

NCJLA board meeting, Wed. March 17, 2010
The home of Betty Hartog in San Francisco

Present: President Betty Hartog, Vice President Todd Samet, Treasurer Tony Grzejka, Don Aiello, Jeff Mills, Rus Sherman, John Fensterwald (secretary).

Reporting by phone: Mickey Parmelee, Girls Director Kristine Wollam, Boys Director Blake Abbate

Meeting began at 7:15 p.m.

Action: Minutes of Feb. 17 and telephone board meeting of Feb. 24 were passed unanimously.

Highlights of Treasurer's report:

Cash and receivables: \$467,903

Liabilities: \$11,973

- **Net assets as of 12/09/09: \$445,929**
- **85 percent of referee and tournament fees and additional money owed by member clubs has been collected, with \$36,000 outstanding. Clubs still owing:**

Bret Harte, \$550

Central Marin, \$5,390

City: \$2,830

Folsom: \$4,025

Fremont: \$300

Granite Bay: \$4,120

Livermore: \$3,430

Monterey: \$32,290

Palega: \$960

Rancho: \$4,970

Redding: \$2,485

San Jose Vipers: \$5,740

Santa Cruz: \$530

Sonoma Country Day: \$1,400

Stockton owes \$180 in play day fees

Action: On motion by Tony, seconded by Rus, *At the end of season, clubs that have not paid their obligations in full will be required to pay the past due balance, plus all anticipated fees for the following season before they can register teams the following season. Passed unanimously.*

Agreement by the board: Don Aiello, who has spent dozens of hours of his own time setting up the Web site, making scheduling changes and handling duties that the executive director would have handled, will be paid \$25 per hour, up to \$2,500/month, out of money that had been appropriated for the executive director's salary. Board members expressed appreciation to Don for stepping in to fill the vacuum created by the unfilled position. (Secretary's note: NCJLA would have been up the creek without his help.)

Girls Play Day at Treasure Island:

53 of our 82 teams – 65 percent -- participated in the league's first event at Treasure Island. That was slightly less than budgeted for. Event expenses: \$12,664; income: \$10,819 for deficit of \$1,845 with fees still to be received from two vendors. Reports from participants at the event, including referee trainers, were very favorable.

Tony expressed the view that NCJLA should sell T-shirts and beverages only and let vendors sell all other times. Kristine will propose a fee schedule for vendors for future events that may include higher fees for prime real estate nearest high traffic locations. The league will also investigate corporate sponsors at major events.

Accounting services:

After discussing proposals to take over payroll, books and taxes with three accountancy firms, Tony recommended contracting with Complete Tax Solutions based in Burlingame at an annual cost of \$6,300 plus Quicken Books subscription at \$21 per month. The firm will do payroll twice each month, all other payments by check, quarterly and yearly filings and maintain the books and do tax returns. First employee payments will be in May.

Action: *Motion by Tony, seconded by Don, to approve a contract, as described above, with Complete Tax Solutions for \$6,300 per year. Passed unanimously.*

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Girls Director's Report:

- Amy McCleary of Stick With It Lacrosse, has requested that the League register and advance registration fees for the U-15 and U-13 national festivals, since she will not be getting income until after tryouts are held. This would be consistent with past practice by the League.

Action: On a motion by Tony, seconded by Rus, the league will advance \$2,600 to cover the registration of two U-15 and U-13 festival teams, with reimbursement to the League by June 1. Kristine will handle the details. Future advances will be done on a case by case basis. **Passed unanimously.**

- **U-15 Championship team:** The league received two proposals, one from Coach Rick Jeffries and one from Triple Threat, led by Noemi Hites and Dearborn David, to select players, train and lead a U-15 girls team to the national competition. Both proposals, by respected coaches, were within \$100 per player of each other (Jeffries \$1,500 and Triple Threat \$1,400). Jeffries led the team last year with good reports from parents and players. Neither proposal included the \$1,500 registration fee covered by NCJLA.

Action: On a motion by Rus, seconded by Tony, to approve the selection of Rick Jeffries to lead the U-15 tournament team under the condition that he supply a list of evaluators with a fair representation

within the League and reimburse the League for registration fees. Kristine will coordinate with Rick. Rick will also notify CIF teams that age-eligible ninth graders can try out for this Nor Cal team. **Passed unanimously.**

- **Request for exception to policy prohibiting playing down an age group:**

A petition for a U-13 player to play in U-11. She is new to the sport; there is no U-13 team, and she misses the age deadline by less than two month. **Motion denied on 2-6 vote.**

- Kristine noted the problem created by two U-11 teams dropping out. She will have to reschedule a division, a time-consuming task. There was a discussion about additional fines for teams that withdraw past the deadline in January, but no vote was taken.

