

APPROVED
MID AM ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING
JUNE 22, 2024 MINUTES

Mid Am District Annual Meeting was held in person at the Columbus, Ohio, Marriott and via Zoom conference call. The meeting was called to order on Saturday, June 22nd, 2024 at 7:15 am EST, by President Paul Day.

Attendance: Kathy, Michelle Miller, Dave Curriso, Roy Davis, Jim Weaver, Tom Cline, Tim O’Shaunnessy, Paul Day, Kaye Pinkowski, Lori Billings, Kathy Fiebet, Renee Loftspring, Bill Switaj, Chris Skowron, Howard Smith, Shena Link, Zach Hill and John Karolcik.

*Cincy Cyclones application was tabled. It will be accepted upon implementation and remittance of two changes. Remove the affiliation with the USPHL team and revise By-laws to add preeminence language from USA Hockey.

Paul Day will be in communication with the to get a revised application.

*Bylaw changes were discussed and tabled.

*Discussion on High School Rostering according to Annual Guide

10:00 Agenda (Zoom participants allowed in)

Item 1- Minutes from the June 24, 2023 MidAm Annual District Meeting were read. There was a motion to accept the minutes as read by Bill Graiver, 2nd by: Chris Stern

Item 2: MidAm District Financial Audit were presented.

The audit and financial report were presented in detail by President Paul Day. Our audit report stated that MidAms financial statements are fairly presented, which is a clean and positive opinion. Overall revenues were up \$250,000.00. Primary drivers were gains in MidAms investment accounts. Our district was able to earn some interest by taking advantage of some high interest rates by investing some of our idle cash in short term certificates of deposits. Operation expenses were essentially flat when compared to 2023. MidAms total fund balance increased by \$238,000.00. After much detail about our financial position, Paul stated that the district is in a very strong financial position more than able to fund its operations and future revenue fluctuations. Our total assets are \$1,325,251.00. Paul asked if there were any questions or concerns regarding the MidAM financial performance and conditions. There were none. There was a motion to accept the MidAm financial statements as presented by Tom O’Shaunnessy 2nd by: Kaye Pinkowski. Paul asked all those in favor of approval of financial position to say “I”, no one opposed. The financial statements are approved for the physical year ending 2023-24.

President Paul Day stated he sits on the USA Hockey finance committee. He wanted to give a quick overview. He reported no increase in fees. Paul also reported on new IT project with USA Hockey. Which will cost USA Hockey about 2 million dollars. Paul spoke about the cost of safe sport escalating and how we are trying to protect us from litigation issues. There is continued training on safe sport and a new guide book has been released. We are working on a new platform that tracts how we manage fee increases. Kaye reported on no increasing on screening.

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Item 3- Annually we have to sign the affiliate agreement with USA Hockey that states we are complying with the annual guide, maintaining the appropriate structure withing our MidAm District entity and USA Hockey bylaws. Those affiliate agreements are subject to change annually. There is a revision that needs to be made in our voting for our officers. It is a matter of making the terms of office consistent throughout the MidAm District.

There was a motion put on the floor by Nick Poe to reopen the bylaws. This was 2nd by Zach Hill. John Karolcik put a vote out to the zoom membership 96% yes, 4% non-voting members. Motion Passed to open the bylaws passed.

The officers (President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary) are currently two (2) year terms, we would like to extend those terms to three (3) years terms so that it is consistent with every other elected position within the district. The Vice President and Treasurer will be up for election at this meeting and the term will reflect three (3) years. The election for President and Secretary will be up for election next annual meeting in June 2025 and will reflect the three (3) year term.

The MidAM District is entitled by USA Hockey to have (4) four District Representatives. The proposal is that we take three of those spots and elect them to (3) three year terms that are staggered. The fourth representative shall be the President of MidAM, his/her term will be coincide with the terms of the presidency.

There is a mistake on the West Virginia and Kentucky Vice President section, it states they have (1) one representative each. It should state they have (2) two state Vice Presidents.

This is a summary of the proposed by law updates and changes.

Nick Poe makes a motion to approve the updating and changes to the bylaws, 2nd by Zach Hill. John Karolcik put it out to the membership to vote via zoom. Motion passed 21 yes, 1 no and 4 non-voting members.

President Paul Day presented the new association membership agreement. This enforces the preeminence of USA Hockey and MidAm District as an affiliate of USA Hockey, and that every association recognizes that they will be in compliance with what is in our annual guide and what is in our local bylaws and rules and regulations at MidAm. The main focus is to avoid litigation and to see that everyone is covered under the insurance through compliance. Paul suggests that each association looks at their bylaws and stating that there is a preeminence to USA Hockey and MidAm as specified in the membership agreement. Local affiliates need to be watching for this via email from Lori Billings it should come out in July and it needs to be addressed promptly. If this is not signed, we will not register your teams.

