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1 PROCEEDINGS

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5 UNITED STATES ADULT SOCCER ASSOCIATION

6

7

8 MIDYEAR NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

9

10

11

12 Hilton Clearwater Beach Hotel

13 Clearwater Beach, Florida

14 October 8, 2011

15 12:35 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

16

17

18 Reported by

19 Debra K. Resling, RMR, CRR

20 Resling Sportsript, Inc.

21 4 Cheyenne Blvd.

22 Colorado Springs, CO 80905

23

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1 (Commencing at 12:35 p.m.)

2 PRESIDENT GROFF: Okay. We're going

3 to start this meeting. I figure it'll take about

4 30 seconds for you to quiet down.

5 The first order of business, I would

6 like to have the floor approve an agenda change.

7 The agenda, as you know, is stated in the bylaws,

8 and to do so, I need the Board's approval.

9 We will have the moment of silence.

10 We will go to the roll call, the credentials

11 report, confirmation of minutes, and then we will

12 immediately go to the bylaws. We will come back

13 to reports of officers, which we will have a

14 report from the National Cup Committee, and then

15 we will go to new business.

16 Do I hear a motion to modify the

17 agenda?

18 MR. TRAINOR: So move.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Second.

20 PRESIDENT GROFF: Second. Anyone

21 opposed? The agenda is modified.

22 This is always a special time, a time

23 to take that Moment of Silence and think about

24 our friends and members of our soccer family that

25 are no longer here with us, those that have been

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2

Item	Agenda	Page	Line
1	2		
3	4		
5	1 Moment of Silence	4	3
6	2 Roll Call	4	8
7	3 Credentials Report	18	5
8	4 Confirmation of Minutes	18	11
9	5 Communication	--	--
10	6 Reports of Officers and Committees (Continued reports)	14 91	21 19
11	7 Unfinished Business	--	--
12	8 Amendments to the Charter Bylaws and Policies		
13	a) USASA Bylaws	18	22
14	b) Bylaw Proposals Motion to Postpone	38	6
15	c) USASA Bylaws		
16	d) Bylaw 102		
17	e) Bylaw 105		
18	f) Bylaw 105		
19	g) Bylaw 215		
20	h) Bylaw 301	19	23
21	i) Bylaw 301		
22	j) Bylaw 301		
23	k) Bylaw 601		
24	l) Bylaw 702		
25	m) Bylaw 702		
	n) Bylaw 704		
	Bylaw 401	29	7
21	9 New Business		
22	a) Approval of Insurance Program	57	8
23	b) Approval of Fee Schedule	61	9
24	c) Approval of Budget	--	--
	d) Approval of EXCO Actions	--	--
25	10 Adjournment	101	3

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4

1 injured and disabled. So take a moment of

2 silence and think of them.

3 (Moment of silence.)

4 PRESIDENT GROFF: Thank you very

5 much.

6 Chairman of the Credentials

7 Committee.

8 MR. EJLALI: Hello, all. I'm going

9 to call the states out by region. And when I

10 call your state, I will inform you of your voting

11 strength. Please respond with a reply of "yes"

12 or whatever suits you.

13 (The following represents the roll call

14 being called by Mr. Ejlali; the answers by the

15 respective parties.)

16 Q Mr. President, Mr. Groff.

17 A Here.

18 Q Vice-president, Bill Bosgraaf?

19 A Here.

20 Q Secretary?

21 A Here.

22 Q Treasurer?

23 A Here.

24 Q Region 1 director?

25 A Here.

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5	<p>1 Q Deputy director? 2 A Here. 3 Q Secretary? 4 A (No response.) 5 Q Treasurer for Region 1? 6 A Here. 7 Q Region 2 director? 8 A Here. 9 Q Deputy director? 10 A Here. 11 Q Secretary? 12 A Here. 13 Q Treasurer? 14 A (No response.) 15 Q Region 3 director? 16 A Here. 17 Q Deputy director? 18 A Here. 19 Q Secretary? 20 A Here. 21 Q Treasurer? 22 A Here. 23 Q Region 4 director? 24 A Here. 25 Q Deputy director? RESLING SPORTSCRIPT, INC. (719)661-7226</p>	7	<p>1 A (No response.) 2 Q Rhode Island, 2? 3 A Here. 4 Q Vermont, 1? 5 A (No response.) 6 Q West Virginia, 2? 7 A Yes. 8 Q Western New York, 4? 9 A Here. 10 Q Region 2, Illinois, 4? 11 A Here. 12 Q Indiana, 3? 13 A Here. 14 Q Iowa, 3? 15 A Here. 16 Q Kansas, 3? 17 A Here. 18 Q Kentucky, 3? 19 A Here. 20 Q Michigan, 4? 21 A Here. 22 Q Minnesota, 4? 23 A Here. 24 Q Missouri, 1? 25 A Here. RESLING SPORTSCRIPT, INC. (719)661-7226</p>
6	<p>1 A Here. 2 Q Secretary? 3 A Voting as Arizona. 4 Q Treasurer? 5 A Voting for Alaska. 6 Q Thank you. 7 Region 1, Connecticut, 4? 8 A Here. 9 Q Delaware, 1? 10 A (No response.) 11 Q Eastern New York, 4? 12 A Here. 13 Q Eastern Penn, 4? 14 A Yes. 15 Q Maryland, 2? 16 A Here. 17 Q Massachusetts, 5? 18 A Present. 19 Q Metro D.C.-Virginia, 5? 20 A Here. 21 Q New Hampshire, 3? 22 A Yup. 23 Q New Jersey, 4? 24 A Here. 25 Q Pennsylvania West, 3? RESLING SPORTSCRIPT, INC. (719)661-7226</p>	8	<p>1 Q Nebraska, 3? 2 A Here. 3 Q Ohio North, 3? 4 A Here. 5 Q South Dakota, 2? 6 A Here. 7 Q Southern Ohio, 3? 8 A Here. 9 Q Wisconsin, 2? 10 A Here. 11 Q Region 3, Alabama, 3? 12 A (No response.) 13 Q 2, Arkansas? 14 A Here. 15 Q Florida, 5? 16 A Here. 17 Q Georgia, 4? 18 A Yes. 19 Q Louisiana, 4? 20 A Here. 21 Q Mississippi, 1? 22 A (No response.) 23 Q North Carolina, 5? 24 A "Presente, Senor Ejlali." 25 Q North Texas, 5? RESLING SPORTSCRIPT, INC. (719)661-7226</p>

9

1 A Here.
 2 Q Oklahoma, 3?
 3 A Yes.
 4 Q South Carolina, 4?
 5 A Here.
 6 Q Tennessee, 3?
 7 A (No response.)
 8 Q Texas South, 5?
 9 A Here.
 10 Q Region 4, Alaska, 4?
 11 A Here.
 12 Q Arizona, 3?
 13 A Here.
 14 Q Cal North, 5?
 15 A Here.
 16 Q Southern Cal, 5?
 17 A Yes.
 18 Q Colorado, 3?
 19 A Here.
 20 Q Hawaii, 3?
 21 A Yes.
 22 Q Idaho, 2?
 23 A Yes.
 24 Q Montana, 2?
 25 A (No response.)
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10

1 Q New Mexico, 4?
 2 A Here.
 3 Q Nevada, 1?
 4 A (No response.)
 5 Q Oregon, 4?
 6 A Here.
 7 Q Utah, 2?
 8 A Here.
 9 Q Washington, 5?
 10 A Here.
 11 Q Wyoming, 1?
 12 A (No response.)
 13 Q Affiliates, AYSO, 4?
 14 A (No response.)
 15 Q USL, 3?
 16 A (No response.)
 17 Q NPSL, 2?
 18 A Here.
 19 Q WPSL 3?
 20 A Here.
 21 Q MSSL, 2?
 22 A (No response.)
 23 Q Okay. I'm going to go back through
 24 the ones that did not answer.
 25 Member at large, Jim Hamilton?
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11

1 A Here.
 2 Q Member at large, John Motta?
 3 A Here.
 4 Q Excuse me, gentlemen.
 5 All right. We'll go back through the
 6 ones who did not answer.
 7 Region 1 secretary?
 8 A (No response.)
 9 Q Region 2 treasurer?
 10 A (No response.)
 11 Q Region 4 secretary. Region 4
 12 treasurer?
 13 A (No response on both.)
 14 Q Delaware?
 15 A (No response.)
 16 Q Massachusetts?
 17 A Here.
 18 Q Pennsylvania West?
 19 A (No response.)
 20 Q Vermont?
 21 A (No response.)
 22 Q Alabama?
 23 A (No response.)
 24 Q Mississippi?
 25 A (No response.)
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12

1 Q Tennessee?
 2 A (No response.)
 3 Q Montana?
 4 A (No response.)
 5 Q Nevada?
 6 A (No response.)
 7 Q Wyoming?
 8 A (No response.)
 9 Q AYSO?
 10 A (No response.)
 11 Q USL?
 12 A (No response.)
 13 Q MSSL?
 14 A Here.
 15 MR. EJLALI: Two. Thank you. We'll
 16 put together the majority and the two-thirds.
 17 PRESIDENT GROFF: Okay.
 18 Going to the bylaws, we're not going
 19 to vote on anything. We do have one issue that
 20 we, the members of the board, would ask you to
 21 consider.
 22 During your regional meetings you
 23 were given two bylaws that were submitted by
 24 Idaho State Soccer Association. These are not
 25 included in your book, and we recognize that you
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1 were not given the 90-day notice -- or the 30-day
 2 notice that was required under the bylaws.
 3 So, to correct this, we need the
 4 floor to approve -- the Board is asking us to do
 5 this unanimously so that these two bylaws can be
 6 brought to the floor -- waiving of the 30-day
 7 notice -- they can be discussed, and then you can
 8 decide.
 9 MR. BUSCH: So move.
 10 PRESIDENT GROFF: Thank you. Is
 11 there a second?
 12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Second.
 13 PRESIDENT GROFF: All those in favor
 14 of the motion, say aye. Is there anyone opposed?
 15 Thank you very much.
 16 (Motion passed.)
 17 PRESIDENT GROFF: Thank you very
 18 much. Those two bylaws, plus the bylaws in your
 19 book, will be brought to the floor as soon as the
 20 credentials report is completed.
 21 While we're waiting for the
 22 credentials report, let's move on the agenda.
 23 John, do you want to give the report
 24 of the National Cup Committee?
 25 MR. KAHMKE: On behalf of the
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14

1 National Cup Committee, the group got together
 2 and went through the entries or bids for next
 3 year's National Cup finals. The cup committee
 4 has elected to pick or choose Chicago at Toyota
 5 Park for -- the preference was for July 20th
 6 through the 22nd at Toyota Park. And if that
 7 date was not available, the second choice was for
 8 the 13th to the 15th.
 9 Any questions?
 10 PRESIDENT GROFF: Great.
 11 Congratulations. Illinois Soccer. We look
 12 forward to having a great event -- well, we'll
 13 actually have two events in Chicago next year.
 14 The mid-year meeting will be there in October,
 15 and then the National Finals will be there in
 16 July.
 17 Is there any other committee that
 18 would like to make a report at this time while
 19 we're waiting for the credentials committee?
 20 MR. MOTTA: Just a quick update on
 21 what happened with the Referee Committee meeting
 22 yesterday.
 23 During our Summit, I know one of the
 24 big priorities of the membership was referee
 25 training and ways to get more referees to do
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15

1 adult games. And I know it's been two years, and
 2 I will take the blame for not pushing this along
 3 a lot quicker, but the committee -- and there has
 4 been a referee development committee put
 5 together, and we have it committed that by
 6 Memorial Day of next year there will be a referee
 7 training program to get us referees to go from
 8 youth ranks into refereeing into the adult ranks.
 9 And we have U.S. Soccer personnel here today --
 10 Brian Mooney, who is in charge of referee
 11 development and training for U.S. Soccer -- and
 12 we also told him our commitment of bringing to
 13 the membership a training program by Memorial
 14 Day, and they agreed to it. So, you know,
 15 hopefully -- not hopefully, but, you know, it
 16 will be our commitment by Memorial Day of next
 17 year, we will have a referee training program to
 18 get more referees into the adult ranks. Thank
 19 you.
 20 PRESIDENT GROFF: We have a report
 21 from the Coaching Committee.
 22 MR. BOSGRAAF: Yeah.
 23 Okay. This past year in the coaching
 24 education program, there's been a lot of work
 25 accomplished, and we have gone through, updated
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16

1 the old coaching education program which used to
 2 be our 24-hour course. Some adjustments have
 3 been made. With the wishes of the Federation,
 4 it's a 26-hour course, so we have added a couple
 5 of hours to it, and on the other hand, some of
 6 that stuff will end up going online to cut down
 7 on the amount of time that you need to spend in
 8 the classroom and on the field. So we will
 9 continue to do that. And we are pretty well
 10 close to going to work and implementing that
 11 26-hour course. And we hope to have, as many of
 12 you guys are requesting, clinics or courses to be
 13 done within your states and leagues.
 14 The 36-hour course is close to being
 15 finished. There is -- they're probably about 95
 16 percent there. The Federation has approved
 17 pretty well everything that's there. And that
 18 will be a follow-up from the 26-hour course. You
 19 will have to take the 26-hour in order to get the
 20 36-hour course done. It's similar to a B and a
 21 D. There will be some waivers available, but
 22 it's going to be minimal.
 23 And it's going to be done through the
 24 USASA that this -- namely, it will be Alex as the
 25 director of coaching at this time.
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17

1 In addition, we are -- we're going to
 2 be working on the online course, which basically
 3 is an introductory course that's for upstarting
 4 programs where you are just putting a team
 5 together and you want to get an idea of what you
 6 need to do to pull that team together and what's
 7 necessary to kind of keep your nose clean and not
 8 get into an awful lot of trouble, and -- you
 9 know, and some basic information as far as
 10 coaching is concerned.

