

October 12, 2008
USASA National Council Meeting
Marriott Riverwalk Hotel San Antonio, TX

Chairman McCormick called the meeting called to order at 8:05 am

Moment of Silence

Fritz Marth, Region I Deputy Director said a few words in remembrance of two members of our organization that we lost this past year, Larry Frisoli and Wally Watson. Doug Pelz also acknowledged the recent passing of Jimmy Carson, Past President of Indiana Soccer.

Roll Call

Conducted by Ken Conselyea, Credential Committee Chair by region

Region I

Connecticut: 4 votes (responded)
Delaware: 2 votes
Eastern New York: 5 votes (responded)
Eastern Pennsylvania: 2 votes (responded)
Maryland: 2 votes (responded)
Massachusetts: 4 votes (responded)
D.C./Virginia: 5 votes (responded)
New Hampshire: 2 votes (responded)
New Jersey: 4 votes (responded)
Pennsylvania West: 2 votes (responded)
Rhode Island: 2 votes
Vermont: 2 vote (responded)
West Virginia: 2 votes
Western New York: 4 votes (responded)

Region II

Illinois: 4 votes (responded)
Indiana: 4 votes (responded)
Iowa: 2 votes (responded)
Kansas: 3 votes (responded)
Kentucky: 3 votes (responded)
Michigan: 4 votes (responded)
Minnesota: 4 votes (responded)
Missouri: 2 votes (responded)
Nebraska: 2 votes (responded)
Ohio North: 3 votes (responded)
South Dakota: 2 vote
Southern Ohio: 3 votes (responded)
Wisconsin: 2 votes (responded)

Region III

Alabama: 2 vote

Arkansas: 3 votes (responded)
Florida: 5 votes (responded)
Georgia: 4 votes (responded)
Louisiana: 3 votes (responded)
Mississippi: 1 vote (responded)
North Carolina: 5 votes (responded)
North Texas: 5 votes (responded)
Oklahoma: 3 votes (responded)
South Carolina: 3 votes (responded)
Tennessee: 3 votes
Texas South: 5 votes (responded)

Region IV

Alaska: 3 votes (responded)
Arizona: 4 votes (responded)
Cal North: 5 votes (responded)
Cal South: 0 votes (skipped)
Colorado: 3 votes
Hawaii: 3 votes (responded)
Idaho: 3 votes (responded)
Montana: 2 votes
New Mexico: 4 votes (responded)
Nevada: 3 votes (responded)
Oregon: 4 votes (responded)
Utah: 3 votes (responded)
Washington: 5 votes (responded)
Wyoming: 1 vote

Other Leagues:

AYSO: 3 votes
USL: 3 votes
Champions League: 1 vote (responded)
Woman's Premier Soccer League: 2 votes (responded)

National Premier Soccer League: 1 vote
(responded)
Mid-Atlantic Showcase Soccer League: 1
vote (responded)

USASA Officers:
Chairman, Brooks McCormick (responded)
Vice Chairman, Marge Madriago (excused)
Secretary, Valerie Blanchenay (responded)
Treasurer, Toni Briggs-McGee (responded)

Region I:
Richard Groff
Fritz Marth (responded)
Matt Krywonos (responded)
Tony Falcone (responded)

Region II:
Bruno Trapikas (responded)
George Chazaro (responded)
Ken Conselyea (responded)
Bill Davey (responded)

Region III:
Carlos Rodriguez (responded)
Marypat Bell (responded)
Charlsa Moore (responded)
Russell Rankenberg

Region IV:
Bill Bosgraaf (responded)
Mike Maloney (responded)
Barbara Trainer (representing AZ)
Graham Biles (responded)

State Associations not present after second roll call: Delaware, Rhode Island, West Virginia,
South Dakota, Alabama, Tennessee, Cal South, Colorado, Montana, Wyoming

Leagues not present:

AYSO, USL

Officers not present: Marge Madriago, Richard Groff, Russell Rankenburg

Guest Speakers:

Jim Morris of MLS grassroots addressed the council while the credentials committee tabulated results of roll call. He thanked USASA for all of their efforts on behalf of MLS, our support for MLS and what we do for the game.

