



PNAHA General Winter Meeting

January 3, 2009

Coast Wenatchee Center Hotel & Wenatchee Convention Center

201 North Wenatchee

Wenatchee, Washington 98801

The meeting was called to order by President, Dru Hammond at 9:17 a.m.

1. Sign-In

- Sign-in sheets distributed and on official record with these minutes. Voting delegate sign-in sheet completed with the following delegates present: PNAHA President – Dru Hammond; PNAHA 1st Vice President – Dave Bittenbender; PNAHA 2nd Vice President – Glen Triner; Secretary/Treasurer – Katie Kusske.
- Member Organizations; EYH – Jeff Theiler; IEAHA – David Nieuwenhuis; KVHA – Les Grauer; KCAH – Jeremy McCann; PSAHA – Stephani Ebenstiner, SJR – Jack Chaney; SKAHA – Doug Kirton; SAYHA – Rob Azevedo; WAHA – Mike Lesky; YAHA – Lydia Hester.
- Member Teams – WCHC – Rich Stephenson 92/94.
- Member Organizations not represented – MLYHA, TCAHA, WWHA, WCAHA and WWFHA.

2. Introductions

- Personal introductions made by the PNAHA Board of Directors and guests. Dru Hammond (PNAHA President) stated that due to weather conditions there are only 13 people present and 14 are needed for a quorum. The meeting would continue, but we will be unable to vote on any issues until we have a quorum. If a quorum is reached we will readdress those items requiring a vote such as the Minutes and the Treasurer Report.

3. Minutes

- Reviewed the September 6, 2008 minutes. Quorum reached at 9:23 a.m.
- Katie Kusske (PNAHA Secretary/Treasurer) asked if there were any questions or changes regarding the September 6, 2008 minutes. None. Jeff Theiler (EYH) motion *[to approve minutes]*, seconded by Stephanie Ebenstiner (PSAHA). No discussion. Motion passed.

4. Treasurer Report – Katie Kusske

- Katie Kusske (PNAHA Secretary/Treasurer) presented copies and reviewed the September through December 2008 Treasurer's Report which covers September 1 through December 31, 2008 to the PNAHA Board of Directors. The balance as of December 31, 2008 is \$63,543.24. Motion *[to approve the September-December 31, 2008 Treasurer's Report]* by Dave Bittenbender (PNAHA 1st VP), seconded by Lydia Hester (YAHA). Katie Kusske (PNAHA Secretary/Treasurer) asked if there was any discussion and Dave Bittenbender (PNAHA 1st VP) had a question regarding expenses under the category "Meeting-Motels" noting that there are two different amounts listed in the same category. Katie Kusske (PNAHA Secretary/Treasurer) explained that will be corrected noting the amount will not be changed on the books, but will show them combined under the same category "Meeting-Motel". No further discussion. Motion passed.

5. Special Guests – Donna Kaufman and Steve Stevens

- Dru Hammond (PNAHA President) introduced Donna Kaufman (Pacific District Director). Discussion regarding a review of the Rules Committee meeting that was held in Chicago during November. The Rules Committee met to review all the submitted changes. There were 108 changes sent in. There was one particular individual that had sent in several changes on verbiage. The committee spent 45 minutes on the word "fancy" going round and round on just that word alone. There was a lot of discussion on the "tag up rules" and whether to keep it or not. A couple of different options dealing with tag up were determined to be the best approach. Donna Kaufman (Pacific District Director) reviewed what is going to be voted on. The Rules will be voted on and adopted at the June USA Annual Congress meeting.
- Dru Hammond (PNAHA President) introduced Steve Stevens (Pacific District Referee-in-Chief). Steve Stevens (Pacific District Referee-in-Chief) reviewed USA Hockey and PNAHA Coaching credential requirements. Coaches are never to be thrown off of the bench for not having their USA Hockey Coaching cards with them. The referee is to note it on the score sheet. The score sheet is then faxed to the PNAHA fax line and the appropriate PNAHA Vice President will follow-up on it. This also is one of the ways to watch for repeat offenders. It was mentioned that Rick Ellison with Seattle Junior had run out of the USA

Hockey stickers that coaches receive when they complete a coaching clinic. Be aware that some coaches will be missing stickers on their cards. It is issues of this nature why the policy is just to note that they are missing their card on the score sheet. Steve Stevens (Pacific District Referee-in-Chief) reviewed all the District Tournament dates and locations and which local referees were working those tournaments. In 2010 the Tier II State Champion will go directly to the National tournament; there will be no more District tournaments at the Tier II Level. This will make the State tournaments the training ground for officials instead of the District tournaments.