11 All in all, a lot of work has been
 12 done, in particular by three individuals:
 13 namely, Dr. Meeroff, out of Florida; Frank
 14 Borroni, many, many, many hours; and Aleks
 15 Mihailovic, who took a good chunk of that
 16 responsibility on, and he's had a great dialog
 17 with the U.S. Soccer Federation, and they're very
 18 happy with how we've progressed up to this point.

19 So we're really looking forward to
 20 unveiling this whole program and adding this to
 21 our staple of things that we can strengthen our
 22 organization with.

23 So with that said, any questions?
 24 Okay. Thank you.

25 MR. EJLALI: Point of information:
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18

1 North Dakota had been approved. At this point
 2 they have been accepted as a provisional member.
 3 They're not present, so there's no votes, but it
 4 should be noted.

5 Our total votes, 179. The majority
 6 will be 80 -- I mean 90 -- excuse me. Two-thirds
 7 is 120. And if we need 90 percent, it's 162.
 8 Thank you.

9 PRESIDENT GROFF: So we have a
 10 quorum.

11 The next item is the confirmation of
 12 the minutes. Is there a motion?
 13 MR. BURN: So move.
 14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Second?
 15 PRESIDENT GROFF: Is there any
 16 questions or comments on the motion?
 17 Hearing none, calling the question,
 18 all those say aye. Anyone opposed? Thank you
 19 very much.
 20 (Motion passed.)
 21 PRESIDENT GROFF: And now we're going
 22 to move to the bylaws.
 23 Mr. Scherer, would you like to do
 24 yours first, and I believe you have two.
 25 Where is our chair of the bylaws? Do
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19

1 you want to come up here, Chris? Chair of the
 2 rules committee.

3 MR. SCHERER: Paul Scherer from
 4 Idaho.

5 MS. NELSON: All right. Before I let
 6 you move forward, I'm going to actually comment
 7 that, as in the past, what we're going to do is
 8 we are going to ask for the approval of these by
 9 voice vote first. And if it's clear that that
 10 passed, we'll just move on; otherwise, we will go
 11 to the cards.

12 And the first order of business is to
 13 get these brought to the floor, which I believe
 14 we have just done, so with that --

15 MR. TRAINOR: Motion to confirm.
 16 MS. NELSON: Dan is correcting me. I
 17 do need a motion for approval which brings these
 18 to the floor so that we can discuss them.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So move.
 20 MS. NELSON: Do I have a second?
 21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Second.
 22 MS. NELSON: Thank you.

23 MR. SCHERER: We'll start off with
 24 Bylaw 301, the organizational members. Does
 25 everyone have a copy of that?
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20

1 MS. NELSON: Just a moment, please.
 2 MR. FALCONE: Correction. We just
 3 had a general motion. We should have a motion
 4 for a particular bylaw.

5 MS. NELSON: Motion for -- since you
 6 started off with 301, the motion to bring Bylaw
 7 301 as laid out in the papers that were handed
 8 out in your regional meetings to the floor.

9 Now, assuming there are no other
 10 corrections, please go ahead.

11 MR. SCHERER: Okay. I would like to
 12 make a motion to bring that to the floor. Is
 13 that what I'm doing?
 14 MR. FALCONE: Yeah.
 15 MS. NELSON: It's on the floor.
 16 MR. SCHERER: Okay. So it's on the
 17 floor, and it's been seconded to be on the floor?
 18 Okay.

19 If I may, I would like to speak to
 20 the proposal itself. One of the things that we
 21 got out of the Summit was that we needed growth.
 22 We needed to grow our organization. That was one
 23 of our biggest things. We wanted to grow our
 24 organization.
 25 And so some of the thoughts that I
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21

1 had about it is, looking at it, is one of the
 2 things we can do is to reward those states for
 3 growth. And this particular bylaw change would
 4 do that -- would do that. "This particular
 5 voting method will reward states that are
 6 actively involved in recruiting players while at
 7 the same time give a more even playing field for
 8 those states that have a smaller population
 9 basis."
 10 And I'll give you an example. I can
 11 use Idaho as an example, because it's easier for
 12 me. With our gigantic population of 1.5 million
 13 people, we're never going to have 16,000 players.
 14 Okay. The reality is that. But if I push -- if
 15 I can get 3,000 or 4,000 players, why wouldn't
 16 small states be rewarded for that, just like any
 17 other state that might be rewarded for that. I
 18 think that puts a smaller state -- a little bit
 19 equal playing field with the states that have a
 20 large population base.
 21 The other thing: It does reward
 22 those states with a large population base that
 23 are actively involved, such as
 24 Metro D.C.-Virginia would still maintain their
 25 position because of their -- the way it's laid
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22

1 out with your census figures versus how many
 2 players that are playing, that percentage. They
 3 would still end up with a large -- with their
 4 large vote numbers. They wouldn't lose a thing,
 5 because they're actively involved in pursuing
 6 players and having players involved; whereas,
 7 some of the larger states that have a large
 8 population, but yet they have very few players
 9 playing. You know, again, I think, we should
 10 reward those that are going out and actively
 11 seeking players.
 12 MS. NELSON: All right. Is there any
 13 discussion?
 14 MR. KEPNER: Bob Kepner, North
 15 Carolina.
 16 The first time I had seen this was
 17 yesterday, as was the case for everybody else.
 18 The questions that pop into my mind today is do
 19 we need a little bit more definition in terms of
 20 when we determine these numbers?
 21 Another question that pops into mind
 22 is were the choosing of five, the top five, the
 23 next 10, the next 15, the next 15, were those all
 24 arbitrary, just sort of pulled out of the hat?
 25 Or were they tied into the current system in
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23

1 terms of the approximate division at this point
 2 in time?
 3 Third thing that pops into my mind is
 4 that it adds a level of complexity that is being
 5 popped on to us, I think. I do understand that
 6 this was presented way back in November of 2010,
 7 and unfortunately, it just wasn't presented in a
 8 timely fashion to the rest of us, so that is
 9 unfortunate. And -- but it's a complicated kind
 10 of motion to consider and a proposal to consider
 11 under -- on an immediate basis.
 12 So because of all of these things, I
 13 really question whether it's a step that we
 14 should take at this time.
 15 MS. NELSON: All right.
 16 MR. MC GEE: Bob McGee, WPSL.
 17 I have a point of clarification. I
 18 realize that this proposal was dated November 10,
 19 2010.
 20 The problem is that it says what the
 21 existing rule is, and we modified the existing
 22 rule at the AGM in February or March, whenever we
 23 had that. Can we have something from the Chair
 24 to tell us what the current rule, as amended at
 25 the AGM, was in terms of the voting strength?
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1 MS. NELSON: Sure. If you will give
 2 me a moment to look it up.
 3 MR. MC GEE: I just think everyone
 4 should know what that is.
 5 MS. NELSON: Yes, I'm in the process
 6 of looking it up.
 7 MR. MC GEE: If you want a little bit
 8 of assistance, I think the only thing that
 9 changed at the AGM was Category F, which says
 10 over 16,000 players, six votes.
 11 MS. NELSON: Yes, the modification
 12 was that it was the same through E. And Category
 13 F is now 8501 to -- let me look it up. That is
 14 correct. Category F is 8501 to 15,000 is five
 15 votes versus the over 8500 that you see. And
 16 there's a category G, over 15,000 players, 6
 17 votes.
 18 MR. MC GEE: So it's actually 14,999.
 19 MS. NELSON: Yes.
 20 MR. MC GEE: And then it gets to
 21 15,000 with 6 votes. Thank you --
 22 MS. NELSON: I believe it is 15,000
 23 and -- over 15,000. That's what I have in my
 24 notes.
 25 MR. MC GEE: Thank you.
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25

1 MR. SCHERER: If I may, I would just
 2 like to help Mr. Kepner with the complication of
 3 his formula a little bit. And it was not
 4 based -- I don't think it's any more complicated
 5 than what we're using now, other than we may have
 6 to use some figures from the National Census
 7 Bureau, which I don't think is that complicated
 8 at all.

9 The next thing is, it was not
 10 arbitrary. It was really based on what our
 11 voting structure was today, how many states had
 12 how many votes and that type of thing, so it
 13 wasn't really based on anything other than what
 14 we really basically had. But what it did was it
 15 took more emphasis on those states that were
 16 going out and recruiting players and getting more
 17 players into the association, which I thought was
 18 one of our goals.

19 MS. NELSON: All right. Dan.

20 MR. TRAINOR: Dan Trainor, Region 4,
 21 as well as past president of Arizona.

22 One of the things I would vote
 23 against this at this time, primarily, is Arizona.
 24 We have -- you're looking at the census. We're a
 25 retirement state, so a good majority of our
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26

1 population is retired and will not be playing.
 2 You would have to look at what is reality when
 3 this is put out there and why it's put into
 4 place. Census is one thing.

5 It also -- who is to determine those
 6 that are actually actively trying? Some states
 7 put all their effort in and do an excellent job.
 8 I laud Paul's proposal as trying to build
 9 membership and the rest, but I don't think this
 10 is the avenue to try to do that. I do believe it
 11 does create a complicated mess. I don't think it
 12 accomplishes where we need to go at this time.

13 That's my thoughts.

14 MS. NELSON: Is there --

15 MR. SCHERER: Dan, that's why we have
 16 the Veteran's Cup and the Master's Football cup
 17 is for those older retired folks. And we'd
 18 certainly enjoy them -- you know, we invite them
 19 out and have them come play with us, and I would
 20 be the first to come down to Arizona and help you
 21 with that.

22 MS. NELSON: Is there any additional
 23 discussion of this motion?

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Call for a
 25 question.
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27

1 MS. NELSON: Very well. As I said,
 2 I'm going to do this first verbally. All in
 3 favor, please say aye. All opposed?

4 PRESIDENT GROFF: All right.

5 MS. NELSON: All right. We obviously
 6 don't need to move forward to the cards, and this
 7 motion does not pass.

8 (Motion failed.)

9 MS. NELSON: Paul, you have a second
 10 motion.

11 MR. SCHERER: Yes, I do. First off,
 12 I would like to thank everyone for allowing that
 13 bylaw proposal to come to the floor.

14 The second bylaw proposal that I
 15 would like to --

16 MS. NELSON: Paul, before I let you
 17 launch into that, I need someone to have a motion
 18 to approve the bylaw, to bring it to the floor.

19 MR. FALCONE: He can do it.

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So move.

21 MS. NELSON: Do we have a second?

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I do.

23 MS. NELSON: And please summarize the
 24 bylaw.

25 MR. FALCONE: Can we clarify the
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28

1 motion of which --

2 MS. NELSON: Let me finish, please.

3 MR. FALCONE: It should be part of
 4 the motion.

5 MS. NELSON: Thank you, Tony. Tony
 6 will train me in -- the previous motion was to
 7 bring Bylaw 401, as distributed in your regional
 8 meetings this morning, and allow us to open it
 9 for discussion and have a vote on it.

