

## **2014 Northeast Region Minutes**

**Commencement of the meeting by the Chairman, Tom Beebe at 1:10pm**

Date: Saturday, November 15, 2014

Place: Hampton Inn, Mystic, CT

**Clubs in attendance with full voting privileges were as follows:**

Plainfield FSC

Roller Kingdom, Hudson

Roller Kingdom, Tyngsboro

Carousel SC, Fairhaven

All Star SC, Whitman

Beverly SC

Silver City

Ron a Roll SC

### **Approval of the 2013 Minutes**

1<sup>st</sup> motion to accept: Heidi Permatteo

2<sup>nd</sup> motion to accept: Charlene Conway

### **Election of Officers (2 year terms)**

Nominations for Vice Chairman were:

1. Heidi Permatteo
2. Lynn Cassio

There are two Vice Chair positions. Heidi and Lynn will be co-Vice Chairs.

Nominations for Chairman were:

1. Jodee Cohen
2. Larry Schillberg

Jodee accepted her nomination. She stated that she is enthusiastic and has a new found love for the sport that she would bring with her if elected Chairwoman.

Larry accepted his nomination, stating that it would be hard to live up to Tom's legacy. He stated that he has been in this sport for his whole life as both a coach and competitor, and he has professional experience working with people in a leadership capacity.

Ballot #1: 6 Jodee, 3 Larry

Jodee Cohen is elected Chairwoman.

Nominations for Treasurer were:

1. Monica Delvy

Monica accepted her nomination and will remain NEUSARS Treasurer.

Nominations for Secretary were:

1. Roberta Delvy

Roberta accepted her nomination and will be NEUSARS Secretary.

**Treasurer's report prepared by Monica Delvy was read and accepted**

1<sup>st</sup> motion to accept: Tom Beebe

2<sup>nd</sup> motion to accept: Larry Schillberg

Topics of Discussion were:

- Request to send thank you card to Chris Roemer for donating her expenses to scholarships
- Charlene Conway made a motion to increase annual scholarship fund to \$1000, which was seconded by Heidi.
  - Charlene made a motion to allocate \$2500 from the general treasury to a separate scholarship fund. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jodee. Motion carried.
- Monica Delvy discussed the region's contributions for World Team members, which is currently \$500. How should we determine how much we give them?
- Charlene made a motion to set up World Team Travel fund set at \$2000. All were in favor.

#### **Update from the National Board Meeting by Heidi Permatteo, coaches rep.**

- Heidi discussed strategic planning for USARS and issues that happened with roller Derby
- USARS working closely with RSA. Want to figure out a way to budget better and increase income.
- Membership: make it easier for new coaches – develop a mentoring program
- Discussions of how USARS can be more accessible when people search online for skating instruction.
- USARS will be implementing a \$100 protest fee, because of overuse. \$200 fee to appeal if you lose.
- Sports committee is given more authority; Board wants to have more streamlined communication
- Premier qualifications are changing: skaters only need to remain non-placement/non-participating for 2 years instead of 3 (for Gold)
- Premier Silver age is changing to 45
- Top ¼ of skaters in Creative Solo are considered finalists for the purposes of no longer being able to return to B
- CIPA figure events: will be skated in 2 parts with minimum 2 hour break between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> groups
- Jr Precision skaters may also skate Novice Precision (up to ¼ of the team)
- Tom Beebe discussed the problems with videoing the Board meeting, this was not recorded for legal reasons as it was determined to be a liability issue
- Heidi further discussed the proposal of a Great Sticker program to be instituted by the national office. They are working on re-branding and making a merchandising program. Troubles updating the website design since it is run by USOC.
- Proposals approved at the coaches rep meeting:
  - Make C events unofficial so regions run their own beginner program
  - Increase sliding scale in A events (B stays as it is, add one more for A)
  - You can only skate A or B at nationals. If you kick someone out they can take the place so no one will be left home, effective this year
- There was discussion on the pros and cons of removing C and the new rules for A and B, and what would be best for building the sport.

#### **Update from the 2014 Regionals at Ron A Roll in Vernon, CT**

Monica Delvy thanked everyone who helped make the contest run smoothly. Janet Jordan stepped in to help when it was needed and the meet ran well despite a few glitches. She thanked Larry Schillberg and Robin Orcutt for help with announcing.