Larry Monaco extended his greetings & salutations as well as congratulatory remarks to the new USASA Hall of Fame inductees, as well as the Coach and Referee of the Year award winners. He commented on the fact there are 13 joint state associations within the two organizations. USASA and US Youth soccer have worked together for many years. Both organizations have the best programs. Challenge we both have is competition. With the fear of declining numbers in both registration and player participation, both entities need to continue to work together to spread the word and promote our programs. Congratulations to MNT, they won 6-1 last night.

Credentials Report

Ken Conselyea reported that there are 169 votes total

85= majority

113= 2/3

153= 90%

Approval of Minutes from 2008 AGM

Chairman McCormick made an informational declaration regarding the discussion under budget amendments. Specifically to address the discussion and motions made just after the Elite Player Program dialogue, a motion was made regarding travel subsidy and prize money for Donnelly Cup by Richard Groff. A counter motion, or friendly amendment to Richard Groff's motion, was made by Bob Black that if we delete the \$30,000 prize money, it would leave us with a \$26,500 deficit amount. After the meeting, Brooks indicated that he, Toni and Stephanie scoured all amendments to come up with this deficit amount and were unable to do so. The total of the budget amendments plus the minor budget amendments made during the year actually add up to a surplus \$8,680. Should you approve minutes without any changes, there is a discrepancy in the budget amounts. Or you can strike the last part of the motion from the record. This is informational, you as an organization can decide what how you'd like to handle this. Motion to approve the minutes was made by (inaudible) and seconded by (inaudible). Discussion on the minutes as follows:

- Jim Sadowski, President MDCVSA, requested that the following correction be made on page 4 of the minutes: Jim Sadowski, MDCVSA asked for further breakdown of spending by program. He noted that over 85% of discretionary spending is attributed to National Cups and Elite Player Program.
- Tom Moore, Cal N on page 5 requested an amendment of the minutes to reflect comments he made as follows: – Cal N reported that Region IV created a committee to analyze the USASA project with Demosphere. Tom briefly described the work of the committee and made copies of the committee's analysis of the Demosphere project available.
- Timothy W. Busch addressed the editorial comments made regarding poor quality of commercial recording. Minutes are always somewhat controversial as they are produced by what is viewed in the meeting, do we have any procedures in place to be closer to actual occurrences during out meetings? Chairman McCormick responded that the Executive Committee had recently voted to start retaining a court reporter for AGM, MYM meetings moving forward. Tim also suggested that people speaking today should state their name, spell their last name, and their affiliation so that this can be better captured.
- Jerry Zanelli went on to suggest that the Chairman should repeat a motion and the seconded whenever it is made so that we would have a record of who made the motion in the event you can not hear the speaker.
- Ric Olivas, Cal N indicated that he has been asking for draft copies of minutes within 30-60 days of a meeting. Minutes, as draft, can be sent to State Presidents in advance for review since the State Association Presidents will be asked to approve them.
- Bruno Trapikas, Region II Director motioned, and seconded by Paul Scherer, State President, Idaho moved to strike the words with a \$26,000 deficit, from page 5, paragraph 3. Bob Black, NTX spoke against the motion. Bruno indicated he would

withdraw the motion. Tony Falcone, Region I Treasurer indicated we can address this matter under Old Business, our budget is not written in stone. It is a moving process. It is not a legal problem. Chairman McCormick indicated he simply wanted to provide full transparency to the organization.

Motion to approve the minutes as amended. Motion carried.

Video on Veteran's Cup was shown to membership. Tim Busch disclosed the fact that his nephew produced the video and Tim paid for it out of his own funds. Mass will be hosting the tournament in 2009.

Communication: None

Officer and Committee Reports:

John Motta, Chairman Referee Committee, commented on a recent committee meeting and the Referee of the Year Award. Committee reviewed criteria to reduce controversy around the award selection and maintain the award. They are proposing to re-new it the Referee Achievement Award. They have also other suggestions that they will submit to the Executive Committee for consideration and approval. He also commented on the success of the Veteran's Cup tournament and asked that all State Associations consider contributing by sending Referees to support the event. Games at all levels are available.