10 MR. SCHERER: Okay. So I'm bringing
 11 proposal for Bylaw 401, Officers?

12 MS. NELSON: Yes, sir.

13 MR. SCHERER: One of the reasons why
 14 I put this together was, again, from the
 15 information that we got from the Summit, one of
 16 the things that they had talked about was getting
 17 outside directors on our executive board. And I
 18 think that's very important. We haven't done a
 19 very good job in that, and we really need to look
 20 forward in being a little bit more
 21 forward-thinking in our organization.

22 So obviously this came from the
 23 recommendations from the Summit.

24 The other thing that I would like to
 25 point out is that every one of us was just handed
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29

1 out a packet on standards and practices in
 2 governance that was put out by the committee from
 3 USASA, and one of the topics in that, lo and
 4 behold, has something to do with this bylaw and
 5 really points out the conflict of interest and
 6 also talks about independent members on our
 7 executive committee. And I would stress that
 8 that is what we need.

9 We're obviously kind of stuck in the
 10 mud. We have been doing things in the same way
 11 for a very long time. I really do feel that
 12 having outside and independent people that come
 13 in and are members of our board are going to help
 14 us see a better strategy, help us find a way to
 15 compete with USSSA and everybody else that's out
 16 there that's competing for our players. I think
 17 we are mired in the mud. We are also -- we can't
 18 see the forest because of the trees. And maybe
 19 this is one way we could help get to there.

20 MS. NELSON: All right. Is there
 21 discussion on this bylaw proposal?

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Call the
 23 question.

24 MS. NELSON: Okay. All right.
 25 Mr. Busch.

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30

1 MR. BUSCH: Thank you. Just as a
 2 point of information for the group, how many
 3 individuals on the National Board of Directors
 4 held an office in a state association?

5 Thank you.

6 MS. BRIGGS: Toni Briggs, treasurer.

7 One thing I want to speak to against
 8 this is, there is a huge difference in what the
 9 best practices say and what you are proposing
 10 here. Only one of yours addresses paid
 11 employees. I'm not a paid employee, and this
 12 would affect me. That is not the intent.
 13 Otherwise, our BOD at the national level would
 14 exclude people. I don't think that's what we
 15 want to do because people up here have a vested
 16 interest in soccer. And if we only got
 17 independent people, they wouldn't know anything
 18 about soccer.

19 So, I would suggest that you not vote
 20 for this. Personally, it would affect me, but it
 21 would affect people that serve on our National
 22 Board of Directors as well, and I don't think
 23 that would be a good thing.

24 MS. NELSON: Thank you. The
 25 gentleman in the back.

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31

1 MR. ZANELLI: Jerry Zanelli.
 2 I think the terminology "conflict of
 3 interest" here is not really germane. Conflict
 4 of interest is somebody who has an outside
 5 monetary interest and is voting in here to gain
 6 something for someone that they work for or
 7 represent. It's very different. That's the term
 8 conflict of interest everywhere in different
 9 states and, even at the national level, what the
 10 conflict of interest is.

11 We also have another interest --
 12 well, not so much for me, but for Dan, which is
 13 commissioner of NPSL and is also a member of the
 14 board. Now, as an independent league, I'm very
 15 happy to have him on the board, so in my
 16 guesstimation, even though he's a regional
 17 director, he's also stumping for the NPSL, which
 18 we have no representation on. As I look over the
 19 board, he's the only one that represents
 20 individual leagues. So he's not in conflict of
 21 interest because he's going to vote what he
 22 thinks is the best interest.

23 And I found everybody else on the
 24 board does that, and very seldom does it come
 25 down to a specific that you're really going to

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32

1 just do something for your state. And I think
 2 that's very well defined, and that's why I wanted
 3 to clarify "conflict of interest." And I vote
 4 against it.

5 MS. NELSON: Tony, I believe you were
 6 next up.

7 MR. FALCONE: Tony Falcone, Deputy
 8 Director, Region 1.

9 First, let me say, I'm against this
 10 proposal. The first thing, as I read this,
 11 the -- who it applies to is not just state
 12 association officers. It says leagues or other
 13 affiliated entities. So if someone has to be an
 14 officer of a local league in your state
 15 association, according to this, they wouldn't be
 16 able to also serve simultaneously on the board of
 17 directors.

18 The second thing I want to point out
 19 is, we do have a conflict policy in place in this
 20 organization. There is some work that needs to
 21 be done on it, and the board -- some of us on the
 22 board are going to look into making some changes,
 23 but there is a policy in effect. It's not as if
 24 there is no conflict policy at all.

25 And then the third thing I would like

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33

1 to say as a member of the board, we have a very
 2 broad base of members on the board. And with
 3 that, we are able to bring our knowledge, our
 4 experience working with, whether it be on the
 5 local level, a national affiliate, a state
 6 association, into the conversations on decisions
 7 that we have to make, in doing what -- in
 8 considering the topics that we're discussing, not
 9 for any personal advantage for the other
 10 organizations that we may represent.

11 So it does make sense to have a broad
 12 perspective coming from our board. Thank you.

13 MS. NELSON: Thank, you, Tony.

14 The gentleman in the back.

15 MR. RAPAGLIA: Sal Rapaglia, Eastern
 16 New York Soccer Association.

17 If I were to vote for this rule,
 18 tomorrow my board would be out of business
 19 completely. I would have to go to Brooklyn or
 20 all over the state to find someone to play, to
 21 work for us. It doesn't work. It doesn't work.

22 MS. NELSON: Hold on just a moment.
 23 Richard has put himself in the queue.

24 PRESIDENT GROFF: I believe that we
 25 need a very strong conflict-of-interest policy.

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34

1 There are two members of the board, both lawyers,
 2 who are working on this.

3 And I also want to say one other
 4 thing: I believe that a conflict policy is
 5 "disclose." Everything should be disclosed, and
 6 then once that happens, you are the membership,
 7 you elect that person. If you feel their
 8 conflict is too great, you vote against them. If
 9 you feel we need them to help lead this
 10 organization, you can decide to vote for them.

11 But this policy is "you shall
 12 resign." I think that's a mistake.

13 MS. NELSON: Mr. Kepner.

14 MR. KEPNER: Bob Kepner, North
 15 Carolina.

16 A couple of points. One is that I
 17 support the point that was made earlier, that the
 18 normal standard of conflict of interest is tied
 19 to a monetary interest, although it doesn't have
 20 to be absolutely that way.

21 Then concerning the point that was
 22 made just before Richard made his point, this
 23 applies, as I understand it, only to the USASA
 24 level, not within each organization. Am I
 25 correct in understanding that?

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35

1 MR. SCHERER: Correct.

2 MR. KEPNER: Okay. And then the
 3 third point is, is that there is another way to
 4 approach this whole concept, and that is there
 5 are times that a member who serves as a board,
 6 particularly, if that member is also in another
 7 capacity, to recuse oneself from participating in
 8 a particular individual vote that would have an
 9 impact on the other entity. So at the NCASA
 10 level, if we have a member of our board who is
 11 the president of a league and the particular
 12 vote, subject at hand, relates to that person's
 13 league, it's quite appropriate for the board
 14 member who serves in the dual capacities to
 15 recuse herself or himself from voting on that
 16 particular issue.

17 That's a different approach than
 18 making it an absolute refuting situation and not
 19 ever being able to participate.

20 So I just urge the attorneys, that
 21 Richard says are on the board, give consideration
 22 to that kind of approach as well.

23 MS. NELSON: Thank you. The
 24 gentleman in the back.

25 MR. ROONEY: Dan Rooney, Connecticut.

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36

1 I'm not really up on my Robert's
 2 Rules, but can we call the question?

3 MS. NELSON: Thank you. All right.
 4 Again, I'm going to do this by voice vote first,
 5 and if we need to, we'll go to the cards.

6 All in favor of this proposal, please
 7 say aye.

8 MR. SCHERER: Yes.

9 MS. NELSON: All opposed?
 10 Very well, the motion fails.
 11 (Motion fails.)

12 MS. NELSON: We will move on next to
 13 the set -- sorry, Paul.

14 MR. SCHERER: Yeah, I just -- again,
 15 I wanted to thank everybody for letting me bring
 16 that proposal to the floor. I think we
 17 absolutely do need a conflict policy -- a
 18 conflict-of-interest policy.

19 The other thing I would certainly
 20 suggest, or highly recommend is that if we have
 21 policies with USASA, which I would bet right now
 22 that most people here don't know that there are
 23 several policies and what they are -- I would
 24 suggest that if we're not going to have a book on
 25 policies that we at least put it online

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37

1 underneath the topic of policies so, when we want
 2 to find it, we can go to it. And if you are
 3 working on it, it would be really nice to know
 4 that too.

5 MS. NELSON: Thank you.
 6 All right. We will next move on to
 7 the bylaw proposals which are printed in your
 8 manual.

9 This is a series of bylaw proposals
 10 which all relate to a single topic -- the
 11 interregional league -- and are all support and
 12 definition for that. And before I bring these to
 13 the floor, what I would like to do is bring them
 14 as a block. And I want to get a sense if that is
 15 something that the assembly is okay with or if
 16 you believe that we do need to bring them
 17 individually.

18 So, do you have a comment pertinent
 19 to that, sir?

20 MR. RAPAGLIA: Yes, Eastern New York.
 21 I saw this yesterday. We had this
 22 and the ruling and action that was sent in
 23 Italian. There's about 11 pages that are quite
 24 almost -- almost the same thing in there. Eleven
 25 pages just really doesn't make "no" much sense.

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38

1 Can we digest this until March when we go to
 2 Miami Beach? Please digest and then we vote at
 3 that time. I will -- I wanted to make a motion.

4 MS. NELSON: I'm informed that you
 5 need to make a motion --

6 MR. RAPAGLIA: I make a motion to
 7 postpone -- table until March of next year.

8 MS. NELSON: No, not table it; send
 9 it back to committee, please.

10 MR. RAPAGLIA: To send to the
 11 committee? Okay.

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Postpone it.

13 MR. RAPAGLIA: Postpone it until
 14 March, no big problem.

15 MS. NELSON: Is there a second to
 16 that motion?

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Second.

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Second.

19 MS. NELSON: And I need to get
 20 approval for that?

21 I need to have you --

22 MR. TRAPIKAS: Point of information.
 23 What is the motion? Which amendment is that to?
 24 Is that to every amendment?

25 MS. NELSON: The block of amendments.

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39

1 PRESIDENT GROFF: The block.
 2 MR. TRAPIKAS: The block or
 3 everything in the book?

4 MS. NELSON: All of the ones in the
 5 book.

6 MR. RAPAGLIA: All of them, Bruno.
 7 All of them.

8 MS. NELSON: All of the ones in the
 9 book are the block I was discussing, Bruno.

10 MR. RAPAGLIA: From Page 41 to 56.
 11 All of them.

12 MR. TRAPIKAS: That's the block?
 13 MS. NELSON: That's the only set of
 14 things in there, Bruno, are the bylaw proposals
 15 that are related to the interregional league, and
 16 that is the set of items we were talking about
 17 just to bring as a block.

18 MR. TRAPIKAS: That's not the motion
 19 he made.

20 MR. DAVEY: It is not. He said all
 21 of them in the book.

22 MS. NELSON: Is there something --
 23 PRESIDENT GROFF: All of the bylaws
 24 in the book.

25 MS. NELSON: All of the bylaws in the
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40

1 book.

2 MR. DAVEY: I got you.

3 MR. KEPNER: Do we have a motion on
 4 the floor?

5 MS. NELSON: Yes.

6 MR. KEPNER: And that motion is to
 7 postpone? And that's been seconded?

8 MS. NELSON: Yes, sir.

9 PRESIDENT GROFF: Yes.

10 MS. NELSON: We need to, I believe,
 11 call the question.

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: A little
 13 discussion, though.

14 MS. NELSON: Is there discussion on
 15 that motion?

16 MR. MOORE: Yes, there is. I just
 17 would like -- this is Tom Moore from Cal North.
 18 I would just like -- if we do pass
 19 this motion and support it, I wonder if someone
 20 who is a proponent for this might, at this
 21 meeting, just to help us out by taking three
 22 minutes to tell us what the concept is and why
 23 they support it.

24 MS. NELSON: All right.

25 PRESIDENT GROFF: Should we postpone
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41

1 it first?

2 MR. TRAINOR: Because they may choose

3 not to -- okay.

4 The reason that -- I'm going to

5 explain a lot of what's going on and then you can

6 decide if you really want to postpone it and

7 bring it back.