Boys Director's Report:

Blake reported that the playoff schedule would be posted by Monday, March 20.

- **Request for exception to policy prohibiting playing down an age group:**

Action: The board voted 6-1 with one abstention, to permit a 14 year old from Redding, small in stature, with a mental handicap, to play on U-13 for safety reason. The coach has agreed to play him in the X position. The board received letters from the coach and the boy's father.

- **Report on playing down without permission:**

Blake received information that two youths who should be playing on Central Marin's U-15 A team are playing down on the U-13 without the NCJLA board's permission. There has been no application for an exception. Applications should include the height, weight of the player, petition from the parents with supporting documentation from a physician and coach.

Blake will certify if the players had played without permission; the board will take disciplinary action if needed at that point. Meanwhile, Blake will notify Central Marin that the players should not be playing.

John suggested that special requests to down must be proposed a week before the board meeting preceding the first game of the season, with full documentation in hand. No vote was taken on that suggestion.

- **Clarification of U-15 Travel team.**

Blake and board members had received queries from coaches and parents regarding the board's vote to allow age-eligible ninth graders, including those on CIF teams, to try out for the U-15 National travel team. This follows U.S. Lacrosse's decision to permit 9th graders who are under 15 to enter the tournament. (Two years ago, at John's and Rus' instigation, the NCJLA won the right to have girls high school club players to compete with CIF players for the national high school tournament teams representing California.)

Board members asked Blake to clarify the board's position: The NCJLA does not subsidize this event, and the league will be reimbursed for registration fees to reserve a team. The NCJLA has not paid coaches' stipends, and all costs will be funded by players. The team will represent Northern California not the NCJLA.

- **New boys' commissioner for high school.**

Action: On a motion by Jeff and seconded by Todd, the board **unanimously voted** to replace Mike Messersmith with Ben Hewitt, coach of Casa Grande.

Don Aiello web site update

Don, who has been handling numerous responsibilities with the new web site and registration, reported that by the end of January, 2,200 games were scheduled. In February alone, there were changes to 385 games, only 10 percent of which were rainouts.

By mid-March, there were an additional 402 changes. The number of the changes and hours it has taken to make fixes reinforces the need for a web person to do this work.

Don also re-emphasized that clubs must supply rosters as requested, with the first name, last name, address or e-mail address (preferable) of each player. This is needed to get a unique roster profile for every player – a critical function. As has been the policy, the NCJLA keeps all e-mails private and will not provide addresses to any third parties.

Sportsmanship incidence forms

The board adopted the incidence report, as written by Kristine and edited by Don. It will be posted online for immediate use by clubs. The information will provide documentation to the board in cases where action is warranted.

Action: In coming weeks, Todd will merge the U.S. Lacrosse grievance/sportsmanship form with the NCJLA form for the board's consideration.

Information on ejection procedures: In cases where players and coaches are ejected, copies of the umpires' report should go to the board president and the respective boys or girls director, who should also pass a copy to the division commissioner. The league should keep a record of the ejections by name and club.

Unsportsmanlike conduct incidents: brought to the attention of the Board.

- 1) U15 Novato and Central Marin: two players ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct.
- 2) U15 Elk Grove and Folsom a serious altercation led to an ejection. Folsom has indicated that it would remove the JV coach.
- 3) JV Orange Vale-Yuba City 2 ejections. One from each team
- 4) JV Folsom 2 ejections

Job descriptions of NCJLA staff

The search for a new executive director will begin in earnest this spring, with hopes of hiring that individual by late May. Before then, the board will review job descriptions, pay and time commitment of all paid staff in coming months: executive director, boys' director, girls' director, webmaster/data person. Don and Betty will take board members' suggestions and present a draft in coming weeks. The board may hold a mini-retreat to discuss staffing needs in mid-April.

Central Marin letter

At its Feb. 24 meeting, the board voted to send Central Marin a letter regarding the status of one of its coaches and the NCJLA recruitment policy. The board's letter stipulated that families of Central Marin were to receive a copy of the letter as well. Betty will contact Central Marin's president to remind him of that obligation.

Having met for three hours and gratefully consumed Betty's corned beef and cabbage and dessert, board members adjourned at 10:15 p.m.