

USA Climbing Board of Directors Comment in Response to Alice Kao's Letter of Resignation

1-31-24

We are thankful for Alice Kao's service on the Board of Directors. As a gym owner, she brought a valuable perspective to Board discussions. We wish her ongoing success at Sender One.

Respectfully, we disagree with Alice's characterization of the Board's performance, integrity, and adherence to USA Climbing's core values. Like any good team, we are continually striving to improve our effectiveness. Annually, we conduct a Board self-assessment established by the USOPC and will be participating in additional training around governance best practices.

USAC's Board and staff are continuing to engage our many stakeholders to solicit advice, feedback, and to grow the sport we love for years to come. We will be launching our next four-year strategic planning cycle later this year with focused dialogue around our Collegiate, Elite, Para and Youth series. We are participating in the formation of a Joint CWA/USAC Competition Committee. We have launched the Gym Partner Task Force focused on building and repairing relationships with gym owners across the country. We are also surveying gym owners, athletes, and other stakeholders for their ideas on the National Training Center project. We aim to work collaboratively with our community on all these important workstreams and more.

An announcement soliciting gym owner candidates to fill the vacant Board position will be released shortly.

- USA Climbing Board of Directors