### **Update on the 2015 Regionals at Carousel in Fairhaven, MA**

Dates: June 26, 27, 28 2015 (Pre-Regionals will be April 24-26, 2015)

Host Hotel: Hampton Inn at special rate of \$89/night for Pre-Regionals and \$129/night for Regionals  
Confirmed judges to date are: Bill Spooner, Marian Spooner, Sylvia Haffke, Verna Quaranto, Nathan Daniel, Perry Jones, and Robin Orcutt

- A discussion was initiated about looking for a chief referee – Christine Roemer has not been able to be contacted yet. Tom Beebe will be the meet director and Bill Spooner should be able to be Chief Ref if Christine cannot come.
- The topic of out-of-region judges was discussed. Cost is a factor, but with 2 figure panels, you would need at least 4 out of region judges to have a majority of judges out of region. John Mullen asked what about using in region judges on World Class events (would want 4 out and 1 in instead of 3+2)
- There was a discussion about whether this is enough judges, but the point was made that the judges expect to be working the whole time when they agree to judge a meet. There was a call for more in region judges to volunteer.
- Charlene suggested someone else in the region get their meet director commission, specifically naming Jeff Seidel, who already has his C commission.
- Discussion of Gold Medal Test Center: will be at regionals on the Friday before Regionals after the official practice

### **2016 Bid for Regional Championships**

One bid presented by Anthony Daponte

Silver City, Taunton, MA

Region run meet at \$1200/day rink rental fee

Date: the last weekend in June

Pre Regionals will not be Easter Weekend.

- Discussion about region vs operator run meet: Charlene mentioned how certain problems in the past led her to only have operator run meets. In the past she found there was little consideration for her rink and staff when the region profited so greatly.
- Anthony asked if Charlene still had to go through the judges committee to select her judges for the meet. She said she deferred to the selection committee which currently consists of John Viola, Angie Lasher, Diane Gagnon, and Tom Beebe (to be replaced by new Chairman Jodee Cohen) to select judges.
- Charlene suggested inviting judges for 2016 Regionals ASAP since they are asked to do other regions so early in advance.

### **2015 Invitational Competitions**

- Memorial Day Contest, Roller Kingdom Hudson
- Thanksgiving Weekend, Silver City

### **New Business**

#### **1. New Requirements**

- Bob Wilson brought up the need for some rules to be set up. Figure sports committee should send a list of meeting minutes and what was voted on to members within 30 days so we can

look and give feedback to a coaches rep so the region has more legitimate input and more say.

- John Viola mentioned that if we had had the information on new division requirements earlier it would have been a lot more helpful.
- Discussion about after seeing competition at Pan Am Championship of Clubs in Florida – other country’s federations have much harder requirements and this is why the USARS requirements changed, but we should have had a little more notice about the drastic changes.
- There was discussion about how the US differs from other countries in many lifestyle aspects
- Bob Wilson made a proposal to send a letter to the figure sports committee requesting meeting minutes. Dee Dee Viola 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor, 0 opposed