8 Most of you know, and if you don't,

9 I'm the chairman of the NPSL, which is the

10 national league. When we came into the

11 association -- and the current bylaws require a

12 national league to be within two regions and X

13 number of teams. A regional league is between

14 two different -- yeah, between two regions, or a

15 regional league is one region, and then the

16 regional league can take one team or a state

17 from -- an adjoining state and also part of the

18 regional league.

19 What this was done -- and when we

20 came in, we came in as two regions. We had 12

21 teams. We're now up to about 45. This coming

22 year we'll be about 60. We're growing, but we're

23 just barely a national league now.

24 So what this bylaw proposal is doing

25 is actually strengthening what it requires to be

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42

1 a regional league, a national league. And in

2 doing the national league, now it's a requirement

3 that you have to be in all four regions with so

4 many teams. You have to submit a business

5 proposal. You have to go into a lot of -- in

6 depth, that is, currently not in the bylaw.

7 Same thing with regional leagues. We

8 have problems with a league coming to us a year

9 and a half ago that met the criteria based on

10 that, and what ended up happening is we passed

11 them in and they disappeared, and it's not good

12 for the organization to have that happen.

13 The concern that I'm hearing -- well,

14 the concern I'm hearing is that this is designed

15 to take over the state associations. It is not.

16 Currently what's in existence is a lot more

17 liberal than what is proposed. And we can get

18 into the back-and-forth if we want to, but right

19 now, we're just doing it for the motion to

20 postpone. So unless you want to bring to the

21 floor and discuss each one, or the concept of it,

22 we're dealing with the motion to postpone.

23 That's the reasoning behind it.

24 MR. RAPAGLIA: Yesterday, by reading

25 this, I see the state association is about -- in

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43

1 the bottom of the affiliated or national, the

2 interregional, the regional league. We are

3 losing a group of ourself over here, it look like

4 that four businessmen -- the trip is that comes

5 at the seam -- and they're going to put the state

6 association into the wall and say stay there.

7 Money talks, something walks.

8 Now, what I'm saying is that this 15

9 pages, I think it really -- the problem is so

10 pitiful to see this thing. And our state

11 association, it looks like there was everything

12 aimed -- and that's my opinion as state

13 president -- that was -- it's aimed against the

14 state associations for brevity.

15 Now, I don't know if the Federation

16 knows this, but this thing goes down without

17 really no input from the books of the Federation.

18 If we accept it at the level of a regional

19 league -- for the record, I was the first guy in

20 this country to form a regional league in 1983,

21 with George Donnelley, may he rest in peace.

22 Now, we never meant to take the place

23 of the state. The state is the right arm of the

24 Federation. We handled the referees. We sent

25 them out for them to work. Over here you look

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44

1 like that you try to muddy the water. I don't

2 know if Mr. Trainor believes it or not, but I do

3 believe it, and I'm here 30 years.

4 We should -- this thing should be

5 tabled, and then this goes and no rushing us to

6 vote on something that some people missed the

7 point.

8 That's my problem. Thank you.

9 MS. NELSON: Hold on a second, Paul.

10 I believe Bruno is next.

11 MR. TRAPIKAS: All right, Sal. I

12 would like to offer an amendment to remove the

13 item on Page 44 from your motion. The only

14 change to the current rules on Page 44 is that

15 any organization, which includes a state

16 association or anyone else, in order to apply for

17 membership should have a detailed business plan.

18 And I think that's pretty innocuous,

19 and you would not disagree that any new member

20 should have a detailed business plan. So I'm

21 offering a friendly amendment to your motion: to

22 withdraw this from what's under discussion right

23 now.

24 PRESIDENT GROFF: Second.

25 MR. KEPNER: Point of order. If we

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45

1 are in discussion on the matter of motion to
 2 postpone, if we're not going to focus on that,
 3 then let's -- the maker of the motion and the
 4 seconder of the motion, just ask them to withdraw
 5 that, and then we can proceed with the
 6 discussion. But right now our focus should be
 7 just as to whether or not we're postponing or not
 8 postponing.

9 PRESIDENT GROFF: No. We just
 10 amended the postponement motion.

11 MR. KEPNER: He did?

12 MS. NELSON: Yes.

13 MR. RAPAGLIA: The motion was
 14 postponed, not to put any amendment or whatever
 15 it -- or whatever Bruno is talking about. To
 16 postpone until March of next year.

17 MS. NELSON: Understood. But, Sal,
 18 we have been -- Bruno has offered an amendment to
 19 your postponement, which excludes one item, which
 20 is not related to the interregional.

21 MR. RAPAGLIA: I'm sorry. This is --
 22 to me is a mumbo-jumbo here.

23 I would like to postpone until March,
 24 and I'd like to digest myself, and a lot of
 25 people on this floor, for next year to talk

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46

1 about. That's all I wanted. There's no rush.
 2 There's nothing rush. I don't know if this
 3 busi- -- the business dealings that's going to
 4 come around, I really don't care. I would like
 5 this thing to go in March.

6 PRESIDENT GROFF: We got to vote on
 7 the amendment.

8 MR. SCHERER: Are we talking about
 9 the amendment or the motion right now?

10 MS. NELSON: We're talking about the
 11 motion to postpone.

12 And, Sal, it is my understanding that
 13 you do not wish to accept the amendment.

14 MR. RAPAGLIA: I don't accept it.

15 MS. NELSON: All right.

16 MR. SCHERER: I just had one
 17 question. Dan, does this help gain membership at
 18 all? Or what is this designed to do? Protect
 19 the leagues that are in play? What's the -- what
 20 are we trying to gain from this? Is it
 21 protectionism or are we advancing to get more
 22 players?

23 MS. TRAINOR: It's a little of both,
 24 but the protectionism is mostly at the USASA
 25 level so that we put some structure into place so

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47

1 that we don't have a repeat of what happened with
 2 the league that joined and failed.

3 MR. ZANELLI: I would like to raise
 4 in opposition, Jerry Zanelli, for postponement.
 5 This is very clear: It's not a real problem for
 6 states. Between Dan and myself, we have probably
 7 about 120 teams. None of the states have
 8 disappeared. You are all here, right? And I
 9 think that this is a case of where we started out
 10 and Dan started out, we came in as a regional
 11 league, and then we went to the same thing that
 12 Dan said, to two regions. And at that time, that
 13 was legitimate. That should be an interregional
 14 league and not a national league. So now we're
 15 in all four regions. It makes a difference.
 16 But, again, we don't interfere with any states.
 17 We go about our business. In fact, some of our
 18 money goes back to the states as the different
 19 teams are involved in different states.

20 So it's not a case of where the
 21 states are losing anything. They're actually
 22 gaining.

23 Thank you.

24 MS. NELSON: All right. Is there
 25 additional discussions that is relevant to

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48

1 postponing this proposal or not?

2 All right. Hearing none, I'm going
 3 to call the question, and again, this is for
 4 postponing the entire block of changes to our
 5 meeting in March. And again, I'm going to do
 6 this voice vote first. If we need to, we will go
 7 to the cards.

8 All in favor of postponing this and
 9 all of the bylaws amendments in your manual,
 10 please say aye. All opposed to that?

11 Okay. I think we are going to need
 12 cards for this one.

13 If you are in favor of postponing
 14 this, please raise your "yes" cards above your
 15 head and hold them there so that they can be
 16 counted.

17 You can put the "yes" cards down now.

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Point of
 19 information. For a postponement vote, all we
 20 need is 50 percent; am I correct?

21 MS. NELSON: Okay. I am informed
 22 that the yeses do indeed have this. So all of
 23 these items will be postponed to the March
 24 meeting at the AGM.

25 (Motion passed.)

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49

1 (Applause.)
 2 MS. NELSON: We do have one last item
 3 which I am told is going to be proposed by -- from
 4 the floor. I believe Barb Trainor is standing to
 5 bring that item forward.
 6 MS. TRAINOR: The online registration
 7 committee would like to bring a bylaw proposal to
 8 the floor. I passed it out to each of the board
 9 members and most everybody else. I have a few
 10 extra copies if somebody needs one.
 11 The bylaw amendment changes the Bylaw
 12 701, which is the requirements for member or
 13 player submission. It does not change any of the
 14 information that is required of the state
 15 associations to submit of their players. But it
 16 does break apart the last name and first name,
 17 and it adds several optional fields.
 18 The reason for this is with the
 19 registration program we have coming up, we are
 20 going to propose a standard data interchange
 21 stamp -- a data interchange standard, and it will
 22 ask for all of this information that's in this
 23 bylaw proposal, and it just makes it easier for
 24 that information in the future.
 25 I will note that the way that the
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50

1 resulting bylaw will read, when the hotel printed
 2 it to me, it changed the numbering, so the
 3 numbering on the back of that will actually be
 4 Number 1 through 13, rather than the way their
 5 computer changed it.
 6 Thank you.
 7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Move to waive
 8 the 30-day rule?
 9 MS. NELSON: Yes, thank you. As has
 10 been pointed out, I need a motion to waive the
 11 30-day advance-notice rule, and I need that to be
 12 made and seconded.
 13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So move.
 14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Second.
 15 MR. MOTTA: So move.
 16 MS. NELSON: Yes, I believe it has
 17 been moved and seconded. And in order to bring
 18 this to the floor, that needs to be approved by
 19 90 percent.
 20 All right. So all those in favor of
 21 approving this bylaw, please say aye. Okay.
 22 Anyone opposed?
 23 (Motion passed.)
 24 MS. NELSON: That sounds like 90
 25 percent to me. So, all right.
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51

1 Now, I need a motion to approve this
 2 bylaw. That was to bring it to the floor.
 3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So move.
 4 MS. NELSON: All right. Is there a
 5 second?
 6 MR. SCHERER: Second.
 7 MS. NELSON: All in favor -- or
 8 anyone have any discussion on this bylaw change?
 9 MR. MARION: Andy Marion, South
 10 Carolina.
 11 I just really have a question that's
 12 more procedural.
 13 This is a level of detail of data
 14 information. If it's going to be more or less
 15 set in stone, then maybe it's appropriate to be
 16 in the bylaws, but if this is something that
 17 could be changing, would it be more appropriate
 18 to simply have the bylaw changed that data
 19 supplied will be specified in a USASA policy and
 20 have the details, if we have a policy manual or
 21 just a separate policy, to have that detail
 22 specified in a policy so it's not in the bylaws
 23 themselves? I understand the intent of this. It
 24 makes perfect sense. I'm just wondering about
 25 the best way to accomplish that.
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52

1 Thank you.
 2 MR. MOORE: Tom Moore, Cal North.
 3 I might be able to answer that
 4 question for you. Pretty much, this is a -- to a
 5 great extent, a rehash and clarification of the
 6 existing Bylaw 701, Section 5. And we do intend,
 7 presuming there's going to be a policy manual
 8 created, and I keep hearing rumors along those
 9 lines, we hope to have and bring to you a policy,
 10 something along the lines of exactly this.
 11 But I have to point out, this isn't
 12 all of the detail in the data interchange
 13 standard. When two computers talk to one
 14 another, they need to know whether you put the
 15 birth date down with the month first and the date
 16 second and the year last or whether you put the
 17 day first, the month second and the year last.
 18 They need to know whether your year is a
 19 two-digit year or a four-digit year. All that is
 20 stuff we figured you didn't want to spend your
 21 time debating, which would indeed belong in a
 22 policy manual, and so we still need to structure
 23 that.
 24 But we will need to do that, and of
 25 course -- I'm not sure how we envision policy
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53

1 manuals to be approved, but I presume NBOD would
 2 create the policy manuals with some sort of
 3 ratification process later on down the line. So
 4 we intend to go through that and try to keep that
 5 detail where you don't have to think about it.

6 MS. NELSON: All right. The
 7 gentleman in the back.

8 MR. VARSALLONA: Pat Varsallona, New
 9 Jersey.

10 If we look at that second page, the
 11 back, when it says how the resulting bylaw will
 12 read, I see the numbering system starts at 14.
 13 What happened to the other 13?

14 MS. NELSON: She explained that.

15 MR. VARSALLONA: I didn't hear that.

16 MS. NELSON: Tony.

17 MR. FALCONE: Tony Falcone, Deputy
 18 Director, Region 1.

19 My good friend Andrew is correct.
 20 This shouldn't even be in the bylaws in the first
 21 place, to be honest with you. And it may be
 22 something we need to correct at our next meeting.

