

WSCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
September 27, 2005; Portage Curling Club

Members Meeting called to order at 9:34 A.M. by President Chris Daly.

No items were presented.

Upon a motion of Jim O'Neill, seconded by Jay Packard, the Members Meeting was closed.

Roll call was taken with club updates from those present. The following clubs were present at the meeting:

Appleton; Arlington; Clintonville; Eau Claire; Kettle Moraine; Madison; Milwaukee; Portage; Poynette and Racine.

The following clubs were absent. The number in () represents the consecutive meetings missed:

Alpine(2); Blackhawk (1); Centerville (1); Green Bay (1); LaCrosse (1); Loch Wissota (12); Lodi (6); Marshfield (1); Medford (3); Pardeeville (3); Rice Lake (1); Stevens Point (1); Superior (5); Tri-City (2); Waukesha (1); Waupaca (1); Wausau (1) and Wauwatosa (1).

Appleton - Jim O'Neill reported that in 2004 - 2005 improved ice facilities. Membership is stable.

Arlington - Bernie Dushek reported that ice will be installed in November; holding open house November 11, 12 and 13th. Sharing some leagues with Poynette.

Clintonville - John Williamson reported that club discarded 85 year old compressor, installing new compressor next week. Used Basset Mechanical out of Appleton. Believes that ammonia brine system is 20% to 30% cheaper than freon and has a longer shelf life.

Eau Claire - Chris McMahon reported that the membership is stable. Reverse raffle was successful. 4H club made improvements in the southeast corner of the club building. The interior wall is now permanent.

Kettle Moraine - Judy Maier reported that State Director, Jim Duncan, did not receive notice of this meeting. Thus, she is reporting in his absence. Club's membership is stable. With other Milwaukee area clubs, worked the Pettit Center demonstration of curling during the State Fair. Approximately 1,800 people tried throwing a stone. A club

Flea Market will be held September 9th and 10th. September 30th is Casino Night. October is open house. Will run a "Learn to Curl Clinic" with a \$35.00 fee. That fee will be applied to membership dues of any person joining.

Madison - Jeremy Roe reported in the absence of State Director Rich Lepping. Madison's new venture over the summer was to form an indoor Bocce Ball League. There was an 8 team league on Tuesday night. Dues were \$40.00 per person. The purpose of the league was to use the club during the summer in lieu of summer rentals by third parties. Looking at accepting dues payments through "pay pal" credit card system. There will be a 3% fee per transaction which will be charged back to the club member paying dues by credit card. Membership goal is 500 members. Membership the last few years has been static around the 450 mark.

Milwaukee - Jay Packard reported progress is being made on new club. Yet has two full seasons in current facility before moving. Looking to hold a public fund raiser in the next two months. Zoning has been approved for a new facility. Expects to break ground next year for new club. The membership remains stable.

Portage - Bob Daly reported. Portage is the host club for the 2006 U.S. National Seniors along with the other Columbia County Clubs. Will host the State Badger Women's Spiel this season.

Poynette - Dave Carlson reported club is hosting First Annual Equinox Spiel next weekend. Club has received a USCA Early Ice Grant for the second year. Ice was in on September 6, 2005. Club continues to run both fall and spring leagues as extensions to the regular curling season.

Racine - Mike Dry is the new Director. He can be reached at (262)632-6905. E-mail mikedry@pitnet.net Ice in on the 28th of October. Will have the season split in two halves. Looking to give new members more time to make up their mind about joining. Was involved with the demonstration at Pettit Center during the State Fair. Reported that there were about 1,300 waiver forms signed with about 500 names and addresses of interested persons collected. A lot of the names and addresses were for persons with Madison and Appleton addresses.

It was declared that there is not sufficient quorum to hold a meeting of the Board of Directors. Fifteen clubs is quorum. Ten clubs are present.

The following information was shared with the Directors present on an informal basis, no votes were taken.

Meeting Minutes Dissemination:

Consideration to disseminate hard copy of Meeting Minutes to President and Director of club. Wish to have Meeting Minutes posted at each club so that the individual curlers are informed as to the activities of the WSCA.

