

Minutes approved at Winter meeting on 1/24/2012.'

WSLA Fall HS Membership Council Meeting | TOPS library | 10.11.2011 | 7:00PM

Meeting called to order by President Bruce Reid at 7:00pm.

President's Report (Bruce Reid): Introductions. Bruce recognized outgoing board members Jamie Asaka, Jessanne Allen, Talia Klein, and Claire Merrill for their years of board service and contribution to the growth of girls lacrosse in Washington state with flowers and certificates of appreciation.

Financial Report – 2012 Budget: Treasurer Jessanne Allen provided a copy of the proposed budget for 2012. Team fees will be \$1200 for all levels (V/JV) for 2012, based on 12-14 games during the season.

USL report (Dave Low): Dave is the current president of the WA chapter of US Lacrosse. The chapter is looking for more representation on the girls' side. They are currently looking for some board members/volunteers; VP, grant program chair, championship coordinator. Their grant program helps new programs in particular; applications should be up on their website later this week. (<http://www.uslax-wa.org/grants.html>) The chapter got a grant from national USL to help programs provide trainers at practices and games through Children's Hospital. Programs can apply for a grant of up to \$200 that they can use to hire a trainer at \$25/hour. Level 1 coaches clinic happening either Nov 19 or Dec 3; he'll circulate info as soon as it's confirmed. Chapter is putting together a "mini convention" on January 28, 2012. Venue TBD, along with more information. Looking for a venue in Seattle-- if anyone has any ideas on a potential location please contact him (email is dave.low@uslax-wa.org .) Jack Emmer will be keynote speaker. (Three tracks of info: mens, womens and then sportsmanship, media, CPR clinic, etc) USL will continue to try to spearhead the WIAA petition on both the girls and boys side. They may coordinate a Level 2 coaches- clinic in January. Trying to coordinate two college games for next Fall (2012) – high-level D1 teams for mens/womens. It will be a huge financial commitment to do; we all need to help support by helping get attendance up and the entire lax community to turnout.

WWLUA report (Tsering Short): Tsering is the HS rep for WWLUA. (Email is yuthokshort@comcast.net). WWLUA put together a task force that met over the summer; she thanked everyone who participated. Information gathered is being analyzed and they'll be putting it into action for 2012. Thanks to coaches who completed feedback forms – they've been reviewed and will be used in umpire training. Training will be January 29 and Feb 1, 2, 2012 (Seattle for returning officials, Gig Harbor and Eastside for new officials).

WSLA Strategic Vision Status Report and Presentation (Kate Roper): Kate is current Youth/MS President. She has been working with the HS board over the summer to determine the future direction of the league in the immediate and long term. Kate's projecting over 5000 kids involved in lax over the next couple of years. With USL changes in rules/checking, etc, level of play will continue to increase. With explosive growth comes uneven playing/skills. WSLA is a very mixed league with school, ASB and club programs that all have different focuses, but we (league) needs to have rules/guidelines in place that work for everyone. Kids want more opportunities to play (year round) as well as in college. League wants to work on being more consistent and reliable in rule interpretations, etc. – board needs to become more proactive and anticipate growth rather than react to it. In ten years we'll most likely have over 10,000 players in the state of Washington. We'll potentially

have HS, youth and possibly recreational play – as well “elite” or club play needs will have to be addressed. We need to have a strategic vision, organizational structure, financial plan and additional umpires to be able to support this amazing growth.

What is our #1 priority? Board feels that stable growth of the sport is top priority, and should shape all of our decisions. WIAA admission should not be the top priority—it will still be on our radar, but not at the top. We need to integrate youth and HS programs. Out of season rules need to be completely reinterpreted; we’re committing to have a draft by January 2012 to present that will go into effect post season 2012. Handbook needs to be updated as well. We may also need to look at program structures – number of teams allowed to accommodate growth. We need to establish ourselves as a 501c3 organization. We need to establish a league organizational and financial structure that is stable – this is also a high priority.

Comments: Lance Gatter (Bellevue AD) commented about being cautious about year round play (pitfalls include some school districts will not allow this and will withdraw from WSLA – like Bellevue). He does agree with WIAA not being top priority as he feels that we are a long ways away from success with the petition. Brad Schock (Wenatchee) agrees, but wants board to remember that eastern WA has different issues than western WA.

Other comments: Thanks to the board for tackling the growth issue and trying to formulate a vision and a functional plan. Has the board gotten info from other states programs? (*Yes, we’ve reached out to other states in similar situations (including Oregon, Colorado and Texas), but we do need to have a preliminary plan to know what questions to ask.*) Coach mentorship would be appreciated. Make sure that we structure in season to work really well before we tackle out of season. Sue Haviland (Overlake) summarized: Board wants to address all of these concerns/opportunities for growth and bring them together in our strategic plan so that we address it all in one cohesive fashion.