23 My question is, is there some urgency
 24 why this needs to be done today? If this is not
 25 approved, what is the consequences? Because as I
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54

1 see things, I don't really think we need to have
 2 a bylaw change for this committee to continue to
 3 do their work, unless you can convince me
 4 otherwise.

5 MS. TRAINOR: We were simply trying
 6 to put this in place before we selected a vendor
 7 and started working with a vendor. We will still
 8 collect the data. It will get manipulated, if it
 9 has to be, but it would have been -- it's helpful
 10 if we can have it in place before the vendor is
 11 selected.

12 MR. FALCONE: The only way to
 13 accomplish this is by bylaws?

14 MS. TRAINOR: No, it's not. That's
 15 not the only way.

16 MR. FALCONE: That's my question.

17 MS. BRIGGS: Toni Briggs, treasurer.

18 Also if you will look at it, the very
 19 last line says: Data to the USASA National
 20 office in electronic form. That's important.
 21 Because I know that we don't want a bunch of
 22 manual stuff. That is an important part of this
 23 bylaw change. We want it in electronic form.

24 MR. DAVEY: So we do need a bylaw
 25 change for that.

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55

1 MS. NELSON: All right. Is there
 2 further discussion? Yes, Bruno.

3 MR. TRAPIKAS: Yeah, the individual
 4 spoke about the fact that this does not belong in
 5 the bylaws. I agree with that. It has no place
 6 being in the bylaws. But right now, it is.
 7 Right now, we have a committee for whom passing
 8 it would be useful. It's not injurious in any
 9 way whatsoever. And as Toni Briggs has pointed
 10 out, it would be helpful to make sure that we get
 11 data in an electronic form. So consequently, I
 12 speak in support of passing it so it's at least
 13 in effect between now and March.

14 MS. NELSON: Thank you.

15 MR. DAVEY: Call the question.

16 MS. NELSON: I have been informed I
 17 should call the question. And so, again, I'm
 18 going to -- well, let me ask a point of
 19 questioning. This also has to pass by 90
 20 percent?

21 MR. TRAINOR: No.

22 MS. NELSON: The standard two-thirds.

23 All right. So, again, I will do a voice vote
 24 first, and then cards if we need to.

25 All in favor of passing this, please
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56

1 say aye. Anyone opposed?
 2 (Motion passed.)

3 MS. NELSON: The ayes have it, and so
 4 this passes. And that is the last bylaw that I'm
 5 aware of. Are there any other bylaw changes for
 6 consideration?

7 Hearing none, let me turn this back
 8 to Richard to continue with the meeting.

9 PRESIDENT GROFF: Great job. Very
 10 impressive. I think that's the first time we've
 11 ever had three bylaws come to the floor on the 90
 12 percent vote.

13 The next session of the business
 14 meeting has to do with new business.

15 Kevin down there is operating the
 16 computer. And I'm going to go slightly out of
 17 order, because that's how it is in the computer.

18 The first is, the Board of Directors,
 19 we had a meeting on Thursday afternoon, and what
 20 I'm trying to do in this next session is to put
 21 topics on, to discuss that members have called me
 22 about -- have said, We don't have enough
 23 information, we don't get the time to discuss
 24 them, the budget is railroaded through.

25 This is your opportunity. It's
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57

1 fantastic that, twice a year, we come together as
 2 a committee of the whole. All of you are here.
 3 This is your time to make your suggestions, your
 4 comments, to give direction.
 5 So the first screen here is going to
 6 show the amendments that we made on Thursday to
 7 the budget.
 8 The first line item -- these are all
 9 expenses. Insurance, this year's budget showed
 10 insurance expense of -- there's a Teleprompter
 11 right down there, if you can see that far. I
 12 can't, you know. Roughly 2 million, 500-and-some
 13 thousand is what we expected to spend this year
 14 in insurance. We went out and worked hard. When
 15 the new insurance package came in, that number
 16 was lowered, and that created a \$325,000 amount.
 17 Back in August, the NBOD said, Well, we have this
 18 money, and we were going to put it in as program
 19 development.
 20 On Thursday afternoon, we met. I
 21 would say we had five or six proposals of what to
 22 do with the 325,000. And we came up with two
 23 that were approved.
 24 The first was -- you all know that we
 25 do have the database -- -- the 50-cent rebate
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58

1 program. It was approved. Most people liked the
 2 idea. But we were taking that money out of the
 3 savings account. It was not in the budget. We
 4 thought it was so important that we would take it
 5 out of the savings account, the reserve, and use
 6 that money. Now, this decision was made in
 7 April. In May, we did not have the money at that
 8 time, except in the savings account. It was not
 9 in the budget.
 10 The 325,000 became available, and so
 11 we moved -- what was that? 125,000? 100,000?
 12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: 100,000.
 13 PRESIDENT GROFF: 100,000 was moved
 14 out of the 325, and that's going to be the money
 15 that we're going to use to pay you the 50-cent
 16 rebate program.
 17 In addition, we had an excellent
 18 proposal that actually came from the grassroots.
 19 It came from two sources. Indiana made a
 20 presentation of a grant proposal. They commented
 21 that they needed funds to either have an open
 22 house, have a session with unaffiliated leagues,
 23 some type of event, where they, as the state
 24 association, would invite unaffiliated leagues
 25 into a location and make a clear presentation of
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59

1 why they should be members.
 2 I heard the same thing in Alaska: We
 3 need to sell to the unaffiliated.
 4 And so the Board of Directors
 5 approved a program. You will send your requests
 6 and your applications, your proposals to the
 7 staff, to Duncan. They will consider them, and
 8 we have set aside \$81,000 to be used as -- it's
 9 not a grant, but it's a program that will assist
 10 you in doing this exact thing. Find out who is
 11 unaffiliated, invite them to a meeting, serve
 12 them refreshments, tell them why you are
 13 important, have them become members. It's funded
 14 for all 55 state associations. We think the cost
 15 will be between 1,000 and \$2,000, depending on
 16 where you live.
 17 And then finally, that leaves a
 18 budget of 144,000 that we have not budgeted.
 19 We're saying to you that by the annual meeting we
 20 will consider this. We do know that some of our
 21 computer equipment is old; it needs to be
 22 replaced in the office. We also had talked about
 23 marketing strategies that we may want to put
 24 together, but those are the only two amendments
 25 that we made on Thursday.
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60

1 Any questions?
 2 So those are amendments to this
 3 year's budget. Okay.
 4 Let's move on to the next one, Kevin,
 5 which I think is the two-tier player registration
 6 program.
 7 You see it here. The top is, you
 8 have the premier player, definition. Below that
 9 is the standard player registration concept.
 10 This is a policy that has been approved by the
 11 NBOD. The plan is that you will be given notice.
 12 You have already received notice. You will have
 13 discussions. We will have a process. And then
 14 this will come for a vote to the AGM. And let me
 15 just tell you how we got to this point. And Tim,
 16 just give me a couple of minutes, and you will be
 17 the first one to be called on.
 18 MR. BUSCH: Thank you, Mr. President.
 19 PRESIDENT GROFF: We appointed a
 20 special committee -- I think it's one of the most
 21 outstanding committees we have had -- to wrestle
 22 with this issue. There were eight state
 23 presidents, two from each region, large state
 24 associations, small state associations. There
 25 were three members of the Board of Directors. My
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61

1 only function -- I did not vote, but I chaired
 2 the comments and the conference calls and sent
 3 out the e-mails.

4 And they made a recommendation. They
 5 recommended -- and it wasn't unanimous. There
 6 were people who were opposed on the committee,
 7 and they were very frank in their discussions.
 8 But the consensus was that we should have this
 9 program. And they also recommended the fee
 10 schedule of \$15 for the premier and \$14 for the
 11 standard fee. There was not unanimity on this
 12 program by that committee, but this was clearly a
 13 consensus.

14 It then went to the Board of
 15 Directors, accepted their recommendation, made
 16 some modifications, again reached a majority
 17 view. This is the document that you see in front
 18 of you.

19 Now, what I would like to have here
 20 is a good discussion. If clearly the overriding
 21 majority is opposed to what the special committee
 22 has done and the NBOD, that's the end of it. But
 23 if you want us to continue, now is the day to
 24 state your opinions, comment on what you feel the
 25 fee should be, give your reasons why.

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62

1 But I do know this: We are a unique
 2 organization. I have been traveling to the
 3 states, talking to their boards and their
 4 leagues. We are the largest recreational adult
 5 association in the United States, and we are also
 6 the largest competitive adult soccer association
 7 in the United States. There are some who believe
 8 that we have clearly 200- to 220,000 recreational
 9 members.

10 It has been so clear to me that this
 11 has been the message that, for the first time, I
 12 have appointed a special committee to actually
 13 develop programs, policies, be advocates for
 14 recreational soccer players, teams and leagues in
 15 this organization.

16 I think this is important. I hear
 17 about it all day. So here is your chance to tell
 18 us what you think.

19 Tim, you are next.

20 MR. BUSCH: Thank you, Mr. President.

21 PRESIDENT GROFF: He also served on
 22 the special committee.

23 MR. BUSCH: Yeah, I did, actually. I
 24 would like publicly to thank Richard and Dan
 25 Trainor for visiting my state association in

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63

1 August to talk about USASA. It was very much
 2 appreciated.

3 I'm one of the people, obviously,
 4 that was involved in this process, and I think
 5 everybody looked at various ways to make all of
 6 this work, and I am totally in support of the
 7 concept of having the two registration
 8 categories.

9 The one thing that I have a question
 10 about, because this didn't really come out of the
 11 discussion of the special committee, is, under
 12 the premier player registration, it's Number 3,
 13 the last sentence. I understand that the
 14 concept, and I basically dropped my opposition,
 15 is that a premier player is anyone that plays in
 16 USASA National- sponsored competitions. I have
 17 gotten that far.

18 But I do not understand where the
 19 language regarding, "for national men's open or
 20 amateur cups, a team must compete in a league of
 21 which all the teams in its division are also
 22 registered under this category."

23 There is a requirement to have four
 24 team -- a team play in a four-team league. We
 25 understand that if a team wants to participate,

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64

1 there are premier players.

2 What was the thinking of the National
 3 Board of Directors to insert this language into
 4 the proposal?

5 PRESIDENT GROFF: And I think what
 6 your comment is that in a league that has
 7 competitive players, each individual team should
 8 make the selection, right?

9 MR. BUSCH: That's correct. And I
 10 believe, at least looking at it as a state
 11 president, if you require participation in a
 12 premier league as a team, as opposed to
 13 individual, it's going to limit the number of
 14 people that participate, and that's the concern
 15 we have.

16 PRESIDENT GROFF: Your comment is
 17 noted.

18 Paul.

19 MR. SCHERER: Paul Scherer from
 20 Idaho.

21 Yeah, I have a couple of comments.
 22 One is in Section B of the standard
 23 registration -- well, first off, let me say that
 24 oftentimes in this information, we refer to
 25 "teams." USASA and I know in Idaho, we do not

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65

1 register teams; we register players. And I think
 2 this should reflect that rather than talking
 3 about teams all the time. And I think that would
 4 be helpful and a lot more clarifying.

5 The next thing is that according to
 6 this, though, that would mean that the teams that
 7 played in the Veteran's Cup or the CoEd Cup would
 8 be considered a premier player; is that correct?

9 PRESIDENT GROFF: What it means is
 10 those teams or those players who are on those
 11 teams that go to the Veteran's Cup, yes, they
 12 could be on the standard registration for 80
 13 percent of the year. When they go to Vet Cup,
 14 they would pay the increased dollar, or whatever
 15 it is, fee, yes.

16 MR. SCHERER: I guess my next
 17 question is, then do they -- do you properly fund
 18 the Veteran's Cup and the CoEd Cup just like do
 19 you the National Cup? Are they equal in funding?

20 PRESIDENT GROFF: They're not equal
 21 at the moment, but that would be certainly a
 22 part -- or always is part of a budget process.

23 MR. SCHERER: I see. Okay.

24 Yeah, that's a real problem with me,
 25 so I would certainly be concerned about that.

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66

1 The next thing is that you talked
 2 about the standard fee. You ended up with a
 3 standard player fee of \$14. And quite frankly, I
 4 don't agree with that. I think it should be \$13,
 5 at the most, and in fact, I would really
 6 recommend that it be 12, and here's why,
 7 especially for this year.