## **2. Regional Challenge Plaques**

- Discussion over a plaque that was not returned by Silver City which prevented a skater from All Star from receiving her plaque at the 2014 Regionals. The current bylaws state that there is a \$100 fee if a plaque is not returned
- There was a discussion about how to handle missing plaques and increase accountability for clubs as well as helping John and Philomena Mullen with their duties as they are in charge of the plaques.
- Who is responsible for the plaques? Rinks or skaters or clubs? Charlene stated it is the region’s responsibility to keep track of the plaques, rink operators cannot be held responsible.
- We should try to return as many plaques to the next Regional site by Pre-Regionals and create some sort of excel file to better keep track of plaques.
- Suggested sending out reminders to clubs in advance to make sure plaques are all accounted for.
- Charlene called the question to stop the discussion on the plaques.
- John Mullen stated that this was the only plaque not returned in the past two years and it really isn’t such a big problem.
- John Mullen made a motion to propose that all new plaques are kept under decided upon dimensions so they are all the same size. Ken Perkins 2<sup>nd</sup>.
  - Discussion: Dee Dee Viola said it should be up to the person donating the plaque
  - Jodee suggested implementing maximum dimensions and no longer allowing trophies.
  - Beth Seidel suggested asking kids which they would prefer and mentioned that lots of kids look forward to skating the harder A and World Class divisions for the chance to win one of the larger trophies. They have a lot of history.
  - Heidi called a vote for implementing size requirements on plaques. Does not pass, will stay as is without size requirements.
- Jodee made a motion to increase the penalty fee from \$100 to \$250. Bob Wilson 2<sup>nd</sup>. All were in favor.
- Jodee proposed an addendum to her motion: if the fee is not paid within 30 days the club will not be able to receive any awards at the next Regional Championships.
  - DeeDee said we just all need to be more aware
- Charlene makes a motion that the fee for not returning plaques by May 30<sup>th</sup> of the skating year is \$250. Bob Wilson 2<sup>nd</sup>.
  - Discussion: DeeDee said this if fine except what about some clubs that can’t attend any contests in the region except for Regionals
  - Charlene removes her motion.

- Final discussion and remarks: we should all try to bring back plaques by Pre-Regionals and raise the assessment fee to \$250 if the plaque is not returned by Regionals

### **3. Building the Sport/New Beginner Program**

- DeeDee asked how will we as a group have a future and how can coaches better interact with their rink operators? We need more classes, promotions, and to support each other. The rink operator needs to see financial growth
- Larry Schillberg asked if we still have SRSTA coaching program. It was mentioned that Pat Jacques had previously passed a motion to lower the rate of membership to \$40, and Charlene suggested that all coaches have both SRSTA and USARS certification.
- Ken suggested a joint meeting with RSA Section 10 and NEUSARS to form a panel. Charlene said she sent out information for the Section 10 meeting to everyone in the region and very few attended.
- Jodee and Heidi started a discussion on how to have a better internet presence by updating the website and having more newsletters and better informations from coaches and for coaches to share ideas.
- Chrissy Cassio made a motion to nominated KC Perkins for the new position as head of Social Media and Information Technology Committee. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Charlene. All in favor.
  - Roberta Delvy and Heidi volunteered to help KC with this.
- Jodee proposed a new idea for a traveling seminar program where all clubs in the region get together every month or every other month for instruction together.
  - Diane Gagnon asked if there would be separate time for coaches and skaters. It was decided that this can be done on a case by case basis but seminars would be designed to help both skaters and coaches.
  - Anthony Daponte suggested having just one big camp. This was a possibility.
  - Sue asked about the possibility of video conferencing these seminars for those who cannot travel.
  - Charlene suggested picking a date for the first seminar soon because rink operators book parties early.
- Bob made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion rejected.
- Heidi made a motion to institute the traveling seminar program, which was approved.
- Heidi also proposed her idea for a new beginner program in the Northeast. Doesn't require an amateur card, just a \$10 assessment fee per skater per contest to cover the cost of the sanction (would need 15 skaters to break even at this fee)
  - Divisions: Intro is 1<sup>st</sup> year, Sub is 2<sup>nd</sup> year.
  - Heidi will "police" to make sure people are in correct division.
  - Sept 1 will count as new season.
- There was discussion about the fact that the RSA already has a good test program. Argument that this doesn't introduce skaters to competition though.
- Suggestion that this is just a 1 year program and the 2<sup>nd</sup> year is based on proficiency. There seems to be too many beginner events and not enough skaters to make this happen. Should we just have Intro level and then move to C?
- Bob Wilson said we should just try this new program for a year. Jodee said skaters will be Intro for 1 year of competition, Sub for the next year and then we should eliminate C at Regionals so after Sub they are ready for B.
- Charlene made a motion to eliminate all C events at Regionals and institute the new beginner program. Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by Chrissy and approved.

- Monica asked what the fee will be for beginner events at Regionals. This will have to be decided.
  - We will also have to figure out what to do with kids that have already been skating C. Just put them in the most appropriate divisions and use best judgment.
  - Jodee said they will redo the events so everything has the right name of the divisions
- Heidi made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jodee 2<sup>nd</sup>. Meeting adjourned at 4:15PM.