



# United States Adult Soccer Association Region I

USASA Region I Mid-Year Meeting  
Hyatt Grand Cypress  
Orlando, Florida – September 30, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 8:15.

## Preliminary Matters/Agenda

Regional Director Fritz Marth started the meeting with a moment of silence in memory for members of our Region I family we lost since our last meeting.

## Roll Call & Credentials

Roll call was taken and credentials presented:

<u>State Associations</u>		<u>Regional Leagues</u>	
CT (not present)	-	ASL	1
DE (not present)	-	MSSL (not present)	-
ENY	4	NPSL (not present)	-
EPA	3	USL-PDL (not present)	-
MD	3	Subtotal	1
MA	6		
MDCVA	5	<u>Officers</u>	
NH (not present)	-	Director (Fritz Marth)	1
NJ	4	Deputy Director (Tony Falcone)	1
PAW	3	Treasurer (John Kahmke)	1
RI	2	Secretary (Scott Mapes)	1
VT (not present)	-	Subtotal	4
WNY	4		
WV (not present)	-	Total General Votes	39
Subtotal	34	Total Election Votes	n/a

## Approval of Region I February 15, 2016 AGM Meeting Minutes

The minutes were approved as presented.

## Officers' & Committee Reports

**Director** – Fritz Marth reported that he addressed to the USASA NBOD the issue of State Associations' feelings of disengagement within USASA. Fritz suggested that the membership bring their issues and concerns directly to the USASA leadership (John Motta).

**Deputy Director** – Tony Falcone reminded State Associations to update USASA (Nick Schmitt) with any changes to State Association officers/staff and to also provide a copy of these changes to the Region.

**Treasurer** – John Kahmke reported that the Region is currently operating within \$1,000 of budget and has spent less so far than budgeted. It was noted that the most significant expense for Cup events are referee costs and that income is dropping. Cesar Wasecki (MA) asked about expenses after which discussion ensued about referee expenses being the largest cost to the Region.

**Secretary** – Scott Mapes had no report.

**Referee Committee** – Regional Referee Administrator Andy Weiss (MA) reported on the Region I training event - 135 referees out of the 430 grade 6 attended. Two events were held, one in Richmond, VA and one in Highland, NY. These events were well received and Andy urged that the Region continue running these training events. Andy also noted that a referee's willingness to travel to distant games is enhanced by assessment opportunities.

**American Soccer League (“ASL”)** – Dan Trainor gave an update. The ASL currently has teams in Philadelphia and Lancaster (PA), Connecticut, Massachusetts, Long Island (NY), Maryland and Atlanta. Dan acknowledged that there are a few “bad apples” (teams/owners). While ASL is affiliated with USASA, the players are signed as professionals. ASL's mission is to increase American players' transfer opportunities with limits on foreign player participation. The Goal of ASL is to move players up the ranks. Dan can be reached at 602.881.1096 and information can be found at [ASLSoccer.us](http://ASLSoccer.us). Peter Pinori (ENY) asked with whom ASL is competing. Dan answered against NASL and USL and sees ASL as a playing option over PDL and NPSL. Tony Falcone asked why have players give up amateur status for a \$0.00 pro contract. Dan answered that it is an attempt to move players up and make them easily transferrable. It was noted that with their pro status, players forego college eligibility. Tony asked is there a point of contact for players to reinstate their amateur status and Dave Borts (RI) asked whether ASL forbid use of amateur players. Dan advised they are working on devising a system to address both questions and currently these situations are very ambiguous.

**Governance Committee** – Richard Groff discussed the bylaw proposal submitted by the Governance Committee to change the NBOD composition. The proposal is to remove Deputy Directors (4 seats) from the NBOD along with adding two independent directors. The committee thinks there are issues and concerns with number of members on the NBOD and that it should decrease. Since Deputy Directors do not have a vote, it made sense to remove them from the NBOD (they may attend NBOD meetings as guests). Tony Falcone pointed out that Deputy Directors have been tasked with assignments by the NBOD. He also asked whether the results of the recent survey that was sent out had been reflective of the membership. Richard noted that there still remain several months to engage with membership on making board composition decisions and that the committee thinks a board of 16 members is too big. The question is who to remove. The proposal will come up at AGM in 2017. Dave Borts (RI) noted his support for the proposal. Discussion ensued as to how are we going to change the NBOD from 16 to possibly 10.

