

USASA NBOD Meeting Minutes
August 7, 2019 – 9PM EST -- Via Conference Call,

9:04pm Meeting called to order by John Motta, President

John welcomed the guests (listed below) to the meeting and stated that they were guests and to respect the discussions that the Board will have without interruptions.

Roll call by Duncan Riddle

Present:

President – John Motta

Vice President – Richard Moeller (conference)

Treasurer – Lori Stoneburner

Region 1 Director – Tony Falcone

Region 2 Director – Bill Davey

Region 3 Director – Darius Ejlaili

Region 4 Director – Paul Scherer

At Large Director – Cezar Wasecki (conference)

At Large Director – Werner Fricker

Independent Director – Brett Hurwitz

Executive Director – Duncan Riddle

Absent:

Secretary Karon Beyer.

Guests: Region 2 Deputy Director Claudio Frigo; Region 3 Deputy Director Chaz Ballish Regueiro; Region 4 Deputy Director Robin Runstein

John asked Region Three Deputy Director Chaz Ballish to take minutes.

Approval of Minutes from June 1, 2019

The following amendments to the Minutes were suggested:

Page 2, last sentence, change US Youth to US Soccer

Page 3, 5b: Change: Region 1 has a winner from Connecticut to Region 1 will play its' final on the 19th of June

Page 1, #4-line 7: change “is now down to three finalists” to “is now down to five finalists”

Motion to approve Minutes as amended – Second - Minutes were approved by acclamation

President's Report

1. Newtown Connecticut - -Won US Amateur Championship last week.

John called Dan Rooney, President of Conn. Intends to meet with Team and Dan to coordinate game against UEFA Champion

2. Women's National Cup – Confusion between women's committee and proposed game from WPSL. John is working to get together with all players to clarify

3. Task force – At Soccerfest there were Concerns over States talking about directly affiliating with the Federation, so John created a task force of the Deputy Directors to gather information from States. John wants the board to hear from State Associations so has tasked the DD's with gathering information. John asked the Board for input. Following discussion with the Board, John agreed and decided to suspend the task force.

4. John wants a plan with next steps following the Strategic meeting to communicate to members; he asked Duncan to put together a plan within the next 2 weeks so the Board can evaluate the plan and have something to present to the members at the AGM.

5. The Board asked John to communicate displeasure with the term Grass Roots Referee and the changes within the Referee Program. He asked that US Soccer Ref Committee include discussion of qualification of Grass Roots referees at the next US Soccer Referee Committee meeting. John reached out the Chris Aherns, chair of the committee, reiterating the board wanted additional info on the changes and classifications. Richard Moeller also emailed asking for the USSF Committee to address the issues. Referee committee did not discuss the items at their recent Referee Committee meeting and the US Soccer Referee Committee has not responded, discussed or communicated with USASA BOD. John asked what the BOD wants to do. Bill said the USSF Ref Committee has been in touch with SRA's regarding the learning center and how to configure it. Paul Agreed, believes Aug 29th USSF Ref committee is going to WA to discuss the issues with Washington State. John asked if we should wait for the AGM or if he should continue trying to communicate. Paul suggested Richard Moeller take point. John agreed. Richard will send another communication to the US Soccer and request further information.

Executive Director Report

Soccerfest – 2,190 players from 47 states, Japan, Canada, & US Virgin Island.
55% male 45% female.

Merchandise revenue \$20,000 beer sales \$10,000; net income from Beer and Merchandise of \$9606

Looking at options from next year.

National Cups - All teams had individual locker rooms, better pitch, bench areas. Very smooth event. Region I winner - Newtown CT. Great story. Kudos to CT State Association for assistance in financing champions trip. Finalist FC Horizon from TX South.

Bill suggested USASA create bid requirements, State Referee Committee Requirements, Define Commissioner Role, set dates for finalists to be chosen. John agreed. Duncan also suggested we tweak how referees are chosen. Tony is working on drafting rules. He has created a template. Tony believes there has to be a hard deadline for Regional winners so travel is easier and less expensive. Duncan suggested we work backwards from the date because if we have it later we may loose college players. It might be in our best interest to work with UPSL and NPSL to set dates.