6. Officers Reports

• **Coaching Director-Rob Kaufman**

- Rob Kaufman (PNAHA Coaching Director) thanked everyone that was present for the cards, well wishes, and prayers along with the PNAHA Officers for the flowers that he had received during his recent medical episode. He is in a rehabilitation program along with going to several follow-up appointments to monitor his recovery from a heart attack. They found a slight blockage that lead to this experience, but with making changes in his lifestyle and medications he will be on the path to a much healthier life. Rob Kaufman (PNAHA Coaching Director) suggested to everyone if you are ever questioning sudden unusual health symptoms to go to the hospital; it could save your life.
- **State Development Camp (Wenatchee):** All the invitations went out on December 30, 2008. There are only 10 registrations so far. Everyone was reminded to contact their players to register online. Everyone needs to bring their forms with them that are printed at the end of the registration process. Let Rob Kaufman (PNAHA Coaching Director) know if any of your association skaters that had been nominated haven't gotten their letters so that he can contact them again. We are looking at having four teams at every age level; 55-60 players in every level. If the registration numbers are low 10 days before the deadline of January 13, 2009, we will go to open registration. The goal here is to send our top players to learn from the total experience. For the "95" age level we have 4 team leaders. All of the other age groups need volunteers. Dru Hammond (PNAHA President) announced that Mike Lesky is Rob's liaison to help ensure everything goes smoothly. Rob Kaufman (PNAHA Coaching Director) will be needing 1-2 bench coaches at each age level. He also needs 1-2 more evaluators and 2 goalie evaluators. If anyone wishes to volunteer be sure to call Rob immediately.
- **Pacific District Select Camp (Kent):** Rob Kaufman (PNAHA Coaching Director) announced that the Pacific District Select Camp will be held at Kent again in 2009. The dates are April 25-26, 2009 for birth years 1995 and 1994; May 2-3, 2009 for birth years 1993 and 1992.
- **Supervisor of Officials – Jason Michelbook:**
 - Dru Hammond (PNAHA President) extended apologies from Jason Michelbook for his inability to attend this meeting. Jason did send a message that he is reviewing the PNAHA Tiering games and the impact when a game must be cancelled due to USA Hockey Rules for lack of sufficient number of players. He is investigating the feasibility of a potential waiver of fees with less than the standard hours of notification since it is a State Sponsored event that everyone donates to.
- **Registrar/Risk Manager – Ed Imes:**
 - Ed Imes (Pacific District Associate Registrar) handed out team rosters that are current as of January 1, 2009. Tier I and Tier II Team Managers have to be listed on their team rosters. In 20 years this has been the worst year for roster changes he has ever seen. Dru Hammond (PNAHA President) reviewed some important issues for our coaches and registrars to remember from the PNAHA Guidebook, Rules & Regulations, Article IV – Eligibility; #6: No player may be registered on more than one team that is eligible to compete in the USA Hockey National Championships. #7: Any player participating in a "B" hockey program may be registered on a "B" team, a house team and a high school team, providing they meet the eligibility requirements of that member organization program and/or league and are in good standing with USA Hockey and PNAHA. #8: A Tier I-Tier II registered player may also be registered with a house and a high school team provided he meets their eligibility requirements and is in good standing with USA Hockey and PNAHA. There was an issue with some individuals from the Wenatchee Association that felt that since these rules didn't specifically say that a Tier I or Tier II player could not play on a "B" team at the PNAHA State Tournament, that the player should be allowed to and that the officers had interpreted the rules wrong. Ed Imes (Pacific District Associate Registrar) had rostered the players originally so that they could attend an invitational tournament over Christmas in Canada. Ed Imes (Pacific District Associate Registrar) had indicated on the roster at that time that the two players that were added were ineligible for the "B" State Tournament since they played on Tier

