

**US ADULT SOCCER ASSOCIATION
National Board of Directors Meeting
Hyatt Regency Philadelphia Bellevue
January 18, 2014**

Meeting called to order 8:28 am EST

Roll call: President, Richard Groff; Vice President, Bill Bosgraaf; Secretary, Shonna Schroedl; Treasurer, Lori Stoneburner; Region I Director, Fritz Marth; Region II Director, Bill Davey; Region III Director, Rob LaVielle; Region IV Director, Dan Trainor; At Large Director, John Motta; At Large Director, Arthur Mattson; Region I Deputy Director, Tony Falcone; Region II Deputy Director, Nick Radu; Region IV Deputy Director, Mike Maloney; Executive Director, Duncan Riddle

Excused: Darius Ejlali

Guests: Jim Bollinger, Brian Remedi, Kevin Frusti, Jen Sunderland, Nick Schmitt, Peggy Polley, Werner Fricker, Jr., Gregory Vlamakis, Matt Driver, Tom Hayes, Michael Hitchcox, Joe Barroni

Agenda Items:

1 Minutes – NBOD Minutes from November 20, 2013 were approved

2 US Soccer Report/AGM – The USSF budget was previously sent to the NBOD. Revenue is positive. The Adult Council passed 3 resolutions at the last AGM, all were passed and supported: 1. National Amateur Championship for men and women; 2. minimum standard for liability insurance; 3. Lamar Hunt Open Cup ... the number of teams to be increased to 42 adult amateur teams. For Lamar Hunt Open Cup, all members of USSF must submit their entries by March 18, 2014.

AGM – USASA NBOD Meeting will be Thursday beginning at 6pm, Broadway Show is Friday, USSF Dinner is Saturday. Regional Meetings are Friday, Adult Council Commissioners Meeting immediately following NBOD on Thursday meeting.

3 National and Regional Leagues – Fritz Marth discussed an application from the American Soccer League to be a National League. Matt Driver is the contact person for ASL and will be asking for approval from USASA. Fritz Marth made a **motion** to send the ASL application to the Rules Committee. Rob LaVielle seconded. **Motion passed.** This league will also include teams from Canada and will include women in the second year. Matt Driver submitted a hard copy of the American Soccer League application to USASA.

Richard Groff discussed a request by MSSL to expand their U20 program and therefore included players that are 16, 17, and 18 years old.

4 Regional Reports

Region I – 146K in the bank, 90K budget this year, based on 14K deficit to spend down, will help teams traveling to National events, Winter meeting in Boston next weekend at the Sheraton Downtown, strong cup entries this year.

Region II – 80+K in the bank, \$1 from each player to benefit player programs in Region II, Cups program has diminished over the past years – new Cups commissioner this year, referee exchange program with Region III

Region III – 84K in the bank/60K after Cups, Regional meeting sometime this summer, new Treasurer for Region III, looking to increase Cup entries, strong referee program and building, multiple joint states – seeking to engage better, working with Mississippi to improve registration

Region IV – 120K in the bank, deficit budgeting for this year, 40K for National Competitions allocated out to assist teams, grants program in Region – states submit for programs to increase membership, 2014 Workshops in early January for leagues and State Associations ... 80 attendees, SRA workshop very successful – geared towards adult level, Nevada is transitioning and moving forward

5 Committee Reports

Mediation Committee – report in writing from John Motta
(attached- Direct Affiliation Agreement) Illinois State Soccer Association and NSL

Governance Committee – proposed bylaw was sent back for further review.

Rules Committee – Jim Hamilton will be present at the AGM to be Acting Rules Committee Chair as Kris Nelson is unable to attend.

IT Committee – Duncan Riddle reported that 8 State Associations and several additional leagues are currently using League Apps.

6 Executive Director Report –

U23 National Cups – Werner Fricker, Jr. discussed a proposal to reformat the Men's U23 National Cup. This proposed event is to be a single weekend event at one location, group play, semi-final and finals. No regional playoff needed. Proposed location is the Ukrainian American Sports Center in Eastern Pennsylvania. Bill Bosgraaf made the **motion** to amend the funding of the U23 Men's National Cup by \$15,000. Dan Trainor seconded. **Amendment passed.** John Motta made a **motion** to approve the proposal for the U23 Men's National Championship. Fritz Marth seconded. **Motion passed.**

Lamar Hunt Open Cup – Deadline March 18, 2014 to send in finalists.

National Amateur Championships – May 22-25, 2014 possible venues: Sportsplex Virginia Beach, training ground at Houston Dynamo, Chesapeake Charge. Negotiating with different venues.

National Cups – Salt Lake City July 25-27

National Women's Championship - June 26-29 Lake Myrtle Sports Park, Florida.