Item 4- Youth Council Report

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President Paul Day reported on rule proposals, review of national tournaments and spoke of some possible changes from the annual congress. They have developed a separate committee, a Tier one committee. They will be identifying the structure of what tier one hockey is today vs 10 years ago. We are trying to get a good read on what is going on with player movement. There is a discussion and proposal concerning girls body checking at tier 1. Paul spoke on registration and locker room monitors being registered going forward. Locker room monitors will be listed on the rosters. If there is no one listed the Head Coach will be assumed the locker room monitor. He spoke the girls select tryout process.

Item 5- Section Reports were posted at www.midamhockey.com and discussed as follows.

-Registration report was given by Paul Day. USA Hockey and MidAM grew in the 2023 season. Growth 1.49%. Coaches grew by 4.14%, officials grew 9.87%. Participants of MidAm grew by 306 participants. Reported registry portal should be available very soon. Local Association will begin registrar training via Zoom in July and August, dates coming soon.

- Safe Sport report was given by Murray Stahl. He spoke on National Level having 1700 new cases. That was a 48% increase from the previous year. MidAm had 111 cases, the majority of cases result from 14U and 12U. Bullying and Harassment were the big volume driver. Another big driver is not liking your coach and using safe sport to get rid of them. We do have a locker room policy in place. We are one of the few affiliates that do not charge for locker room violations, the majority of associations do fine if you violate the locker room policy. Murray spoke about a new direction we are taking within MidAm concerning Safe Sport. Moving forward, we will be retaining Scott Grey who handles a lot of the safe sport investigations with other affiliates. There will be a cost involved. Paul spoke on Scotts credentials. Murray will be staying on board and will still be our MidAm SafeSport liaison/gatekeeper.

-Coaching update given by Bill Switaj. He updated us on coaching clinics. All clinics are available to any district via zoom. You can sign up for clinics in any district not just MidAm. Bill also spoke on the level 5 clinic August 14-17, 2025 in Columbus, Ohio. We are excited to be bringing this to MidAm.

-Referee Update from Jim Weaver. He reported on retention and growth from 2023. Jim spoke on respecting officials. He also spoke on the green armband initiative to identify youth referees. All seminars will be virtual.

-Girls/Women's report was presented online. Ladd prepared the report and Paul Day presented. Megan Sparks was recipient of the female honors award for her devotion and growth in female Hockey. Working hard to grow the sport for girls. Spoke on the increase at the district tryouts. In the last 5 years our numbers In MidAm have increased 35%. We had two ladies attend the Women's World Conference in New York. The meeting is to assist women in the district to become better leaders, it focuses on marketing and retaining female leaders as coaches, members and officials.

-High School report given by Kathy Santora. Kathy reported on approval to grow up to 48 girls teams in 2025. They are also changing using the terms division 1, division 2 and prep to 3A, 2A and 1A.

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-Roger Sharer Awards- Kathy Santora reported on Roger Sharer Award and the history of his commitment and growth to MidAm. In 2006 the Roger Sharer grow award began. This year we had 29 applications for a total of \$158, 516. The committee approved 27 of the applications in the amount of \$78,441.00. This award is only grated to grow or increase participation

in recreational ice hockey. You must also agree to provide updates in how this award is impacting your association. Kathy went through each association awarded the Roger Sharer Award and how much was approved.

-Disabled- Renee Loftspring reported on very few disabled groups applying for the Roger Sharer Award. She spoke on the women's national tryouts. She reported on the Para hockey world championships will be in Norway in October. The men's national team ended up 19-1 this year. Renee reported on the championships, that they must register and be on a USA Hockey roster by December 31st. USA hockey is taking over the sled development camps. The upcoming Indy camp is filled with 80 players. USA hockey is going to offer 4 camps next year. USA hockey sled player development camp is coming up. They must be nominated by their coach to participate. MASHY will not take place this fall. It will be rescheduled.

-Safety & Protection- Shena Link reported on Concussion Return to Play form. She also reported the RTP form has been updated and is on our MidAM website for all associations to easily access. She spoke on the upcoming requirement of the Neck Laceration Protector on August 1st, 2024. This is mandatory by USA Hockey. Shena also suggested referring to the MidAm website for updated information throughout the season for information pertaining to Player Safety.

DEI- Howard had nothing to report at the moment.

Item 6- Election Results

Paul Day reported on following election results.

Tim O'Shaughnessy- VP Mid Am Board

Tom Gawlikl- Treasurer MidAM Board

Ed Gingher- USA Hockey congress representative

Roy Davis- Indiana VP

JD Hobbs- Ky VP

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Mark Ferfolia- Ohio VP

Jim Black- West Virginia VP

Kathy Santora- High School Representative

Item 7- Old Business/New Business

Tom Cline was elected Vice President of USA Hockey Adult Council. He will be moving on from MidAm and we appreciated him and all he has done for MidAm. We wish him the best.

Kaye Pinkowski received her a 25 year service pin with USA Hockey.

We are hosting two national tournaments in MidAM District. One in Pittsburg and one in Cleveland.

Meeting adjourned at 12:08 PM EST by Renee Loftspring and 2nd by Dave Caruso.

Minutes submitted by Shena Link.