” The event offers unique experience for all types of sailors to connect on important and relevant issues on all aspects of sailing. Leaders from sail training and education, yacht club and sailing organization management, race officials, and industry professionals will meet and learn from one-another during three packed days of seminars, presentations, hands-on activities, boat demonstrations, and exhibitor displays. The inaugural Sailing Leadership, which was a huge success in 2014, had over 350 organizations and 600 sailing leaders in attendance. US Sailing experts even more attendees this year.

Dan Cooney of Gowrie Group, also currently serving as the Commodore of Beverly Yacht Club, shared, “It’s an honor to attend US Sailing’s Leadership Forum. Among the many important things US Sailing does, this is the one that really drives knowledge-share. It’s the ultimate open source mash-up of sailing brains and I always learn a lot. While it’s great that we get to share our risk management knowledge, the key is to be in listening mode about 90% of the time!”

Whitney Peterson, Gowrie Group’s VP of Marketing shared, “As US Sailing’s insurance partner and the managers of the Burgee Insurance Program, we are proud to say that we insure nearly 1,000 sailing organizations nationwide and almost 100 community sailing programs. The Gowrie Group team traveling to San Diego is looking forward to connecting and learning alongside inspiring leaders from clubs, programs, and the sailing industry.”

In addition to being a sponsor of the forum, Gowrie Group will also have a leadership role in presenting these four seminars:

• **Insurance Doesn’t Matter Until it Does:** Have you ever heard this before: ‘We can’t do “that,” our insurance doesn’t allow it.’ Or this: Don’t worry about it, we have great insurance, everything is covered. Neither statement is accurate. In this session we will cover 10 key scenarios that address common insurance coverage question related to sailing organizations. Topics explored will include liquor liability, exclusions/warranties, flood coverage, restoration coverage, EPLI, D&O, social media exposure, and more. Presented by Steve Prime (Gowrie Group, Ida Lewis Yacht Club, NYYC), Dan Cooney (Gowrie Group and Commodore Beverly Yacht Club), and Rick Bagnall (Gowrie Group).

• **Safety Hazards & Sailing Programs:** This presentation will take you on a virtual safety tour of sailing programs and marine facilities across the nation, to help you learn how to make your own docks, junior rooms, and teaching areas safer. Learn to identify your own safety hazards and the simple modifications you can do to improve the overall safety of your facilities and programs. Participants will also receive a copy of Gowrie Group’s new Junior Sailing Safety Guide and our Emergency Response Card template. Presented by Kellie Crete (Gowrie Group, Beverly Yacht Club) and Whitney Peterson (Gowrie Group, Sachems Head Yacht Club).
• **Regatta Safety:** This session will break down what to do before, during and after an event to give your staff, volunteers and competitors the best chance to stay safe and the best chance to respond well if things go wrong. Presented by Dan Cooney (Gowrie Group and Commodore Beverly Yacht Club), Jeff Johnson (Waterfront Director at San Diego Yacht Club), and Lynn Lynch (Race Director St. Francis Yacht Club).

• **Confessions of a Volunteer Junior Sailing Chair:** Congratulations! You are the new JR Committee sailing chair! Now what? Our panelists will talk about how they've overcome challenges, what they still struggle with, and the balance between volunteer roles, paid staff, and the board/flags. Presented by Joel Labuzetta (Waterfront Director Indian Harbor Yacht Club), Whitney Peterson (Gowrie Group, Junior Chair Sachems Head Yacht Club), Tom Holthus (Junior Activities Chair San Diego YC), Matt Hill (US Sailing), Justin Assad (Head Coach Dartmouth College, and Junior Program Director Nantucket Yacht Club)

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Gowrie Group. *Always on Watch.* As one of the nation's Top 50 independent insurance agencies and the largest independent marine insurance group in the US, Gowrie Group provides total risk management services to individuals and organizations with complex insurance needs. Gowrie Group offers comprehensive insurance solutions matched with trusted advice and a commitment to service excellence. Gowrie Group's portfolio of offerings includes commercial, home/auto, equine, and yacht insurance, as well as employee benefits solutions and safety services. The company's 150+ professionals service clients across the US from offices in Westbrook CT, Darien CT, Newport RI, North Kingstown RI, and Marshfield, MA. Gowrie is endorsed by US Sailing, the national governing body for the sport of sailing. For more information visit [www.gowrie.com](http://www.gowrie.com) or call 800.262.8911.

The Burgee Program is the only comprehensive insurance program developed to meet the unique needs of yacht clubs, community sailing programs, schools, and associations. The program is endorsed by US Sailing, underwritten by Chubb, and managed by the marine insurance experts at Gowrie Group. Nearly 1,000 sailing clubs, community programs, and sailing organizations in the United States are protected by The Burgee Program. [www.burgeeprogram.com](http://www.burgeeprogram.com) or [burgee@gowrie.com](mailto:burgee@gowrie.com)