Galesville - Dave Russell spoke to a representative of Galesville. It was reported that Galesville has no Board of Directors. It is trying to give away the club to the City, but the City won't take it. By letter to Dick Sacia of Galesville, WSCA informed Galesville that they would be dropped due to non dues payment. Not hearing from Galesville by the end of Summer, 2005, letter sent to USCA on September 1, 2005 informing USCA that Galesville is removed from the Wisconsin State Curling Association Roster, effective immediately.

Treasurer's Report:

No report given.

Question raised as to follow-up on the issue of collection of the WSCA 2004/2005 dues. Dunlap was to follow-up over the Summer.

USCA Director Reports:

Mark A. Swandby reporting.

Board Structure:

The board structure change is going well. The expenses of the Board Meetings are down due primarily to the fact that there is one-half the number of persons attending the Board Meetings. Expenses reduced from \$6,000.00 to \$3,000.00 a meeting approximately.

Committees continue to gain new membership of non-directors on working committees of the USCA.

Finances:

Budget for 2004/2005 was \$1.1 million with a \$7,000.00 deficiency. Actual 2004/2005 budget resulted in a \$7,700.00 deficiency. The goal of finance committee is to run a budget in which there is a \$20,000.00 surplus on a year to year basis in order to build-up capital reserves. USCA looking to new sponsors as revenue sources rather than looking to raise dues or do any assessment to the member regions/states. Goal is to find another \$100,000.00 from various sources, the majority of which would be sponsorship.

Budget for 2005/2006 is at a break even.

Insurance:

USCA changed carriers in 2004/2005 to AIG. New program does not require a liability waiver. However, if there is no liability waiver, the deductible is \$2,500.00. This is an improvement over a previous program whereby without liability waiver there may not have been any coverage at all.

Championships:

Continued implementation of change of format where there are two National Championships. One is the Trials leading to the Worlds. The second is club based leading to the National Championship. The number of teams playing in both championships equaled the total of teams playing in the previous one tiered championship. No major changes seen in the format of either of the championships other than continuing to tweak the system. Depending on the number of teams signing up for the Trials, the Trials may go to a two step process. The break point is 32 teams. The format change for the Trials was done at the request of the athletes. USCA continues to be sensitive to the athletes' concerns in how the championships are structured and run. 2006 Men's Worlds will be held at Lowell, Massachusetts. Lowell needs volunteers for ice, officiating and other positions. It is believed that most of the officials at the event will be US, although it is uncertain if the head official will be US.

Registration deadline for the Trials is set for November 29th. This will be a hard deadline. This means that not only does the application need to be at the USCA offices on the 29th of November, but also payment received as well. Deadlines for registration for other USCA run championships are the same as 2004/2005 season.

Citizenship:

A requirement continues to be in place that curler must be a citizen of the United States to play in men's and women's trials. Citizenship is not required for Juniors, Senior Worlds, Para Olympics or National Club Based Championships. Motion to require citizenship for Juniors, Senior World and Para Olympics was tabled at the Spring USCA Board Meeting.

Sponsorship and Grants:

Ameraustr Tech is a value in kind (VIK) computer services sponsorship. An example of the value in kind is the internet

broadcast of the Trials.

AIT also a value in kind transportation company sponsorship. An example is the transportation of rocks and officiating equipment to various championship sites.

Hilton is also a new VIK hotel sponsor. Hilton is also an Olympic sponsor. The USCA spent approximately \$19,000.00 in hotel reimbursements in the previous year. Anticipating a \$40,000.00 to \$50,000.00 VIK package. In addition, rooms reserved by curlers at Hilton properties through USCA website will result in a 10% discount on the reservation and a 1% VIK credit to the USCA from Hilton.

NIKE negotiations continuing. Number of athletes in other Olympic sports have negotiated directly with NIKE. NIKE may be furnishing uniforms for curling.

Chicago Community Trust. This is a charitable trust fund umbrella organization. There was created many years ago a trust fund managed by Chicago Community Trust (CCT) by Dar Curtis. This Trust has in the past provided the funding for college curling. Based upon information known to Swandby, the purpose of the Trust was the promotion of curling for the public. Recently, CCT has approached the USCA in regards to making a grant request on the basis of USCA being the national governing organization for curling. The grant contemplated is for monies to use at the grass roots curling level and for the development of clubs. College curling will continue to be supported, although it may be through the Illinois Curling Foundation.

