

AMATEUR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION ILLINOIS, Inc.

*"Dedicated to the development of today's youth
through Athletic and Academic excellence."*

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AHAI Annual Meeting June 3, 2001

The following were present at the meeting: Don Allord, Cindy Fujii, Dick Glass, Pete Humann, Mike Lebarre, Fred Lopez, Jim McGlynn, Mike Mullally, Dennis O'Malley, Bob Saliba, Mark Shutan, Jim Smith, Norm Spiegel.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00am by President Mike Lebarre.

President's Report – Mike Lebarre

This is Mike's last meeting as President as he is stepping down to concentrate on other AHAI activities. Special guests Tony Rossi – USA Hockey Treasurer and Dave LaBuda – USA Hockey Central District Referee-in-Chief were introduced along with 3 newly appointed AHAI Directors – Fred Lopez from Express Hockey, Mike Mullally from the Sabres Hockey and Dennis O'Malley from Wilmette Hockey. Ken Michel, the 2001 Terry Beacom Award Winner was acknowledged for his many contributions to all aspects of youth hockey and Holly Spiegel was thanked for her diligent work as AHAI Registrar. President Lebarre publicly thanked the Chicago Blackhawks Organization for their generous contribution to the hockey community of \$145,000 – by far the most of ANY professional sports club! Our *ahai.org* website is going great under the guidance of J.J.O'Connor our webmaster and a new look will be unveiled shortly that is hoped will increase usage even more.

Treasurer's Report - Jim Smith

Handouts were distributed updating our current Profit and Loss Statement and Monthly Income Expenses. Our Annual Audit will be taking place in September but everything looks good with the suggestions that were implemented last year. The possibility of a fee increase which could happen within the next 3 years was raised due to increased expenses. Jim briefly went over a few additional income items besides the Blackhawks Donation of \$145,000 including a \$15,000 anonymous donation to IHOA; \$7500 from the NHLPA and \$30,000 from USA Hockey Block Grants. The Chicago Showcase High School event will take place April 17-21, 2002 at The AHAI Hockey Center – Bensenville and will include a NEW 12 team Girl's Division. Once again our Annual Stadium Day will take place in March 2002 at the United Center with the High School State Championship Game and The Chicago Blackhawk Alumni Association will continue to help High School Seniors by providing scholarships. This year we expect to actively pursue the AHAI Hall of Fame to be displayed at the AHC - Bensenville.

Registrar's Report - Norm Spiegel

Illinois has 2112 registered teams, however only 513 votes are here at this Annual meeting meaning that we do not have a Quorum! Any issue requiring a vote will be handled via a mailing which should go out shortly to the registered membership! The Central District registered 58,000 players.

Youth House League Committee – Mike Lebarre

The 2001-2002 Skills Competition will be run by Mark Cohen and Sara Bolan and information should be out sometime in August.



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Tier II Committee - Bob Saliba

This past year we added the Buffalo Grove Sharks but lost the Oak Lawn Saints. The main activity of the Tier II Committee has been to monitor the "Two-Choice Policy". The Committee reviewed 70 cases with only 12 unfavorable decisions. This year with the proposed "Two-Choice" By-Law change and the revised Mite A2 Rules, the committee feels it has addressed two membership concerns.

Tier II Youth Blackhawk Cup Committee – Bob Saliba

The 2001 Blackhawk Cup was a great success due to all the help from our dedicated volunteers! Three new ideas were featured this year; "B" level Division – allowed the third teams in organizations to participate in a competition more equal to each other; "Super Sites" – hosted ALL Round Robin games at multi-sheet facilities allowing "AA" and "A" to play in one rink and the "B" in two rinks. This allowed for a more festive atmosphere and controlled volunteer work load and tournament expenses; "Super Weekend" – featured Youth AAA, AA, A, B and Girl's Championship and 3rd Place games at the Edge in Bensenville for an action packed weekend.

Junior Committee / Safety & Protection Committee- Jim McGlynn

The National Championships were held at the Geneva Ice Arena with the Chicago Freeze as host club. Junior A – B – C teams are all currently playing in Illinois now. "Outlaw" Junior Leagues not registered with USA Hockey are becoming a problem. Our annual "College Night" will be held on Monday, October 8, 2001 at the O'Hare Marriott. We must continue to show and stress the "Heads Up – Don't Duck" videotape at the beginning of every season!