### **Unfinished/Ongoing Business**

**National Amateur Cups** – Werner Fricker gave an update and suggested we keep same format as this past year. He noted that Region I had the most entries.

**Werner Fricker Cup and O-30 Cups** – Cup Commissioner Gus Xikis gave an update. Matt Krywonos (WNY) noted he caught games on You Tube by chance and suggests increasing advertising to spread the word on live streaming of matches. For 2017 Dates/Scheduling, Gus advised to look for email by end of November.

**U-23 Cups** – Tony Falcone started a discussion on other states U-23 leagues and initiatives. The region is again looking at Father's Day weekend in June 2017 as the date for the tournament.

**Women's Cup** – Fritz Marth advised that this women's cup program has had difficulty in gaining interest and is looking for volunteers to take on the project.

**Soccer Fest** – Cesar Wasecki (MA) gave an update on the event held in Denver, CO in July 2016.

**Region I Indoor Tournament** – Cesar Wasecki announced that the Region will attempt to do a Northern and a Southern event in 2017 and then a final in March 2017. Details will go out before Thanksgiving.

### **Other Business**

Sal Rapaglia (ENY) introduced Klaus Mueller as the new SRA for the ENY.

### **Region I Awards**

- **Coach of the Year Award** – Blair Thomson (EPA) – Testimonial given by Tony Falcone.
- **Referee Life Time Achievement Award** – Robert Ong (EPA) – Testimonial given by Andy Weiss.
- **Rocco Amoroso Fair Play Award** – West Chester United (EPA) – Testimonial given by Jim Bollinger.
- **Livio D'Arpino Award** – Werner Fricker, Jr. (EPA) – Presented by Sal Rapaglia.

### **New Business**

**2017 Budget** – The proposed 2017 budget was presented by Regional Treasurer John Kahmke and a motion to accept was made by Tony Falcone and second by Peter Pinori (ENY). The budget was approved.

**USASA Vision** – Open floor discussion including the topics of making US Soccer in Chicago more relevant to USASA; national based marketing program; access to fields; online registration system options and whether there are efforts to dovetail with US Soccer's Blue Star initiative.

**Referee Issue** – Sal Rapaglia (ENY) raised a referee issue that ENY is having with the Eastern New York Youth association, including issues of adult and youth SRA's and the creation of a new referee association.

**Regional Winter Meeting** – It was discussed and decided that there is no need for a separate Region I winter meeting before the Hawaii AGM in February 2017.

**Change of USASA AGM Cycle** – Tony Falcone floated a proposal that the NBOD may consider where the fall MYM will become the AGM for USASA. No action taken but there was general support for the idea.

**Strategic Plan** – Dave Borts (RI) asked that the USASA Next Phase of the Strategic Plan be disseminated to the membership.

### **Good of the Game**

Frits Marth - announced Cindy Spera's candidacy for Treasurer on USASA NBOD.

Region 1 Tee shirts given out which read “REGION 1 WE PLAY SOCCER”.

### **Guests**

Shonna Schroedl, USASA Secretary for the last 6 years announced she was running for USASA Vice President and Adult Council member at the 2017 AGM.

Tom Hayes (DesChamps, Gregory & Hayes) gave an insurance update. Tom noted that we need to be smarter and better in the registration process with proper waivers being kept on file. Waivers can be the ones offered by USASA or others as approved by K&K. We need to be consistent and persistent with regard to waivers and waivers must be close to individual registration as we can for validity of waiver to be effective. Tom discussed a big loss that was incurred associated with a try-out player and that all players, even in try-outs must be registered. However, there was an “isolated incident” exclusion for non-PAI, coach, facility and league coverage. USASA affiliation fees MUST be paid in order for GL and D&O coverage to be binding.

The Ta Tas Tournament for breast cancer research hosted by North Carolina Adult Soccer Association was announced.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15.

Submitted by Scott Mapes, Secretary