I teams. He communicated to Wenatchee in writing and phone explaining the history behind this, but these individuals continued to press the issue after the allowed roster change for the Canadian Tournament. It was finally explained that this is a PNAHA State Tournament and since the players are not national bound teams that PNAHA has a right to establish their own qualifications for the State B Tournament. These are the qualifications that PNAHA established approximately 20 years ago. It was explained that this has been the practice of PNAHA and we had no intentions of deviating from this practice despite the desire of the Tier I families to be allowed to also play on the "B" PNAHA Tournament Bound Team. The Wenatchee President contacted the PNAHA President to send an email to him explaining the status and thoughts regarding this stance to present to the Wenatchee Board of Directors and there was no further discussion on this issue since the email was sent.

- **League Commissioner-Glen Triner:**
 - This weekend is the last Tiering event. A thank you went out to Seattle for getting in all the games. This year has been much better. Glen Triner (League Commissioner) asked that game score sheets be submitted on time. They are coming in later and later.
 - A request for patience regarding any errors on the website as he is the only one doing all the inputting in his spare time of personal player statistics. There is not a requirement to list player statistics. He is testing the time requirement to do this. A lot will depend on the timely submittal from team managers. It also has to be noted that these statistics are not "official." We need to remember that volunteers are recording these statistics and these volunteers come with a variety of skill sets. Everyone also needs to know that the official tie breakers have to be done by hand, the USA Hockey software doesn't have the capability at this time to perform all the necessary calculations to break every scenario that could occur for ties.
 - The schedule issues regarding inclement weather were reviewed. It was stressed that it is a team decision as to whether to travel if the weather conditions merit cancelling in their opinion. They do need to remember that should they decide to cancel the games it is their responsibly to get these games rescheduled. This could mean they might have to cancel other exhibition games and/or tournaments in order to meet their League commitments. Their League commitments are a priority.
- **1st Vice President-Dave Bittenbender:**
 - Dave Bittenbender (1st PNAHA VP) reminded everyone that a team manager should never leave an arena without their copy of the games score sheet. When it comes to penalties the score sheets are very important to keep for reference if needed. Apparently there was a West Coast hockey player that the team manager hadn't received the game score sheet and there had been an incident during the game. When there is a "Abuse of Official" penalty the team manager needs to notify Dave Bittenbender (1st PNAHA VP) or Glen Triner (PNAHA Vice President) within 24 hours of the incident so the process can get started as it can be lengthy.
 - **New Membership Applications:** Any new membership applications need to be submitted at the January meeting, then at the June meeting they are voted on. Pierce County had submitted their application in June 2008, well in advance of the January 2009 submittal requirement. West Coast's membership application is still pending for association status. The Walla Walla Blue Mountain Hockey School wants to start their own association. They will have to partner with Walla Walla Amateur Hockey or Blue Mountain will have to start over on their own. Everyone was reminded that players are currently skating out of the Blue Mountain Hockey School. Blue Mountain is an ISI Association and your teams cannot play them.
 - **SKAHA/SJR Rule 14 Exception Request:** The request has been withdrawn so there won't be any discussion.
- **2nd Vice President-Glen Triner:**
 - Dru Hammond (PNAHA President) reminded everyone that she announced at the September meeting that Mark Preston had resigned from his position as the PNAHA 2nd Vice President due to family and work commitments. At the time she asked that anyone interested in filling this position please contact her. This position was held open for one and a half months and after careful consideration Glen Triner was asked to fill the position of the PNAHA 2nd Vice President by Dru Hammond (PNAHA President) until elections are held at the June 2009 meeting.
 - Glen Triner (PNAHA 2nd VP) reported that there had been a coach suspended for playing an ineligible player. He reminded everyone to make sure all team coaches and team managers watch their score sheets for player suspensions. Coaches/Managers need to remember to never leave the rink after a

game without their team copy of the game score sheet. Any player is to leave the game after receiving the 5th penalty. Dru Hammond (PNAHA President) said that the team managers need to be pro-active in watching and being aware of what's going on during their team games.