Duncan discussed the State Association in a Box – to help with the Administration of State Associations. They are starting with the Must Do's and when they need to be done. Duncan believes we need a staff member to assist States get these things done. Lori agrees, she needs help in her state. Duncan believes helping is going to be a "big task." Lori believes we need to be prepared to address what we are doing differently this time. Paul said once we do this we need to hold SA's accountable; there are bylaws in place that either need to be followed or changed.

John suggested Duncan complete the "next steps" then the BOD needs to have a couple working calls to finish the plan to implement the ideas.

Lori suggested we revisit what we require from State Associations. If we don't do anything with the information why are we collecting it? US Soccer is now asking for this information. USSF are struggling to get their system to work. John said USSF agreed USASA could collect information then pass it on to US Soccer. Duncan said once USSF gets past the issues with the youth all being on different systems they will begin working with us.

Paul suggested we "fix our own association" so we can get USSF information if they ask, and simply so we have the information we need. We need to start focusing on the weakest state associations. We need to build it in the budget and just get it done.

Financials

Insurance Rates will available at the Palm Springs meeting.

John asked for update on fire in storage Shed – Loss Update, Insurance. Duncan said we were not covered because it was not in our office. From a criminal standpoint the fire was started 2 garages down. If there are criminal charges we may be eligible for restitution. We need to be prepared to write off \$60,000 in losses. Lori said the depreciated value of items lost in fire was around \$26,000.

Audit – Copies were sent to BOD; we came back pretty clean. We have a weakness going back to regional treasurers and accounting methods. It has helped that everyone is moving over to QuickBooks and has a Chase Bank Account. Some of the Regional Treasurers don't have bookkeeping backgrounds. Paul suggested a quarterly review to assist those treasurers. Lori thinks we should get a new quote for the bookkeeping service to get quarterly reviews. Paul agreed. We need to get the Regional Treasurers better trained and get the process of reconciliations fixed. Motion to accept Audit as presented was moved by Lori, second by Paul, vote was unanimous

Recap of Budget

Lori wants to get it out to Budget Committee ASAP. There are a few sections the BOD is tweaking, but she will add that later.

John said BOD needs to add money for the Women's National Championship, both to fund and for prize money. There are still questions, so he suggested we put in the 30k and amend it later.

A Discussion on the Women's National Cup Ensued

Cesar said we shouldn't commit funds until there is a solid plan and proof of concept where we can see we will get 16+ teams. Paul said we need to at least try. Darius said

we need to focus on the State Associations rather than holding a tournament for WPSL, UWS, UPSL and USASA Amateur Championship. Richard said we are looking to fund it this year then request funding from US Soccer or the Innovate to Grow US Soccer funds. Lori reminded everyone that the budget items are just a placeholder, not policy.

Outstanding Items – USASA Staff, Soccerfest Staffing, Budget Committee and Bookkeeping.

Paul asked if we invited a member of USYS to our AGM. John said he reached out but will follow up.

Bill asked the payment reimbursement for legal fees for pro teams. We paid the bill and Miami FC has asked that we send them a bill for 50%. We will do the same for the NY Cosmos.

Cesar would like Soccerfest feedback from those who attended.

Cesar informed everyone Katie from TX, a manager who has been coming to SoccerFest for decades passed away a couple days ago.

Tony Falcone's SRA was invited to our AGM by Jenn Sunderland as a member of Referee Committee. Wanted to confirm that USASA was paying and not State Association. The Referee Committee has one live meeting a year at the AGM, thus the Committee members are funded.

Tony told everyone that the Championship of Regions is Aug 16-17th in Maryland and asked those who are coming to reach out to him so he can get a headcount. 2020 there will be a women's team.

Voted to Adjourn at 10:42pm