High School Realignment Presentation (Jason Hennig): Jason presented two potential league structures for the 2012 season; our goal is to create stable structure that supports growth without having to restructure each year. (*Jason’s powerpoint presentation is available for download on our league website (www.wslax.org) under the WSLA Mtg Documents page.*)

Option A: One varsity league, five divisions with 6-7 teams each for 2012. Support growth to 10 teams per division. One JV league with two divisions, 9 teams each for 2012, expanding to match Varsity League as JV teams expand and potentially add a JVC league when there are enough teams.

Option B: Retain two varsity leagues (D1/D2) with 6/7 teams in each division and one JV league. Support growth to 10 teams per division. (Similar to 2011 season with some slight changes to team placement.)

Vote was done by voice roll per program: *Option A:* 24 votes. *Option B:* 9 votes. Two programs not present and did not vote. **Option A is selected for the 2012 season.**

Vote count by program:

Programs voting for Option A: Ballard, Bellarmine Prep, Bellevue, Bellevue East, Bethel, Curtis, Eastside Catholic, Forest Ridge, Garfield, Gig Harbor, Highline, Holy Names, Kennedy, Lake Sammamish, Lakeside, Nathan Hale, Overlake, Puyallup, Roosevelt, Seattle Prep, Snohomish, Spanaway Lake, Tacoma, Vashon.

Programs voting for Option B: Bainbridge, Graham-Kapowsin, Issaquah, Klahowya, Lake Tapps, Mercer Island, North Kitsap, Tahoma, Wenatchee.

Programs not present: Evergreen, Mukilteo.

By Law Amendments: President Bruce Reid presented six proposed amendments to the WSLA Bylaws as circulated to all programs via email prior to this meeting. (See the proposed amendments on the website (www.wslax.org) under the WSLA Mtg Documents tab.) Amendments include changing HS board structure to include a position for Immediate Past President, hiring of a bookkeeper for the HS and Youth leagues, in addition to clarification on some of the duties of the HS Executive board. Sue Haviland (Overlake) asked that the “Immediate Past President” position not be limited to only being held by the past President. If that person becomes unavailable she would like to ensure that we fill the position with a past board member to insure consistency and that there will always be someone on the board that will have had some history with WSLA. Bruce agreed to change “Immediate Past President” to “Immediate Past Board member” (or something similar). All six amendments were passed by consensus.

League Handbook – Proposed 2012 changes: We have many changes to make, but will start with some main areas that the board commits to completing by January 2012 (to present at Winter meeting.) These will include:

- Increasing number of exhibition events that teams can participate in season to four
- Reporting requirements of exhibition events by teams – clarification.
- USL membership requirement for all players/coaches/parent reps in league. Bollinger claims that we need 100% participation for board to be covered.
- League fees for 2012: \$1200 per team.
- One of the Seattle programs has requested alignment based on where the player resides rather than where they go to school, citing carpooling and increased team bonding, etc as reasons to make this change. Board will consider this and how it will work in other districts.

Scheduling: New league scheduler was introduced – Brian Hultz. (bchultz@comcast.net) Brian reminded programs that he would be circulating scheduling questionnaires soon and to please complete them quickly (due date will be November 15, 2011).

Board Elections (Bruce Reid): Bruce presented the slate for this coming year's officers:

President: Jason Henning

Immediate Past President: Bruce Reid

Vice President: Lyn Porterfield

Secretary: Craig Wickstrom

Treasurer: Beth Lancaster

Division reps: Based on option A we would have five division reps from Varsity and one from JV. The board will appoint those positions asap.

Slate was voted in by consensus.

Championship and Jamboree (Jason Hennig): We need volunteers!!!!!! Let Jason know if you are interested yourself or know of others who would be good candidates to help us coordinate these very important events.

Important date reminders: See end of minutes for upcoming events. HS Board meets monthly, usually first Sunday, locations TBD. All are welcome, but please alert Jason if you plan to attend as our locations tend to change.

Announcements: Oct 23, Team USA clinic at Eastside Catholic HS. See WSLA website for more details: www.wslax.org

Meeting adjourned at 9:12PM by newly elected President Jason Hennig.

Upcoming meetings and events:

HS Membership council meetings: January 24, 2012 June 5, 2012.

US Lacrosse Coaches Clinic: November 19, 2011 (tentative)

US Lacrosse WA Chapter Coaches Convention: January 28, 2012 (location TBD)

WWLUA Umpire clinics and New Rules Interpretations/Scorers and Timers: January 29, February 1 and 2 (Locations TBD.) See www.wwlua.org for more details.