Unfinished Business:

none

Amendments to Charters, Bylaws – Policies

Dan Trainor thanked his committee of Bob Kempner, Erin Langenwalter, Kris Nelson, and Pat Varsallona. He noted the withdrawal of the last proposed amendment, Bylaw 509, Referee Committee, submitted by Tim Busch, WSSA President. Dan also commented that competing amendments were submitted regarding Deputy Director vote and attendance at meetings.

Proposed Amendment: Bylaw 105 Seasonal and Fiscal Year

Jim Sadowski, MDCVSA President motioned and Richard Williams, WI President seconded to bring this item to the floor for discussion. Motion carried.

Bylaw 412 Meeting and Voting

Tim Busch, President WSSA motioned and Ric Olivas, Cal N seconded to bring this item to the floor for discussion.

- Fritz Marth, Region I Deputy Director spoke against the proposed amendment. Currently Deputy Directors are on the USASA Executive Committee, although no longer funded to attend meetings. They do serve an important role in that they provide for additional points of view and discussion and input at meetings. This is an important role and the decision on whether to keep that role/position is up to the body. With regard to vote, several issues he raised, it might appear "nice" to give someone a vote just for attending– purpose as he sees it is not to give *a person* a vote but to give *each region* a vote. That vote is carried by the Regional Director, and in his absence, by the Deputy Director. Currently there is a 50/50 mix and balance of representation of at large positions on Executive Committee of direct and regional representation, 4 votes each. By giving the vote to the Deputy Director, a situation could occur where a Region loses its representation if they cancel each other out. He urged everyone to keep current structure of Executive Committee.
- Tim Busch spoke in favor of the amendment. He stated that he felt it is demeaning to a Deputy Director to sit in meetings, provide input, and at the end of the day, not have a vote. In moving from 7 votes to 11 votes, it would broaden the democratic process and provide a greater voice for representation. The region elects the

people that will represent them. This would provide more than influence, the grassroots effect. He urged support for this effort.

- Sal Rapaglia, ENY President, spoke against the motion and pointed out current process is more democratic.
- Bruno Trapikas, Region II Director, spoke in support of the motion for several reasons and he indicated giving 8 votes to the Regions versus to National Officers would provide more empowerment to the regions.
- John Sutter, NTX Soccer, spoke against the motion and pointed out that you want to have good representation from all segments of our organization. The strength of our organization is that it is a national organization and we have rules in place that apply equally across all of us. The main role of the top executive officers is to have an overall view and ensure the vision of entire country and the regions do the best for their respective region. The top officers provide for a national, longer term view. He asked council to vote against the motion.
- Jim Sadowski, MDVCSA President, commented that he and his colleagues are looking for leadership from officers at national level and sees need for separation of interest. National vs regional leadership and he indicated that adding numbers is not the best solution.
- Jim Hamilton, WSSA and Adult Council, he agrees with the proposal. He reminded the body that when members sit on the Executive Committee, their primary duty is to the national organization. They know the needs of their regions however their primary responsibility is to USASA. It is important to have more representation from the states and regions vs. less.
- Jerry Zanelli, Women's Premier Soccer League spoke in favor of the motion. The board is not going to be increased by a large number when you consider adding 4 people for a group this size. You want input and involvement; the Deputy Directors will be there anyway, give them a vote and let them have a chance to put forth the region's view point. More important to have this done by 11 people vs. 7.

Motion defeated. [77 yes, 79 no.]

Bylaw 411(page 2)

There was no motion to bring this to the floor.

New Business

Jerry Zanelli, Women's Premier Soccer League spoke about the Women's Professional Soccer league. There will be 7 teams: Boston, DC, NJ/NY, St. Louis, Chicago, Los Angeles, N. Cal. 12 players have already been drafted. WPS saved money by not sending people to our meetings/convention. 21 players from US National team are committed to playing.

For the Good of the Game

Rob LaVielle, FL President suggested that USASA have an opt-in or opt-out option for paper mailings to save money in printing and postage costs. Chairman McCormick commented that this action would require a Bylaw change. Materials are required to be mailed.