8 After looking at the budget of the
 9 proposal that you had up earlier you are
 10 rewarding states for, for giving them back 50
 11 cents for actually doing what they're supposed to
 12 do in the first place, which is kind of funny. I
 13 think it's ridiculous.

14 PRESIDENT GROFF: But they haven't
 15 done it up to this point.

16 MR. SCHERER: Okay. And what I would
 17 like -- the other thing is, is then you are
 18 giving something out as kind of a grant when we
 19 already have a grant committee. I don't think we
 20 need two committees or two funding mechanisms for
 21 grants. So I think that's a waste of funds as
 22 well.

23 What I would rather see is that --
 24 this year especially that USASA take a dollar per
 25 player in each state and give that back to the

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67

1 state associations where we, quite frankly, know
 2 where we can best use those funds. That would be
 3 my proposal on the budget changes rather than
 4 having two separate entities in there that,
 5 really, I don't agree with, Number 1, and I think
 6 they're duplicated. Certainly one of them is
 7 duplicated.

8 PRESIDENT GROFF: Well, the
 9 duplication would be that the current budget
 10 for -- if you were to give it to the grant
 11 committee, the current budget for the grant
 12 committee is 20,000. You would have to increase
 13 that.

14 MR. SCHERER: Well, yeah, but how
 15 many people would use that?

16 PRESIDENT GROFF: We expect many
 17 people --

18 MR. SCHERER: We expect to have a lot
 19 more using that? I know, because when I applied
 20 in the past, there wasn't a grants committee.
 21 There was no funding for it.

22 But anyhow, again, I still think, as
 23 a state association, I know that I -- if I paid
 24 less dollars to USASA, I could probably afford to
 25 have a state office. Right now, I don't have a

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68

1 state office. I'm it. Okay. And some of the
 2 smaller states are in that situation. The larger
 3 states that pay a larger chunk, if they were --
 4 if they got \$3 per player back, I think they
 5 could find ways to help their state associations
 6 and find within their own budgeting and their own
 7 work to be able to bring in more members to
 8 USASA.

9 PRESIDENT GROFF: Thank you, Paul.

10 MR. MARION: Andy Marion, South
 11 Carolina.

12 First of all, I'm not sure I want
 13 Paul to have a permanent office. It just might
 14 give him more time to think of more bylaws.
 15 (Applause.)

16 MR. MARION: I have just -- excuse
 17 me. I have already lost my train of thought. I
 18 have just a couple of thoughts and questions.

19 One is, it would be interesting to
 20 see an estimate, to the extent one could be made,
 21 of the effect of the budget on this. And to do
 22 that, of course you would have to have some
 23 estimate of how many players would end up
 24 registering premier, how many would be regular.
 25 One way to start such an estimate would be simply

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69

1 to take the number of players in the last year
 2 who played in all the cup competitions and seeing
 3 those would be premier players and then looking
 4 at what the effect of the budget would be.
 5 I'm not sure. My initial reaction is
 6 if it's just a dollar difference, my next point
 7 is, there is a real cost to having this. I
 8 understand the philosophy of having some
 9 flexibility, which may make more people happier.
 10 On the other hand, at the national level, and
 11 particularly at the state level, there's a very
 12 real cost to having this extra complication.
 13 And my first reaction to seeing this
 14 is, Great Lord, I don't need anything to
 15 complicate my life any more as a volunteer. It's
 16 hard enough to keep up with what I have to do
 17 already, with the recordkeeping and forwarding
 18 all the information to USASA and all that. Even
 19 though, on paper, it sounds simple keeping the
 20 records, players want to change categories, they
 21 want to go to the Vet Cup, they have to pay the
 22 extra dollar, and that dollar has to be collected
 23 and paid and the records kept. Is that, really,
 24 all of that, worth a dollar difference? I don't
 25 know. I have a real question about that, so I
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70

1 think that needs to be thought through a little
 2 bit.
 3 PRESIDENT GROFF: Andy, I can respond
 4 to that, and I can only give you the comments
 5 from the special committee. Some of our states
 6 have 16- to 20,000 players. And so that dollar
 7 is important to them. Okay. So -- just so you
 8 understand.
 9 MR. MARION: Right.
 10 PRESIDENT GROFF: That's from their
 11 perspective.
 12 MR. MARION: Okay. And I appreciate
 13 that. Just thinking through all the details of
 14 this and thinking about how it would impact me,
 15 being a little selfish about it, I just wonder
 16 whether it's worth it. I like things simple and
 17 easy.
 18 PRESIDENT GROFF: That exact
 19 sentiment was expressed by a member on the
 20 special committee.
 21 MR. MARION: Okay. And my last
 22 thought, I just want to echo what Tim said about
 23 Section 3(a)(3) about a team must compete in a
 24 league in which all teams of the division are
 25 also registered in this premier category. I'm
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71

1 not sure how that would work. I think the only
 2 way that would be practical is if we, as a state,
 3 forced all Division 1 teams to register as
 4 premier, and then later those teams could
 5 decide -- a few teams might decide to go to the
 6 national cups. Otherwise, unless we force that
 7 on everybody, we would have zero teams
 8 participating in the National Cup because none of
 9 our leagues, divisions, would be all premier
 10 unless we forced them to be.
 11 So that's something to think about
 12 too. Thank you.
 13 PRESIDENT GROFF: You know, that
 14 point has been well made. Rick.
 15 MR. SKIRVIN: Rick Skirvin, Georgia.
 16 Georgia has been wrestling with this
 17 issue, as you know, Richard, for a year or close
 18 to a year. We are very concerned about what the
 19 costs are for membership. And to be honest with
 20 you, we're not -- we don't have a problem
 21 necessarily with the concept of the two-tier, but
 22 we think there needs to be a drastic reevaluation
 23 of what it is that USASA charges. And if there
 24 is going to be a premier cost, the standard cost
 25 ought to be significantly different, and I think
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72

1 12 is probably still shy of where it needs to be.
 2 PRESIDENT GROFF: Well, keep in mind,
 3 based on the fact that Georgia is only paying for
 4 liability insurance, your fee is now \$10, so even
 5 for the basic standard, it would be 10.
 6 And before you go, Tony, Kevin, give
 7 me the next one.
 8 Assuming that these kind of
 9 discussions would take place, take a look at
 10 this: the \$15. I had a board member, just like
 11 Rick, said, you know, We need to bring this in at
 12 \$7.50. That was a board member, right? And I
 13 pointed out, we have to pay \$8.35 for the basic
 14 insurance package. Now, it includes general
 15 liability. It includes the participant accident
 16 insurance. And it includes the D & O insurance
 17 that we give to everybody. Then I have to send
 18 \$2 to Sunil and Dan. I'm at 10.35, and I have
 19 done absolutely nothing with the \$15.
 20 Now we can kick around the ideas of
 21 where we spend the balance, but just take a look
 22 at them. You have to operate the national
 23 office. We have now, two years in a row,
 24 approved a budget that makes significant
 25 revenue-sharing payments to the regions, which we
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73

1 will discuss later. That in itself is like 75
 2 cents. We do subsidize every competition,
 3 whether it's the Vet Cup, the CoEd Cup, National
 4 Cups. You can argue about the level, but the
 5 fact is we spend money on that. And we are
 6 giving the 50 cents away for the rebate program.

7 So if we're talking that you want to
 8 cut it to a bare bones -- Paul and I have had
 9 this discussion -- \$12 is really cutting it to
 10 the bare bones since we're giving 10 dollars and
 11 35 cents away. You might be left with a national
 12 office. Your regions would lose 40- to 50,000 a
 13 year, and you would have to severely cut back on
 14 your competitions.

15 So, I mean, when we're talking, these
 16 are the real points of where the \$15 today goes.

17 Tony.

18 MR. FALCONE: Tony Falcone.

19 Thanks, Richard, because I was going
 20 to bring this up. I mean, we are -- we are
 21 already working on a margin as it is even with
 22 the \$15. And so...

23 PRESIDENT GROFF: But there is --
 24 there is a little bit down there.

25 MR. FALCONE: Yeah, I mean, I think
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74

1 all of us would like to only spend 5 bucks if we
 2 could. But then, you know, you are working out
 3 of your house all the time. We wouldn't have an
 4 office and other things.

5 I wanted to address some of the
 6 issues that were brought up. I was involved with
 7 the special committee, and I was also involved
 8 with the drafting of the policy. The first
 9 thing, teams. We are a team sport. Okay. We
 10 can't ignore that. We're not tennis. And, you
 11 know, I can't just pick up a tennis racquet and,
 12 you know, ask John, Let's play a game.

13 This is a team sport. I mean, you
 14 need a minimum seven players for a regular full
 15 outdoors, and then if you have short-sided games,
 16 but it's -- you know, we don't do one-on-one
 17 soccer unless someone has created something like
 18 that to increase membership.

19 The policy does address players, and
 20 it's player registration, but the categories
 21 affect teams and how these teams -- what
 22 competition teams can play. Primarily, premier
 23 division, the premier registration is for teams
 24 that are going to compete in cups, whether that
 25 be National Cups, Veteran's Cups, or CoEd Cups.
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75

1 The question about the division:
 2 The -- traditionally, the Open and the Amateur
 3 Cup has required that the teams play in the
 4 league. And since we only had one type of
 5 registration, it didn't matter.

6 Because of the consideration of the
 7 level of play, you know, the thought behind that
 8 is that at minimum, a division. So a league can
 9 have -- a league has three divisions. If they
 10 decide -- you know, if their cup participants are
 11 from the premier division or first division, they
 12 can just register that one division as premier
 13 and not require the other two divisions to do so
 14 unless they wish to have their whole league just
 15 be premier. I mean, that's an option that is
 16 available.

17 Which brings us back? Back to the
 18 question about states. And, Andrew, you raised a
 19 good issue, and it was raised at our special
 20 committee meeting. This is an option that's
 21 available to all of us. We're not saying, You
 22 have to have premier and standard. But if South
 23 Carolina wants to just go standard, they can do
 24 so. If South Carolina says, We're just going to
 25 be premier, you can do so.
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76

1 Part of this is, hopefully, a
 2 marketing tool to help us reach out to
 3 unaffiliated leagues or hopefully try to keep
 4 some leagues that we have with -- you know,
 5 within our own organizations that are considering
 6 leaving. And so this is what this is -- what the
 7 intent of this is for.

8 Now, while we're discussing the fees,
 9 and I know some of the numbers we have been
 10 throwing out is 15/14, 15/13.50, you've also got
 11 to remember, if this is something you want to
 12 make work at your state association, maybe you
 13 may have to adjust some fees. My state
 14 association, we have gone ahead with this program
 15 regardless of what happens here, and we have --
 16 we have a two-tier registration, two-tier fee.
 17 So we have already decided to do that at our
 18 state. And in all honesty, you know, if we as
 19 USASA can cut it down by a buck-50, I mean, you
 20 guys need to think, can I cut it down another
 21 dollar or dollar-50 to make a difference in your
 22 state and how to attract these leagues or retain
 23 some of these leagues.