- **Girls'/Women Director:**

- Shirley Williamson (WWFHA) will be contacting all the associations for information on their female players. Dru Hammond (PNAHA President) discussed that Shirley Williamson (WWFHA) is working with her in trying to host the first "All Girls Development Camp" in February. All the letters have been sent out they have all the evaluators in place. They will need 30 girls in attendance to have a good camp. They are excited about the prospects of PNAHA hosting the first all female camp and hope the numbers will support hosting the event this year.

- **President-Dru Hammond:**

- **Credential Packets:** It was announced that Ed Imes (Pacific District Associate Registrar) will be doing the credentials for all the Tier I teams, Katie Kusske (PNAHA Sec./Treasurer) is doing the PeeWee Tier II team credentials, Dave Bittenbender (1st PNAHA VP) is doing the Bantam Tier II team credentials and Glen Triner (2nd PNAHA VP) is doing the Midget Tier II teams. All association divisional team notebooks will be collected at the end of this meeting.
- **USA Hockey Mid-Annual Meeting/Pacific District Meeting:** Dru Hammond (PNAHA President) and Donna Kaufman (Pacific District Director) will both be attending this meeting in Orlando January 16-20, 2009.
- **On Line Registration Review:** This year for the entire PNAHA Affiliate there were only nine players that were registered manually and that was with Kent Valley Hockey Association. The adult registrations are higher this year than the youth registrations.
- **Robert Freeland Grant:** The Robert Freeland Grant fund for the first time this year receives one dollar per adult and player registration. It was stated that not one association within PNAHA submitted an application last year. Sharon Freeland reviews all of the grant applications as she is very involved with the Grant Program. \$2,500.00 is the maximum amount per application and the submittal deadline is April 14, 2009. These funds are to be used exclusively to grow or increase participation in recreational ice hockey. Dru Hammond (PNAHA President) has the application and it is also posted on the Pacific District and PNAHA websites if any association needs one and offered to assist them in completing the application. Donna Kaufman (Pacific District Director) mentioned that PSAHA received some of the USA Hockey One Goal Starter kits priced at \$60.00 this year. The gear comes in a bag marked "rental gear" and the gear is also marked the same. This is a great deal for your Learn to Skate or Starter Program.
- **Collapse of Idaho Rink Roof:** Dru Hammond (PNAHA President) had received news on the incident that has left the Eastern Washington and North Idaho teams trying to find ice so that they can complete their season. The collapse of the roof was due to the weight of all the snow that area had been getting. Rob Kaufman (PNAHA Coaching Director) mentioned that the Moses Lake arena has tons of ice available. Dru Hammond (PNAHA President) requested that everyone that had games scheduled with these teams check their schedules to see if they could take the responsibility to host them if they had available ice.

7. **Tournament Updates:**

- **Tier I:** Automatic buy for the KVHA Midget U18 Tier I team coached by Danny Lorenz, West Coast "92" Midget U16 Tier I team coached by Mike Anderson, Spokane Bantam Tier I coached by Lloyd Degelman. KVHA/West Coast PeeWee Tier I team coached by Mike Anderson and SJR PeeWee Tier I team coached by Shaun Miller is listed as the host team for Seattle.
- **Tier II:** Automatic buy for the Spokane Midget U16 team coached by Tracy Evans and the SnoKing PeeWee Tier II team host coached by Kevin Bozich. Tami Chamberlain is the tournament host, credentials will be held on February 12, 2009 at the Quality Inn Oak Wood on North Division. Make sure that all your teams have e-mailed their rosters and team photos as the deadline is January 10, 2009. All other information is on the Spokane American Youth Hockey website. Games will be played at the Eagles Ice Arena. The schedule will be out two weeks prior to the event.
- **Squirt Festival:** PSAHA is hosting this tournament again this year. Stephanie Ebenstiner (PSAHA) handed out the information packets. PNAHA will have the schedule posted once all League games are completed and game scores reported. The divisions will be Gold, Silver and Bronze, there will be 10 teams participating this year. Stephanie Ebenstiner (PSAHA) asked that all teams book their hotel rooms now.