Peggy Polley, KY Soccer Association President sought clarification on whether Deputy Directors are funded to attend Executive Council meetings? Chairman McCormick replied that a budget amendment was made at the AGM to de-fund them by the National Council. They are funded for AGM and MYM meetings. A possible solution would be to have them on a conference call so that they participate.

Ric Olivas, Cal N, point of clarification addressed to Chairman McCormick; thank you for acceding to send out copies of [*draft*] minutes to State Presidents. You also agreed at our regional meetings that you would provide us with a meeting summary of Executive board meetings. However, in neither case, there was no time frame stipulated with either action, can we say we would get these within 60 days of either meeting to receive timely information?

Tim Busch, WSSA President, complimented Chairman McCormick for appointing an Ad hoc Committee of all the Competitive Chairs and appointing Gianfranco Borroni as Chairman. There

is a new flyer that promotes all the programs together and the group is in the process of combining all the rules so that everyone in a state can get the same information.

Jim Sadowski, President MDCVSA, expressed gratitude to Carlos and TXSSA for hosting the MYM. They've set the bar high even higher. On a more serious note, we in the State of Virginia, believe in fairness with respect to all the competitions and we have to stand up for our players who are playing the bills full time. We have to fight for our affiliated teams in all of our competitions and hope that they succeed. We believe that all of the competitions have to be fair across the board and comply with whatever rules exist for the competition. Thus, we request a policy change that within 30 days after any competition is completed; the competition committee shall submit, in a form acceptable to the Treasurer, a detailed accounting of all income and expenses including sales of merchandise, food and beverage. That report should be made available to the Council so that we can evaluate where monies are being spent. We also request that the competition committee also include a list of teams allowed to participate, and a separate list of any previously unaffiliated teams that were allowed to participate in the event and were directly affiliated for that purpose. Jim Sadowski motioned and Peter Pinori, ENY seconded to bring the proposed policy change to the floor. Motion failed to achieve a 90% by voice vote.

Sal Rapaglia, ENY reported that Region I will fund the Deputy Director to attend Executive Committee meetings. He commented that he was originally against the Referee of the Year Award. This Award needs to be supported and the state association should pay for the winner to attend to receive their award.

Mary Jose Guerra, NTX, was upset to learn that O-30 and Amateur Women's competitions were eliminated from National Cup competitions. She'd like to see the Competitions brought back and asked other State Associations to support this effort.

Barb Trainor, AZ President, complimented TXSSA's efforts in hosting the MYM meeting and her organization is looking forward to seeing everyone in Phoenix next year.

Werner Fricker stated that he is proud of the Cup Committee and indicated they were directed to take a hard look at all the competitions. These actions sparked some great discussions on how to improve our women's programs. We want to have a solid program and figure out what we want to do for all of our women's programs moving forward. Thank you all for your support.

Jerry Zanelli, WPSL, provided positive feedback around the roundtable discussion held on Saturday. It was well done, and time well spent. Task force around how to make women's programs more relevant. Chairman McCormick indicated he will be putting together a Task Force and would share his notes.

Jim Sadowski & Jeanne Smith, Co-ed Committee – Jim thanked NTX for hosting the event. Currently they have 21 teams in 4 competitions signed up. Also thanks to: Jeanne, Marti Bevan, Debra Trapikas, Peggy Cowan, and other "unofficial" committee members. He asked USASA to consider hosting it for a second year in NTX.

Bob Black, NTX Soccer, thanked Board of Directors of USASA for the work that the board does throughout the year. He also asked the Board and the National Council consider over next year

establishing a strategic planning task force to evaluate and to determine the future of our organization. We need to look at our core business and the future of our organization.

Kris Nelson, Minnesota – It has been a good meeting. A great series of workshop were put together by staff. She suggested that the seminar schedule be staggered so that folks attending from a State Association can attend as many as possible

Andy Marion, SC suggested we have simple camcorder recording of workshops to post on website later. It is tough to attend all seminars.

Meeting adjourned

Meeting adjourned at 9:34am

Respectfully submitted for review and correction,

Valerie Blanchenay
USASA Secretary

DRAFT