Veterans Cup – July 8-13 Virginia Beach, 64 teams already registered. Teams registering on League Apps getting in team rosters already.

Regional Co-ed Tournaments – committee was tasked with

reorganizing, no events have yet been scheduled.

Staff – Pierre Angelo Ramirez is the new Membership Coordinator. He will work with the Membership Committee and State Associations to recruit.

Anthony Isabelli is working with State Associations, Regions and Leagues to revise website.

Branding – some issues on communication from supplier to State Associations, supplier has been notified. 7 State Associations have received delivery of their products.

NBOD Meetings – February 27 at USSF AGM New York
April 25 at Hyatt Regency Coconut Point
September 25-27 at Hyatt Regency Coconut Point

U20 National Championships – there will be further discussion with USYS for a viable U20 National Championship.

NPSL – Michael Hitchcox and Joe Barroni spoke to the NBOD about updates with the NPSL. NPSL is very interested in expanding their programs/clubs to include U20 teams.

7 Insurance Program – Richard Groff discussed some of the USASA insurance pricing history for the past 10 years and how USASA was able to reduce the rates. Tom Hayes provided additional information for historical information.

(Shonna Schroedl departed at 1:25pm – Minutes completed by Fritz Marth)

Items addressed after departure of Secretary

8 Financial Report

9 New Programs

10 New Business/Added Agenda Items

Respectfully submitted,
Shonna Schroedl, USASA Secretary

**Minutes of the
Afternoon Session of the
USASA National Board of Directors Meeting
January 18, 2014 in Philadelphia**

Insurance – Richard Groff gave a recap of our past 10 year insurance history. Tom Hayes discussed the status of our current Requests for Quotes for the next policy period. Mr. Hayes noted that Nationwide is interested as is The Hartford, our current P&A carrier. The possibility of a favorable change in the threshold percentage for the incentive rebate was discussed, as was the idea of not having a cap on that rebate. Tom Hayes mentioned that there could be a trade-off between the upfront premium and the rebate threshold. The NBOD is hoping to approve a new insurance plan by the NBOD meeting at the AGM.

The concept of self-insurance was discussed. Richard Groff felt that we should continue to explore self-insurance as a counterweight in rate negotiations with carriers. It was mentioned that the past two years, USASA realized a very favorable loss ratio, and that historically we have had more good years than bad. It was noted, however, that as regards self-insurance, if an additional 30,000 players opt out of the P&A coverage (the maximum still eligible to opt out of P&A) this would lessen USASA's reserves for claim payments. Tom Hayes also noted a likely negative effect on our D&O rates. Some NBOD members felt the risk of self-insurance was not worth the perceived minimal savings in premiums. Tom Hayes will provide information on all insurance options, including self-insurance, to the NBOD in advance of the AGM.

Finances – Lori Stoneburner reviewed the financial information sent to the NBOD in advance of this meeting.

Player Registration Report – A significant drop in North Texas registrations, by about 20,000 players, was noted and questioned, as was a drop by 1000 players for the WPSL.

2014/2015 Budget – The budget was discussed and modifications were made. Of note was a change whereby the NBOD expenses will be presented as a gross number of \$56,000, and each individual officer's/director's budget presented as one line item. (Updated budget not attached hereto but available through USASA).

Registration Information Incentive Rebate – John Motta moved and Bill Davey seconded the following: That in addition to the information currently required for a State Association to receive the “player registration rebate,” a State Association must also submit an IRS form 990 (or comparable financial information), and an estimate of players registered for each league in that State Association. The motion carried.

Hall of Fame Policy – a [proposed] Hall of Fame policy will be forthcoming in the next few days. Board members should review and be prepared to provide comments.

Accident Insurance for Referees – Bill Bosgraaf discussed the referee insurance program put in place in Utah. Richard Groff asked whether USASA should provide referees accident insurance coverage, on a State Association-wide basis. Richard felt this would be a benefit to referees and would incentivize State Associations to provide USASA a list of referees currently officiating USASA games, as such a list would be necessary to secure coverage. Dan Trainor moved that USASA provide accident insurance coverage to all referees who are certified by their respective State Association to referee adult matches. Tony Falcone seconded. Discussion took place with many feeling that this would be a good loyalty program and would help build USASA’s good will, however, others felt that this program would result in no actual benefit to USASA. The motion carried.

Executive Session – at 4:45 PM the meeting went into Executive Session to discuss personnel issue. Executive Session ended at 4:57 PM.

SUM Agreement – The SUM agreement was approved without debate.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM EST.

Respectfully submitted,
Fritz T. Marth
Regional Director – Region I