24 Thank you.

25 PRESIDENT GROFF: What I would like
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77

1 to do at this time -- Paul, you have spoken, and
 2 we'll get to you again.
 3 MR. SCHERER: I would like to answer
 4 just one of your comments; that's all. Would
 5 that be all right?
 6 PRESIDENT GROFF: Well, I would like
 7 to stick to this specific topic that Tony talked
 8 about and Tim talked about. You can come back to
 9 that. Okay. Everybody remembers what Tony said.
 10 MR. SCHERER: Okay. So we're
 11 talking, their topic. Okay. I have a comment on
 12 that.
 13 PRESIDENT GROFF: Okay.
 14 MR. SCHERER: I just need an office,
 15 I'm telling you. That's all I need.
 16 Okay. I feel that, Tony, some
 17 interesting points you brought up, but I think
 18 one of the issues, again, that we've got to stop
 19 doing is what -- what this really represents,
 20 what those all are are often obstacles for
 21 players to play. And one -- I think the biggest
 22 committee the USASA should have is a committee
 23 that looks at every bylaw, every rule, every
 24 policy that prevents players from playing. And I
 25 think we're mired in that all over the place. We
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78

1 are preventing, rather than bringing, players.
 2 Prevent a player from playing here. They got to
 3 pay a dollar more here. They've got to do that.
 4 It's kind of silly. And I think it doesn't --
 5 you know, we're doing this supposedly to bring
 6 players in. The more rules we have -- we have
 7 travel papers; we have rules for everything;
 8 these are the things that I hear when I have
 9 competition in my state whether it be part of
 10 USASA or USSL or one of the other organizations:
 11 We don't have no stinking papers. You know, they
 12 don't have to worry about that. They don't have
 13 to worry about a lot of the stuff that we're
 14 doing to ourselves and preventing play.
 15 So that's why I have a comment for
 16 Tony, and then I will come back later with the
 17 one on the budget part.
 18 PRESIDENT GROFF: On the issue as
 19 explained to Tim, okay, where he believes that on
 20 3 on the premier player it should be both the
 21 teams and players, we'll say, that should
 22 voluntarily decide that issue, whereas Tony's
 23 view is that your division, if it's eight teams
 24 at that high level, all eight should believe the
 25 all-premier players.
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79

1 So if you agree -- what?
 2 MR. FALCONE: Just for those two
 3 cups.
 4 PRESIDENT GROFF: Just for those two
 5 cups. Yes, absolutely. It's only for the Men's
 6 Open and Men's Amateur Cup. Everyone else can
 7 make their own choices anyway. If you believe
 8 that it should be voluntary by the team, okay,
 9 hold up your "yes" card. This is only a survey.
 10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: What's the
 11 question?
 12 PRESIDENT GROFF: The question again:
 13 We have here under the requirements that if you
 14 play in a premier league or with a premier
 15 division, okay, you have to be a premier player.
 16 Tim has said it should be voluntary. Tim, is
 17 that a fair statement? Tim Busch? Is that a
 18 fair statement? You believe under 3, the team
 19 should decide on a voluntary basis whether to
 20 enter cups and therefore be premier players.
 21 All right. We're going to get a
 22 clear statement.
 23 MR. BUSCH: I have the same position
 24 as Paul Scherer, and I think -- I will articulate
 25 it again. We register players. We understand
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80

1 the teams have to meet minimum requirements of
 2 playing in a league of four teams minimally, but
 3 if the standard -- a team that is playing under
 4 the standard registration wants to enter the
 5 cups, they simply convert to premier players.
 6 PRESIDENT GROFF: If you believe
 7 that, raise "yes."
 8 All right. Now, if you believe what
 9 Tony has, raise "no." Okay.
 10 So what I'm gathering, the consensus
 11 is that you believe it should be more flexible,
 12 the ability to decide at both the league level or
 13 even in conjunction with their state. Is that a
 14 clear statement?
 15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I think that's
 16 accurate. Massachusetts and New York agreed.
 17 MR. TRAPIKAS: Well, actually whether
 18 there is that type of restriction or whether
 19 there is not, since it pertains to competition,
 20 should it appear in the competition or rules?
 21 And that's where it belongs, not necessarily in a
 22 two-tier policy. If a team is prevented from
 23 entering the competition because of this rule,
 24 that's where it belongs. So I'm not -- I'm both
 25 in agreement and disagreement. I agree that it
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81

1 does not belong here. Whether it belongs
 2 anywhere would be up to the Cups Committee in
 3 this case.

4 MR. SCHERER: No. It would be up to
 5 the membership to decide.

6 PRESIDENT GROFF: Anybody in Cup can
 7 be a premier player, period. All right.

8 Now, Paul, do you want to go back to
 9 the budget side.

10 MR. SCHERER: Yes, if I could. I
 11 would like to respond on some of your comments
 12 that you made about the \$40,000 going back to the
 13 regions. Number 1, ladies and gentlemen, the
 14 regions are the state associations. We can
 15 decide how we want to fund our own region
 16 ourselves. We don't think we need USASA to
 17 decide to send some money back. Why send it in
 18 the first place? Let's keep it in our states, in
 19 our own regions, and decide how we want to do
 20 that. I mean, that's what they're doing anyhow.
 21 I mean, it's kind of a ridiculous thing to send
 22 them some money; they turn around and say, Gee,
 23 we're going to give it back to you. Why? Keep
 24 it in our own pockets. We can decide how we want
 25 to spend it in our regions and in our states.

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82

1 PRESIDENT GROFF: Paul, that is
 2 clear.

3 Unfortunately, for the last two
 4 years, the budget has been approved with the
 5 revenue sharing in it. I can assure you, you
 6 will have the option again, at the AGM to clarify
 7 that point.

8 For this year, it's in the budget,
 9 but we will make sure you have that opportunity
 10 at the AGM.

11 MR. SCHERER: I will be there.

12 PRESIDENT GROFF: Okay.

13 Dan.

14 MR. ROONEY: Dan Rooney, Connecticut.

15 Just getting back to the dollar
 16 difference, I mean, I don't -- I think it's fine.
 17 I'm still going to collect \$20. I'm still going
 18 to send you whatever. The extra dollar, you can
 19 give it back to the leagues. We can keep it. I
 20 don't think it's an obstacle to player
 21 recruitment at all. The players don't really
 22 care, \$14, \$15, \$20. I don't think it's an
 23 issue, from my perspective, anyway.

24 PRESIDENT GROFF: What we're hoping
 25 if you keep the dollar, that you will take it,

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83

1 invest it in getting unaffiliated leagues or
 2 invest it in growing your organization.

3 MR. ROONEY: Agreed.

4 PRESIDENT GROFF: Okay. Thank you.
 5 Any other comments on this policy?

6 Now, what's going to happen, we have heard your
 7 comments. I think it's very clear on how you
 8 feel on Number 3. The Board will make some
 9 modifications, I am sure.

10 And, Bob, do you have an additional
 11 discussion?

12 MR. KEPNER: I just have a point of
 13 clarification, just in terms of the mechanics. I
 14 think I understand it, but I just want to be
 15 sure. I think it's probably a -- maybe others
 16 will disagree. But I think it's probably a
 17 fairly valid assumption, that everybody, for
 18 monetary reasons, will decide they're a standard
 19 registration state, and then those that choose
 20 teams that want to participate in an
 21 out-of-their-own-state-association tournament
 22 will end up paying the difference in terms of
 23 premier fee.

24 Now -- anybody that wants -- go
 25 ahead.

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84

1 PRESIDENT GROFF: Just to clarify
 2 that, make sure in this discussion you understand
 3 that all national and regional leagues are
 4 automatically at the premier level.

5 MR. KEPNER: I do understand that.

6 PRESIDENT GROFF: We may get -- we
 7 may have around 10,000 players just in that
 8 component alone.

9 MR. KEPNER: Yes, I do understand it.

10 PRESIDENT GROFF: I am guessing, at
 11 the minimum, you're looking at probably around
 12 20,000.

13 In addition, there are some leagues
 14 who will want the premier status. They can do
 15 that on a voluntary basis.

16 MR. KEPNER: I question the validity
 17 of that assumption. But the national -- the
 18 national leagues, the regional leagues, the
 19 perhaps-to-become- interregional leagues, yes;
 20 they all have to pay that extra premier fee.

21 Now, I think it's probably beyond
 22 those categories. It's probably a reasonable
 23 assumption that every state will become a
 24 standard, and therefore -- any registration
 25 state, and therefore, anybody that wants to --

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85

1 any team, any group of players, as a team wants
 2 to go beyond playing the Veteran's Cup, CoEd Cup,
 3 Women's Cup, anything, National Cup, is going to
 4 have to pay the difference.
 5 Now, the only groups that are
 6 required within the state to pay, not just as a
 7 team, but as a division -- it doesn't say league,
 8 it says a division. So you could have a league,
 9 say, Triangle Area Soccer League, 3800 players.
 10 They have four different competitive teams. The
 11 top division of, say, six teams is the one group
 12 that ends up sending teams into the National Cup.
 13 That group of six teams is the one group that, as
 14 a division under this, would be required as a
 15 group, every player, in every team in there has
 16 to pay the premier. Is that correct?
 17 PRESIDENT GROFF: Yes, unless my
 18 listening skills are very poor, I think I heard
 19 the body say they are not in agreement with that.
 20 MR. KEPNER: Oh, I thought they did.
 21 PRESIDENT GROFF: No, they said --
 22 MR. KEPNER: Somebody was talking to
 23 me at the same time, and I missed that.
 24 PRESIDENT GROFF: Mr. Bush's proposal
 25 was the "yes," and that was what was passed --
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86

1 suggested.
 2 MR. SCHERER: Nothing was passed.
 3 PRESIDENT GROFF: It was only a
 4 survey.
 5 MR. MOORE: Tom Moore, Southern
 6 California.
 7 Mr. Kepner just said something that I
 8 think might require a little clarification. This
 9 proposed policy, would it apply to any
 10 out-of-state games or only those nationally
 11 sponsored USASA competitions?
 12 PRESIDENT GROFF: Yes, California
 13 North is going to Cal South for a tournament does
 14 not apply.
 15 MR. MOORE: So standard players can
 16 go to Mr. Busch's tournament up in Washington?
 17 PRESIDENT GROFF: Oh, yeah. You
 18 didn't think I was going to get past that on the
 19 special committee, did you?
 20 Okay. Thank you very much. It's
 21 very helpful for the Board of Directors, and this
 22 is the type of discussion that we need to have
 23 twice a year.
 24 Now, there is one topic that I must
 25 do at least 3,000 e-mails a year on. Discussions
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87

1 start at 8, 9, 10, 11 o'clock at night. And it's
 2 the next slide. And it's the National Cup and
 3 how we spend the money. I have had people that I
 4 thought knew everything say to me, Well, I have
 5 no idea how the National Cup expenses take place.
 6 You know, I barely understand the budget.
 7 So now I have to do this. So what I
 8 wanted to do here is just throw some things out
 9 at you so you understand.
 10 The top four items are the monies
 11 that we -- and Mr. Scherer does not agree with
 12 this, I understand -- that we send to the
 13 regions. Okay. We have regional support, 5,000
 14 apiece. We have the regional revenue sharing at
 15 40,000. It's very clear, now that whatever your
 16 Cup fees are set in your region, your region
 17 keeps them. They don't even -- last year Tony
 18 and I couldn't take it anymore, so we don't even
 19 want to see them. You know, the auditor
 20 suggests, Bring them in, build up your budget,
 21 make them look good. I don't even want to see
 22 them anymore because I can't get them back fast
 23 enough to the regions.
 24 So the regions will collect the Cup
 25 budgets. They set the fees. They spend the
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88

1 money. They are in total control.
 2 Now, just take a look at the
 3 difference of the four regions. Okay.
 4 And then the last one -- and I have
 5 -- I have people that don't even know this
 6 exists -- every year the regional and national
 7 leagues have to pay their fees. In the past, the
 8 national office has kept some. We've changed
 9 that. It all goes back to either the state
 10 associations or the regions.
 11 Look at the numbers. So all of that
 12 money is going to your regions.
 13 What the region does with it is the
 14 region's decision, not the 14 people sitting up
 15 here.
 16 On the \$40,000, we do have a
 17 requirement that the regional director meet with
 18 the region and send us an idea of what you are
 19 going to do with the money, but we do not tell
 20 you how to spend it.
 21 All right. The next item, if I could
 22 read it -- yes. Now, I have talked to all of the
 23 people at the National Cup committee. I talked
 24 to the treasurers. Assuming that I understood
 25 properly, that's what the regions spend on
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89

1 National Cups. Okay.
 2 We've hired Duncan. Besides being a
 3 great sand beach player with great goals, he
 4 tells me that 75,000 is going to happen this
 5 year. So figure that. We're going to spend a
 6 lot of that on National Cups. It's an income
 7 stream.
 8 And then this is the formal National
 9 Cup budget. This is all that we have in the
 10 budget. The National Cup Committee meets once a
 11 year, many times at this meeting or the AGM.
 12 This year they're going to Chicago. That's the
 13 expense for them to get there and do their work.
 14 In addition, we give them some additional money
 15 so that they can do their work at the regional
 16 level.
 17 We have \$5,000 that we, in our
 18 budget, pay for the four women's amateur cup team
 19 and the four men's amateur cup team.
 20 We spend money on the Nike shirts,
 21 which means we take it out of the allocation. We
 22 have to print them. We have to ship them. It's
 23 a real cost.
 24 And then the event itself, the
 25 National Cup event, the host committee gets
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90

