



United States Adult Soccer Association Region I

**2020 Winter Meeting
Nashville, Tennessee
14 February 2020**

The meeting was called to order at approximately 8:30.

Regional Director Tony Falcone started the meeting. There was a moment of silence in memory of our Region I family members who were lost in 2019 or could not be here.

New member introductions: Dave Laraba of West Virginia introduced Scott Abbott, an at large member. Dan Rooney of Connecticut introduced Mike Schechkter, their treasurer. Tony welcomed guest Gerhard Mengel.

1. Roll Call & Credentials – Credentials Chairman Peter Pinori (ENY) – Secretary Scott Mapes called the roll:

State Association	Votes	Comments
Connecticut	4	Present
Delaware	1	Not Present
Eastern New York	4	Present
Eastern Pennsylvania	4	Present
Maryland	3	Present
Massachusetts	5	Present
Metro DC/Virginia	5	Present
New Hampshire	0	Present
New Jersey	4	Present
Pennsylvania - West	3	Present
Rhode Island	2	Present
Vermont	1	Present but voting in capacity as Secretary
West Virginia	2	Present
Western New York	4	Present
Subtotal	41	Votes present for general business

Regional Officers		
Director Anthony Falcone	1	Present
Dep. Director Andy Weiss	1	Present
Secretary Scott Mapes	1	Present
Treasurer William George	1	Present
Subtotal	4	Votes Present
TOTAL VOTES	45	Votes Present for general business

Credentials report approved.

2. Approval of Region I 2019 Annual General Meeting Minutes (28 September 2019) –

The minutes were approved as presented. Jack Testani (CT) noted that Newtown Pride FC still has not received a trophy after winning the Amateur Cup. Tony will inquire with Duncan about the matter.

3. Treasurer’s Report

Region I Treasurer Bill George provided recap of the financial report. There was a smooth transfer of accounts closing financial matters from John Kahmke. Zelle has been set up in the Region bank account that will allow banking transfer. All transactions are recorded on Intuit QuickBooks.

4. Director’s Report

Awards

The 2019 Livio D’Arpino award was presented by Peter Pinori and Albino Guimaraes to Dave Laraba. Tony spoke about the accomplishments of Dave who is the Executive Director of WWSA.

Tony also recognized that Dan Rooney (CT), Dave Laraba (WV) and Michael Fitzgerald (ENY) have been or will be inducted in their respective State Hall of Fames.

NBOD

a. Insurance

Recap on insurance changes that resulted in USASA revisiting its insurance options. There is a new broker, USI, who was able to obtain a lower insurance premium than what was quoted by the previous broker (Gregory & DesChamps) through K&K Insurance. USI will also provide a new processing for PAI where claims will be done online. USI will assist USASA on compliance concerning the Safe Sport Act, on concussion protocol and other areas of risk management. Certificate of insurance are now issued through USI and each state association should have an account access. The D&O will continue to be served by Gregory & DesChamps. Additional General Liability and PAI increase in coverage options are being explored.

b. National/Multi-State Leagues

Discussion concerning practice by National and Multi-State Leagues of creating divisions/conferences that operate in one or two state associations only. The intent for these leagues is that there teams played along several state associations, not a limited few. That

allowed for these leagues to register their players directly with USASA. Review of the current policy is taking place where such divisions/conferences will need to register their players directly with the respective state association.

c. Amateur Cup & Other USASA Cup Competitions

There is a push to have all cups managed through USASA. Not certain how qualifiers at the state level will be administered. Dan Rooney (CT) inquired as to whom was looking to go into this direction. Tony answered some members of the NBOD and the USASA office. Tony asked if it was the will of the Region to continue managing the cups at the state and regional levels. Response was positive. Richard Groff suggested the Region pass a resolution that fully supports allowing Regions to run their own cup competitions, second by Andy Weiss (Dep. Dir). Jim Bollinger (EPA) moved to draft resolution, seconded by Peter Pinori (ENY). Unanimous approval. Resolution to be drafted by the Region I Executive Committee. Jack Testani (CT) was added to the Region I Cup Committee that includes Gus Xikis (ENY), John Kahmke (WNY) & Tony.

d. Newton Pride FC to play UEFA Champion

Our Amateur Cup champion from Connecticut will host the UEFA Amateur champion from Poland on 16 May. Location and other details were still being worked out. Dan Rooney provided some information but the logistics are being worked by the USASA office and US Soccer. Tony once again expressed desire for members of the Region to support the event & attend.

USSF Bylaw Amendments

Discussion of the amendments proposed at the US Soccer meeting. Dave Borts (RI) brought up the issue of approval of NISA as a professional league and their plan to register amateur players (limit 6 per team). He also discussed the proposal by the United Soccer Coaches and the Armed Services Association for voting rights for the Affiliate Board Member. Dave Laraba (WV) discussed the proposal allowing equal voting strength among men & women 1st division in the Professional Council. MaryBeth Falk (MDCVA) spoke on behalf of Jim Sadowski (MDCVA) on the proposal to lower player registration fees. Richard Groff noted this very same fees question has been dispensed with and without success in the past. A policy amendment proposed by MASS was approved by the US Soccer BOD that expedites amateur reinstatement for certain players classified as professionals.

5. Reports of other Officers & Committees

- a. Cups – Gus Xikis have an update. Cups. There is a record number of teams (211) that competed at the state level for the Region I qualifiers. The projected schedule was given and the draw will take place after the meeting.
- b. Adult Soccer Fest – The 2020 Fest will be held in Escondido, CA, 7-12 July. Dan Rooney (CT) suggested that the Region explore a Regional scale Adult Fest and asked whether the Region wanted to do anything for members other than elite teams. Bill George (MD/Treasurer) offered to chair a committee with Dan Rooney to explore options for the Region to provide a competition or offering for the broader membership. Andy Weiss spoke about referee assigning changes for the upcoming Adult Fest.

- c. Women's Cup/Tournament – The Region is exploring running a weekend women's tournament in conjunction with the U23 Tournament at Ukrainians National Club outside Philadelphia, PA. Several states indicated that they would provide teams for the tournament.

6. Unfinished Business

Jim Bollinger (EPA) moved to table a discussion relative to misbehavior/misconduct of a U-23 UPSL team during the U23 Tournament towards a referee after the conclusion of a match.

7. New Business

Richard Groff suggested that the Region recognize past directors with a vote at future meetings of the Region. Note: As this is not part of the USASA Bylaws, the Region Council will need to approve such recommendation when credentials are presented.

9. Guest Speakers

- a. US Soccer Vice President Cindy Parlowe addressed the Region, requested support for her candidacy for Vice President and answered questions:
- b. Cindy Spera and Kenny Farrell of NPSL introduced themselves and gave an update of their league.

10. Good of the Game

Dave Laraba (WV) encouraged all to attend the Safe Sport presentation by US Soccer.

Tony reminded all to continue promoting their leagues & teams and to send articles to USASA for their web site.

Prior to the adjournment, Tony announced that states need to pick up their AGM packets for the General Council meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 11:27.

Scott Mapes
Secretary
USASA Region I