Membership Services:

It continues to be the belief of the USCA that obtaining TV exposure benefits curlers of all levels, especially promoting the sport of curling to new members to grow the sport. In the 2002 Olympics there was approximately 50 hours of TV time. It is anticipated that in the 2006 Olympics there will be approximately 80 hours of TV time for curling. Open house packages were sent out by the USCA in September, 2005 to the clubs. There will be a second mailing in January, 2006 to encourage the clubs to take advantage of the boost in interest expected as a result of the TV coverage of curling in the 2006 Olympics. Suggestions of various activities, instructions, short intro leagues for the new curlers.

Youth Curling:

Under 18 competition run by Optimists in Canada is being loosely coordinated through the USCA. Through the USCA website training and instruction tools for juniors are available for download. Lynita Delaney coordinated a Coaching Clinic in Rice Lake in September, 2005. National Development Director from the Canadian Curling Association was present. Also Junior Curling Camps were held at Eau Claire with 96 kids attending, at Rice Lake with 32 kids attending, and at Cape Cod with 45 kids attending. The USCA continues to subsidize these camps thereby reducing the costs to the individual curler.

Early Ice:

Early ice award given to Bemidji where the Women's and Men's Olympic Curling Teams will be training. In addition, early ice grants given to Green Bay, Rice Lake and Poynette.

Hall of Fame:

Nominations of Diane Brown and Lisa Schoenneberg were forwarded to the USCA. On the vote of the Directors of the USCA at their September, 2005 meeting, Lisa Schoenneberg was elected to the Hall of Fame as a curler. Diane Brown's application continues to be available to be acted upon for the next two years.

World University Games:

This event is set for January 10th through the 20th in 2007 at the Olympic Curling site in Italy. USCA will run play down system to qualify the team to represent the US in said games. There is age limit and student status requirements for the competitors. Poynette, Wisconsin is tentatively set to host the play downs.

Judy Maier Reporting:

In 2006 there will be elected a new President, four Vice Presidents, USOC and WCF reps.

Site selections for 2005/2006 events are now set. Site for the 2007 Juniors will be Seattle. Reimbursement to clubs hosting play downs and Trials is set at \$250.00 per day with a maximum of \$1,000.00.

It was reported that the 2005 national club based championships in Chicago made the host club approximately \$15,000.00. It was reported that the 2005 US Men's and Women's Olympic Trials netted

Madison approximately \$30,000.00. USCA continues to support these championships giving in-kind services. Rick Patzke meets with the club regarding marketing and sponsorship efforts. It's generally accepted that to host one week of competition, that a five sheet club is preferred. This limits the USCA's flexibility in making site selections for championship events. It is possible that smaller clubs may join together to make a joint bid for these championships such that they have sufficient ice capacity to hold the same.

Juniors:

Three boys and three girls teams participated in the under 18 Optimist competition in Canada. The junior merit program continues. The wheelchair curling program has upcoming tryouts for the team in Utica, New York. Steve Brown is the coach.

Incentive program for individual curlers deadline is fast approaching. This is a program whereby USOC monies are available to the elite curlers to assist in paying for training.

WCF:

At the December, 2005 meeting it is expected that Les Harrison will be elected as President replacing Roy St. Clare and Warren Lowe will take the position of Director of Finance. The singles event which the WCF proposed as an added discipline to the Olympics has not been acted on by the Olympic Committee. Mixed Worlds were discussed at the March, 2005 meeting without any action.

Jay Packard Reporting:

The Pettit Center's Board of Directors will have a representative from the USCA. Jay has been appointed to fill that position. The Pettit Center is looking to run a bonspiel possibly in August after the State Fair. They are also interested in running a "Learn to Curl" program. Other possibilities are in the summer of 2006 running a junior or an adult camp and in the winter of 2007 having wheelchair curling.

The facility at the Milwaukee School of Engineering is not available for curling. The facility is booked for hockey.

As for continued participation in the curling demonstrations during the State Fair, Jay encourages local clubs to continue to do it as long as their self interest is met.