Coaching Committee – Mike Lebarre

The success of this past season was based on the wonderfully dedicated volunteers and instructors who gave a great deal of time and effort; Mike McPartlin, Rich Blakey, Steve Cromie, Todd Finner, Myles Gottainer, Marc Kapsalis, Larry Pedrie, Guy Perron, Rocky Saganiuk, Ken Smith, Mark Switaj, Jim Alvedo, IHOA President Bill Green, Carl and Delores Miller. Clinics ran from September – January and included 6 Associate, 5 Intermediate, 7 Re-Certification and 1 Advanced – 783 total Coaches! Next season will start with an ADVANCED Level Clinic August 24-26 and can accommodate 125. The complete schedule of clinics was distributed. This year's new Re-Certification Rules are: NO Associate Level Re-Certification, you must go to Intermediate Level; ALL Midget and High School Associate Level Coaches last year must be Intermediate Level this year; ALL Midget and High School Intermediate Level Coaches last year must be Advanced Level this year. The Initiation Program had over 300 participants from Illinois last year and over 700 from the Central District. The schedule of this year's 2001-2002 USA Hockey Initiation Program Workshops was distributed.

Screening – Jim Smith

Managers were added last year, maybe referees this year? Our program is very well run and accepted.



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Player Development Committee - Norm Spiegel

The 15-16-17 Camps will be in St. Cloud, Minnesota with 34 of 60 players from Illinois. The new 14 Camp will be in Rochester, New York. The 16-17-18-19 Girl's Camps will be in Lake Placid, New York. The AHAI Girl's Development Camp had 136 players and went very well.

Women's / Girl's Committee – Mike Lebarre

This past season had a 20% increase over the previous year. Coaching is getting better with the improvement and increase of the number of participants.

Open Committee - Norm Spiegel

Illinois had good representation at the Tier I Regionals. A new Tier I franchise was granted and will begin play this fall 2001; the Chicago Mission will play in the Michigan National Hockey League. All Tier I tryouts will be completed by the end of June; very good cooperation was arranged so that the four AAA Open Organizations (TI, CYA, CC, CM) had non-conflicting tryout dates.

Adult Hockey Committee – Mike Lebarre

This past season saw increased participation at all levels.

Suspension Review Committee – Mark Shutan

The process regarding how the ASRC works was explained. The committee now has a new Chairman with many thanks to Ken Glowacki for his tireless work these past 5 years.

Rules and Ethics Committee – Dick Glass

~200 cases were heard this past season with ~80% being for Zero Tolerance. Everyone needs to try and curb their "overboard" actions when supporting hockey in Illinois.

In-Line Hockey Committee – Mike Lebarre

There has been good growth nationwide. The USA Hockey In-Line Nationals will be back at the Darien Sportsplex in August. The NHL / Chicago Blackhawks Breakout will be held June 8th - 10th.

Diversity Task Force / Sled Hockey - Cindy Fujii

The 4th season was just completed – increased players from 25 to 40. Generous donations of equipment and great volunteers keep this program going. New Sled Hockey Program now underway.

Special Hockey – Mike Lebarre

The "Tomahawks" program is very rewarding and wonderfully fulfilling working with the challenged players from our area; volunteers welcome. Thanks to the Franklin Park Park District for their help.



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High School Committee – Mark Shutan

Registered High School teams increased by 46 this past fall, spring and summer to a record high of 313 which is 17% over last year. There were 26 Combined teams and all participated in the State Tournament; 160 of 190 Pure teams entered their State Tournament. Electronic Registration for last year's State Tournament went very well. As was mentioned in the Coaching Committee Report, this upcoming season ALL High School Coaches will have to comply with the USA Rules pertaining to Coaching – please get your Clinic Registration in as soon as possible! While a substantial DECREASE in the Check From Behind Penalty (-57%) at the High School level is encouraging, an increased lack of respect of the game and opponents by coaches, players and fans is very disturbing.

Supervisor of Officials - Don Allord

Bill Green is the new President of IHOA. Last season ~1100 total officials registered with ~800 being Level 1 and 2. We are still losing many officials with over 2 years experience

USA Hockey Update

This year is a "Playing Rules" change year. Proposals under consideration include: Age Classification Change to December 31 – effective 2002-2003 season and prohibit body checking until Bantam Age. There are 38 Youth Rules Proposals, 7 Junior Rules Proposals and new a USAH Internet Initiative.

By-Law Proposals

Discussion was held, however without a quorum the vote will be taken via U.S. Mail later in June.

Election of Directors

The slate was announced, however without a quorum the vote will be taken via U.S. Mail later in June.

Old Business

Eliminating the use of Racial / Ethnic slurs and Sexual Harassment of any kind must be worked on.

New Business

New Calendar of Events was distributed. ESI (Greg Miller and Dr. David Royko) made a presentation on a "Parents Behavior Program" that could be used by our membership at their own cost. Mike Lebarre was presented with the traditional thanks for a great job as President.

The next AHAI Board of Directors meeting should be held on Monday, 7/9/01, 7:00pm at the **AHAI Hockey Center**.

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded and the meeting concluded at 11:25am.

Mark Shutan, AHAI Secretary



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