

**General Board Meeting
Gateway Region USA Volleyball
DATE: December 1, 2017
Minutes**

Called to order: 6:36 PM

**Attendance: Neels, Mueth, Ryan, Weber, Clauss, Palmer, LaChance, Cusumano, Fastenau, Flanigan, Fowler, Halaz, Kalisiak, Kleekamp, Pieschel, Stratman, Shyu, Winters, Morecraft.
Proxy: Lyon to Kalisiak; Martin to Werner; Brunk to Weber; Scanio to Weber; Boyle to Neels.**

Additions to Agenda:

-Kevin Nelson's presentation on new facility proposition at either St. Louis Mills in Hazelwood or in St. Peters. \$100 million project. Each proposal includes hotels and food vendors which would depend on out of town travelers which would limit number of local teams which could participate. Mills could hold 40 courts. Mills would be available for tryouts next year. St. Peters project would not be ready until June/July 2019. Stratman reported, concern for how the facility would fill their space on weekdays, these facilities would be better suited for cities that don't have seasons and could allow for year round baseball. Concern for how long the facility would be able to last before shutting down. Ryan reported that a new Gateway Region office was suggested if one of these facilities is built.

Motion to approve additions to agenda: **Ryan/MCU**

New items: Presentation of USAV Junior Assembly 2017 Outstanding Female Coach to Nicole Stoll

Motion to add item to agenda: **Ryan/MCU**

Approval of minutes –

Motion to approve minutes: **Ryan/Palmer/Weber MCU**

BOARD REPORTS:

Commissioner – Neels-things are going smooth, staff is working well. Uneventful tryout season. The Region received a grant and we will need to quickly come up with some programs to use the money for. Using new Sportsplex in Cape Girardeau, paying \$125 per court per day when using both days, received a \$750 grant per day from the convention, receiving 1 free room for every 20 rooms purchased in a block. Stay to play not required, but the convention wants information on who is staying the night. Recommendation to require a hotel information form for when people check in. We plan to ask referees from Memphis to come to Cape Girardeau.

Associate Commissioner – Mueth-working on merchandise, will be going to Boys Ladder Series to get a survey of what boys would like to purchase.

Treasurer – Weber-staff is doing a good job.

Secretary – Ryan

Jr. Coordinator – Clauss-Very few calls regarding tryouts. Did have one situation where a team did not have enough people to find a team, and they were proactive in helping their kids find another club.

Scorer Chair – Palmer

Referee Chair – Werner. Absent. Allow referee applicants to get rated at a tournament where a certified rater is available rather than going to an all day ratings event.

Women's Coordinator – Scanio. Absent.

Men's Coordinator – LaChance-teams are slow to sign up for tournaments.

Outdoor Coordinator – Stratman-Adult teams are slow to sign up. Set a deadline for adult tournaments, if too few teams, return courts to vendors.

Jr. Outdoor Coordinator-Deimeke. Absent.

Education Coordinator-Report read by Morecraft. Proposal to require IMPACT every two years because changes are being made to IMPACT courses to improve them. Proposal to consider using purple cards to spectators for inappropriate behavior. Current policy says teams are responsible for their spectators and can already be carded for their spectators. Neels not in favor of IMPACT recertification every two years. Recommended that we send out IMPACT updates to members in a yearly newsletter.

Staff Reports –

Shyu – building Sportsengine registrations including those that can collect payments, working on updating the website to include updated USAV links, currently we have 254 teams registered for the Boys Bid Event, working with Scott McQueen on Bid Event waves. Attended USAV meetings, 11s is now a national division at Junior Nationals, adding boys 13 Open division, USA Volleyball is concerned that there is no boys beach pipeline, discussion about making background screens more stringent. Staff is working to cross train in the office.

Morecraft – having a lot of success with the mentor program, struggling to get referees to travel down to Cape for January 7th, will be working on the grant program. We will be running boys/girls beach program and indoor grassroots programs for boys.

Winters – Using Northwest HS for Girls 18s Bid Event, Lafayette HS for 10U Regionals, Parkway North HS and possibly Kirkwood HS for Boys MS Regionals; using Belleville West, Northwest, Forest Park, Lafayette HS and Parkway North HS for Girls Regionals, still looking for a few more facilities. For Girls 11-17U Bid Event we will use Kirkwood, Northwest, Belleville West, Parkway Central, the TESL Center, Lafayette HS, and Parkway North HS. Looking for a facility for the May 5-6th event, and three more facilities for Girls Regionals April 21-22nd. We are ahead of last year's schedule.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Club Information Night-Kevin Nelson's report, consider being more geographically diverse by holding club information nights in West County, North County, South County. Locations were chosen this year based on availability. Next year, reach out to board members and clubs to get information on availability and pricing of venues. In need of more help from board members for Club Information Nights and Mock Tryouts. Recommendation to begin securing facilities in spring.
2. Beach Events-working on beach events, there has been a changeover to combine USA Volleyball and Region events.
3. Event Reports-none.
4. Referee Shirts-allow the old white shirts to be used for region sanctioned events indefinitely. Referees that worked 2 events last year will receive a free new officials shirt.
5. Spikin It Survey Results-Stratman will review results and report, overall was impressed with how many people replied to the survey, no red flags.
6. Discussion about board composition, concerns about small club and wide geographic representation-2 board members currently represent where 48% of girls membership is from. This may be because meetings used to be on Sunday afternoons and those traveling 2 hours may not want to drive in for Friday evenings. We may need to look at moving meetings to Sunday afternoons to get more balance.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Review policy that allows 11s waived teams into G/S Regionals.
Current policy: Girl's waived teams in the 11U age division may participate in the Gold/Silver division of the Gateway Regional Championships. No change to the policy. Discussion about letting older age groups to allow waived teams into G/S Regionals since no bid is offered.
Tabled to next meeting.

2. Championship match scoring for adults-suggest to change default scoring to 19,19,15 as opposed to 25, 25, 15. Motion to recommend-**Ryan/Palmer MCU**
Current policy: The abbreviated format (19 point sets) may only be used in the championship match if both teams agree.
3. Permitting tryouts to open in the summer for high school girls. Motion to keep the policy the way it is, motion to not bring up the topic for 3 years. **Clauss/Palmer MCU**
4. Permitting boys to play on girls teams. Boys would be allowed to play on 14U age division and and younger, team would be considered a waived team, team would allow no more than 2 boys. **Ryan/MCU**
5. USAV Grant Program
\$5000 for Beach Development. Run some free clinics throughout the region including southern areas. Motion to recommend **Ryan/Palmer MCU**
\$5000 for Boys Development-grade school ages. Provide some free one day tournaments, provide some free clinics, send ideas to executive board for approval.
Motion to come up with a committee **Ryan/Palmer MCU**
Motion to offer a \$20 membership for all new boys members in 15s-18s age groups.
Palmer/Ryan MCU

Motion to adjourn: **Palmer/Ryan 7:52 PM**

Meeting Dates:

March 2, 2018

May 4, 2018

August 3, 2018