Para Olympic Curling, a/k/a wheelchair curling will also have a selection process. There are two wheelchair curling centers. One is Belfast, Maine and the other in Utica, New York. At this time there is approximately 10 athletes participating in wheelchair curling.

An ice making clinic was offered to the membership. There was insufficient interest and the same was cancelled. Another ice making clinic is tentatively scheduled for March 4, 2006.

Richard Maskel Reporting:

With a grant from the USOC, USCA now has two full sheets of sensor handled stones. USCA is working on purchasing three more sheets of sensor handled stones. The estimated cost for the three sheets of handles is approximately \$33,000.00. Sensor handles are used in the Junior Men's and Women's, Nationals, and World Trials, Men and Women, and Mixed Nationals. There are two sources for the monies for sensor handles. One is a USOC grant and the second is using a portion of the entry fees from the competitors.

Championship Draws:

Sam Williams from Massachusetts is now the draw master for all championship events.

Borrowing from an analogy used by Warren Lowe, the competitive programs is the train engine pulling the train cars in which we find the media, press and T.V., marketing and sponsorship, and the fans. The stronger and more effective the train engine is, the better the ride is for those in the cars being pulled.

It is believed that the better the results are in World and Olympic Championships for the USA, the more extensive the T.V. coverage. Given the strength of USA representative's in 2006 Olympics, a surge in interest in curling should be planned. Each of the clubs need to explore ways to bring new people into the sport of curling, whether it's mini leagues, special events or extended sessions. Also possible is to offer a discount program that if a new curler signs up for the 2006/2007 season in February or March of 2006.

President's Report:

Chris Daly welcomed those present and will continue to work on communications.

A. Directory - Secretary:

Daly was assured by Phil Janusiak that the directories will be available by October 1st.

B. By-Laws:

Georgia West, the Vice President of the USCA has requested copies of By-Laws from each of the regions. David Carlson will follow-up in obtaining a copy of the By-Laws and forwarding the same on to the USCA.

C. Championship - Jeremy Roe reporting:

Dates for State Championships are set. For the National Championships for club base teams, if there are 10 or more teams signed up, then there will need to be men's districts. Chairs are needed to run the women's and mixed events.

Flyer is to be prepared announcing the National Championships for club teams. Entry deadline will be stated in the flyers. Looking to e-mail the flyers to the various clubs where e-mail addresses are available.

Host of the events are to rotate throughout Wisconsin. Need at least a two sheet club to host women's and a three sheet club to host mixed. Goal is to select host sites five years in advance.

Rusty Schieber is the new chair for the State Junior Championships.

The State Senior's will be run January 20th to the 22, 2006 in Rice Lake, Wisconsin. The 2006 U.S. National Seniors will be hosted by Columbia County, Bob Daly, Chair.

High School - Joel Caulum reporting by e-mail:

Nothing new to report. High School Bonspiel set for January 13th and 14, 2006 in Wisconsin. High School play downs are set for February 10th and 11, 2006 in Madison.

Rules - Maskel:

Citizens on track status is no longer relevant. USC requires citizenship be obtained as of the sign-up deadline for the Trials.

Unfinished New Business:

Under 18 Optimist Sponsored Canadian Invitational. With the invitations for this competition going through the USCA for the 2005/2006 year, thoughts are to treat the same as an invitation to go to a bonspiel. Schieber and Delaney are on the USCA Committee to run the selection process for this competition on behalf of the US. The WSCA is not running a championship. General thoughts are that the WSCA should not be financially involved by way of sponsorship or subsidy. This is to be contrasted with the WSCA run state championships to qualify for the national club based championships or mixed nationals, whereby entry fees are collected from the competitors with a portion returned to the state champion for travel expenses. At this point in time Seniors and ~~Juniors~~ ^{H.S.} continue to be loosely affiliated events, whereby WSCA acts in a liaison capacity rather than as a sponsor capacity.

Website:

There continues to be no content on the site. Jim O'Neill has not heard from Dean Marquardt about content. As for possible contents, suggestions were made to post directory information, championship calendar, bonspiel announcements, agenda and minutes from WSCA Board of Director Meetings.

Judy Maier is to contact Bonnie Dixon about possible work to populate the WSCA website.

Next Meeting:

Next meeting is set for Saturday, April 29, 2006 at Portage, Wisconsin.