1 \$10,000. John Motta spends 10- to \$12,000 in
 2 referees. And we've got to have trophies. And
 3 you add all of that up and you get to a little
 4 over \$100,000.
 5 So you define how you want to say the
 6 tradition is and how we spend the money. But
 7 this is the National Cup picture. It's really a
 8 regionally driven event. You have state -- this
 9 is three competitions. You have the state
 10 competition. In many states, they're on their
 11 own. They raise the fees. The regions run their
 12 own events. Money does not go through the
 13 National Office. It goes through the regional
 14 accounts. And then you have the national event.
 15 Does this help everyone to understand
 16 what it's all about with the National Cups?
 17 Rick.
 18 MR. OLIVAS: Mr. Chairman, Rick
 19 Olivas, Cal North.
 20 Those numbers are so small, my arms
 21 aren't long enough to bring it close to me.
 22 Could we get a copy of it?
 23 PRESIDENT GROFF: Absolutely. Can I
 24 e-mail it to everyone?
 25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Please.
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91

1 PRESIDENT GROFF: Any other questions
 2 or comments?
 3 All right. Is there anything else
 4 you want to discuss about any of the topics we
 5 have or any other topic that you may want to
 6 address to the National Board of Directors?
 7 So I suggest we go to the Good of the
 8 Game.
 9 MR. MOORE: Tom Moore, Northern
 10 California.
 11 Mr. Groff, I want to compliment you
 12 on this session we just had. This is excellent.
 13 Please repeat it in the future. I think it's an
 14 important mechanism for communication between the
 15 NBOD and the larger council. Thank you.
 16 (Applause.)
 17 PRESIDENT GROFF: Two times a year
 18 we're going to meet as a committee of the whole.
 19 The treasurer has suggested she would
 20 like to make a report, and I certainly want to
 21 look forward to that.
 22 MS. BRIGGS: Toni Briggs, treasurer.
 23 I don't want to give a report. I do
 24 want to update you on our accounting staff. We
 25 lost our accounting staff in May. We rehired in
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92

1 around July-ish. Her name is Jeane Pesci. Those
 2 of you who have had a chance to talk with her,
 3 she's working part-time Monday, Tuesday,
 4 Thursday, Friday until 3, I think, every
 5 afternoon. She's a great help. She is a true
 6 accountant. So we have gone up a level, I think.
 7 It's been of great value to us. She doesn't know
 8 soccer, so give her some time to know who you
 9 are, to understand the program stuff. You ask
 10 her questions, she's not going to know it if it's
 11 about soccer. But she's a great accounting mind,
 12 and we're lucky.
 13 Jen Sunderland, also, our new office
 14 manager, has done wonderful work on a part-time
 15 basis. I hope all of you get a chance to talk
 16 with her.
 17 And then we also added Kevin, who is
 18 doing our competitions. He's -- he's really new.
 19 And, Kevin, would you stand.
 20 (Applause.)
 21 PRESIDENT GROFF: You are stealing my
 22 thunder.
 23 MS. BRIGGS: I'm sorry, Richard.
 24 But I can tell you that it's taken a
 25 lot of work off of me. It's taken a lot of work,
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93

1 now having Duncan, off of Richard's shoulders.
 2 But I really think that you need to
 3 give Richard a huge round of applause. You would
 4 not believe the hard work that he's had to do in
 5 the last year. And it has moved us along. Tom's
 6 comment is a testament to that. You know, it's
 7 not always popular some of the decisions that we
 8 to have make, but we have to make it on behalf of
 9 the whole, and Richard has gone above and beyond
 10 the hard work, and I think you would be really
 11 proud of what he's done at this level as well as
 12 trying to help all of you in a fair manner. And
 13 I really appreciate him.
 14 (Applause.)
 15 PRESIDENT GROFF: Thank you.
 16 Before Bruno gives the Hall of Fame
 17 report, I just want to say, the staff is great.
 18 Duncan, we're so happy that you are
 19 here. It's a great step forward.
 20 And, Shonna, your committee was
 21 fantastic, this event. The Women's Symposium was
 22 a great success. All the work sections. The
 23 National Cups Committee did a great job
 24 explaining their events. Membership. Thank you
 25 very much for the outstanding job you did. Our
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94

1 Best Practices Committee, which is also one of
 2 our eight objectives, is definitely on the right
 3 course. And we thank everyone. The food was
 4 great. And we are looking forward to the Hall of
 5 Fame which is going to be an incredibly excellent
 6 event tonight.
 7 Bruno.
 8 MR. TRAPIKAS: Bruno Trapikas,
 9 Chairman of the Hall of Fame Committee this time
 10 around.
 11 Tonight we're going to be
 12 celebrating. We look forward to almost everyone
 13 in this room being there as we celebrate five
 14 inductees. We will reannounce in March, but
 15 again, an early reminder: April 15th is the
 16 annual deadline. It's the same day you pay the
 17 taxes.
 18 If you want to nominate someone for
 19 the Hall of Fame committee, please, please,
 20 please do not call on April 13th asking where the
 21 forms are. They will be online. They will be
 22 distributed. Please keep that date in mind.
 23 Please start looking now and thinking about who
 24 in your association deserves to be recognized.
 25 Thank you.
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95

1 PRESIDENT GROFF: This is the Chicago
 2 welcome.
 3 MR. ILIC: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
 4 On behalf of -- well, first of all,
 5 my name is Branko Ilic, president of the Illinois
 6 State Soccer Association.
 7 And as you mentioned, Mr. Chairman,
 8 we officially wanted to welcome, as we have,
 9 Mr. Duncan Riddle, to -- first of all Chicago and
 10 then the rest of the United States. We're also
 11 grateful that you have chosen Illinois to host
 12 the Cup Finals next year. And also, thank you
 13 for moving the office there. And also thank you
 14 for having the mid-year meeting there. We will
 15 try to be good hosts. And looking forward to
 16 seeing everyone next year. Thank you.
 17 (Applause.)
 18 PRESIDENT GROFF: Thank you. Paul,
 19 we're going to have a bylaw on limitations to the
 20 microphone.
 21 MR. SCHERER: There's no bylaws at
 22 all.
 23 This is still the Good of the Game,
 24 so there's no bylaws. Okay. No rules, nothing
 25 like that. No silly policies.
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96

1 No, what I would like to do and since
 2 we're on the Good of the Game, is just mention
 3 the Masters Futbol Cup that was held in Lacey,
 4 Washington this year. We had -- Dan, we had 47
 5 of those old folks out there playing. I'm sure
 6 we could help you from Arizona; there's no doubt
 7 about that. But please join us July 15th 2012 in
 8 Bellingham, Washington, for the Master's Futbol
 9 Cup. I'm the cochair person along with Tim Busch
 10 from Washington. Certainly Washington state puts
 11 the majority of the work in it with a fine
 12 administrative crew, and I'm a "lumper." I move
 13 a lot of water and stuff like that, so...
 14 PRESIDENT GROFF: Thank you.
 15 Jeanne, where are you? Do you want
 16 to make a report on the CoEd Cup? Fantastic news
 17 on this. Sorry, Gianfranco.
 18 MS. SMITH: Okay. I'd just like to
 19 report that the CoEd Cup this year has 41 teams
 20 right now, which is the largest that we have ever
 21 had, and that we are expecting to get five more
 22 teams in between North Texas and South Texas to
 23 make a 46-team tournament. So this is the most
 24 that we've ever had, so we're real excited about
 25 it. Thank you.
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97

1 PRESIDENT GROFF: And, Gianfranco,
 2 before you go -- Is Mike Edwards in the room?
 3 Could you please stand? Listen, I have to lobby
 4 this gentleman all the time to get things passed
 5 at U.S. Soccer since I'm on the Board, so I have
 6 to make sure that he gets recognized, applauded,
 7 and thank you very much for your activities.
 8 (Applause.)
 9 MR. EDWARDS: One honest guy in the
 10 room.
 11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Just don't
 12 make him talk.
 13 PRESIDENT GROFF: You are on.
 14 MR. BORRONI: Richard, my name is
 15 Frank Borroni; I'm from Ohio North. And for the
 16 last three years I have been representing this
 17 body in the United States Soccer Federation
 18 Foundation Board of Directors.
 19 The Foundation, since its inception,
 20 has been offering grants to different
 21 organization for the development of the game at
 22 the grassroots.
 23 The Foundation is also offering a
 24 grant for program field enhancement and field
 25 turf. The 2011 grant cycle has been just opened
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98

1 and grant applications are available to their web
 2 site.
 3 I would appreciate your support for
 4 another term when the division president will
 5 submit a name at the AGM in March in Miami.
 6 Thank you very much.
 7 PRESIDENT GROFF: Gianfranco, I will
 8 make that nomination, I can assure you. I will
 9 make that nomination.
 10 Mr. Burns.
 11 MR. BURNS: I'm Dick Burns from
 12 Colorado, and Colorado Springs, in particular.
 13 And I just would like to say that the
 14 Olympic Training Center is starting to open up
 15 again to organizations, such as referees or
 16 anybody else that want to meet there. They had
 17 limited it to elite athletes, but they have done
 18 a lot of growing and a lot of new buildings and
 19 torn down all the old buildings and kind of
 20 restructuring the Olympic Committee Training
 21 Center, so anybody looking to come down to
 22 Colorado Springs and visit the Olympic Training
 23 Center and, perhaps, run some meetings out of
 24 there, I'd be certainly happy to help you. I
 25 have been volunteering there for the last 3 or 4
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99

1 years, and it's been a great experience. So
 2 please come to Colorado Springs and try the
 3 Olympic Training Center somewhere along the line.
 4 PRESIDENT GROFF: Thank you. Don.
 5 MR. KELLER: Richard, I'm Don Keller
 6 with the Veteran's Cup.
 7 I'm not talking about the Veteran's
 8 Cup. I'm not giving you any dates. I have
 9 enjoyed myself here in Florida probably more than
 10 anybody. I am going to be in the state three
 11 times this year because of competitions or
 12 conventions. Florida has done one hell of a job.
 13 PRESIDENT GROFF: Where is Arthur? I
 14 wanted to do that last. Arthur and your staff,
 15 Rob, please stand up. What a great event this
 16 has been.
 17 (Applause.)
 18 MR. MATTSON: Thank you.
 19 PRESIDENT GROFF: Beach soccer,
 20 fantastic.
 21 MR. MATTSON: I just -- first of all
 22 I want to thank you for the opportunity to allow
 23 Florida to help host this event. With the beach
 24 soccer yesterday and the beach event, I just
 25 sincerely hope that everybody had as much fun as
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100

1 we did here in Florida. So thank you, and we
 2 will see everybody in March in Miami.
 3 PRESIDENT GROFF: Great.
 4 MR. ROONEY: Dan Rooney, Connecticut.
 5 Richard, in terms of the dinner
 6 tonight, do you want to talk a bit about the U.S.
 7 game also at the same time?
 8 PRESIDENT GROFF: Yes, we do. The
 9 match starts at 6. I believe that's correct.
 10 And it will be on here in the hotel. And we want
 11 to see you there cheering for the U.S. Reception
 12 area. It's the reception area.
 13 MS. SCHROEDL: Right outside here.
 14 PRESIDENT GROFF: The TV will be out
 15 here. The reception will be out here. Go ahead.
 16 MS. TRAINOR: Barb Trainor, Arizona.
 17 We just learned a few weeks ago that
 18 we get a Women's National Team Game, USA-Sweden,
 19 November 19th, so if anybody is going to be in
 20 Arizona November 19th, give me a call.
 21 PRESIDENT GROFF: That's what, a
 22 Friday or a Saturday?
 23 MS. TRAINOR: Saturday.
 24 PRESIDENT GROFF: MLS Cup is that
 25 weekend too, right?
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101

1 Anyone else? Can I have a motion for
2 adjournment.

3 MR. BURNS: So move.

4 PRESIDENT GROFF: All those in favor,
5 stand up and have a great time in Florida.

6 (Adjourned at 2:30 p.m.)
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102

1 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

2
3 I, DEBRA K. RESLING, RMR, and Certified
4 Realtime Reporter appointed to take the meetings of
5 the USASA, do certify that the within proceedings of
6 the Board of Directors meeting were taken by me
7 stenographically in Clearwater Beach, Florida, on
8 October 8, 2011 then reduced to typewritten form
9 consisting of 102 pages herein; that the foregoing is
10 a true transcript of the proceedings had.
11
12

13 In witness hereof I have hereunto set my hand
14 this 22nd day of October, 2011
15

16 Debra K. Resling, CSR, CRR, RMR
17 Registered Merit Reporter
18 and Notary Public.
19 4 Cheyenne Blvd.,
Colorado Springs, CO 80905
My commission expires February 28, 2013
20
21
22
23
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