This year there are 5 hotels listed. There is a state basketball tournament at the Tacoma Dome so don't delay your booking. If any of your teams have problems with the host hotels make sure they call the Tournament Director. Do not pack up your team and move to a different hotel as they may be subject to a \$200.00 per day fine. The schedule will be out two weeks prior to the event.

- **B Tournament:** Dru Hammond (PNAHA President) is looking at March 7th or 27th weekends for this event. Kitsap has withdrawn their offer to host the event. Whatcom communicated that they could host the PeeWee Division only. Steve Stevens (Pacific District Referee-in-Chief) reminded Dru that the referees from Spokane have also stated an interest in hosting this event. It is best if all age Divisions can be hosted by one Association. SnoKing might be able to host, but they believe they would have to raise the entry fee. Dru Hammond (PNAHA President) felt it best for PNAHA to host the event to keep the cost down with having the volunteer's from the association to help with the tournament if no other venue was available. If profitable that will help offset the association volunteer's costs. The numbers should be in next week so everyone will know what we are looking at as far as team count. Yakima offered to host, but the games would be played at Tri-Cities since the Yakima Rink isn't suitable to host an event of this nature. Dru Hammond (PNAHA President) said if need be she will meet with Yakima and the officials to see what is feasible. Steve Stevens (Pacific District Referee-in-Chief) reminded Dru that the referees from Spokane have also stated an interest in hosting this event.

8. Association Reports:

- Mike Lesky (WAHA) spoke briefly regarding the new twin sheet facility called the Town Toyota Center located on Walla Walla Avenue that is now open. They have a concession stand that is run by the Wenatchee Hockey Association on rink two and on the other side are the offices for the arena and the main rink for the North American Hockey League (NAHL) team. Attendance so far has been normal for this level of play. 2,300 season tickets were sold and there are 4,800 seats available along with Suites that serve food and drinks. The facility is actually plumbed for three sheets of ice.
- Mike Lesky (WAHA) said that the Town Toyota Center is the location for the PNAHA Development Youth Camp this year and is excited to have Wenatchee Hockey association host this event. If the numbers support a Girls' Development Camp it will be held in Wenatchee as well.

9. Old Business:

- No reports.

10. New Business:

- Dru Hammond (PNAHA President) spoke about the USA Hockey event "Hockey Weekend Across America 2009." The objective of this event is to "grow hockey" and celebrate our game and all involved in the sport throughout the nation using all means possible. It is our desire to provide opportunities for those who haven't played hockey to try it, resulting ultimately in more people playing our game at all levels. The dates are February 12-15th 2009. Last year the PNAHA Board of Directors ran a contest to encourage competition within the affiliate to celebrate this weekend and encourage growth. PSAHA was the association who won the contest; their prize from PNAHA was a set of cross ice bumper pads. Dru Hammond (PNAHA President) mentioned that Katie Kusske (PNAHA Sec./Treasurer) was able to secure a set of cross ice bumpers that came in on the budgeted amount. Motion [*for PNAHA to host the same spirit contest this year and use the approved budget of three thousand dollars for the prize*], David Nieuwenhuis (IEAHA), Seconded by Jack Chaney (SJR). Motion approved. If this body decides again to host this contest the submittal date of the entry must be postmarked by April 15, 2009 and is due to Dru Hammond (PNAHA President).

11. Spring/Summer Meeting:

- The date is set for June 20, 2009 to be held at the Coast Wenatchee Center Hotel and Convention Center.

12. Adjournment:

- David Bittenbender (PNAHA 1st VP), [motioned to adjourn], seconded by Glen Triner (PNAHA 2nd VP). Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 11:46 a.m.