

## Illinois Water Polo Meeting Minutes for January 13, 2019

### Attendance:

Kyle Perry – President

Elizabeth Timmons – Secretary

Carlos Ceja

Jeff Plackett

Chris Cloy

Tom Musch

### 1. Opening comments – Kyle Perry

- A lot of the organizational stuff has been taken care of in 2018. Looking forward to advancing the mission of IWP in 2019!

### 2. Treasurers Report – Ron Biamonte

- Will have budget update for the next meeting in March for everyone but Kyle will get the report from 2018 in the next few weeks.
- The last few checks that still need to be deposited, for both IWP and scholarship fund, should be deposited this week.
- This means that all money that has been written to IWP should be in the bank by the end of the week and all revenue will be reported for March meeting.

### 3. Board of Directors Report

- Board of directors did not get the chance to meet yet so they will meet before March meeting and compile information to give to IWP members at March meeting.
- In the future, the goal would be for the Board of Directors to meet and prepare their report before the January meeting.

### 4. Reports:

#### a. All State Banquet – Carol and Elizabeth

- We have Tuesday, May 28th set for the banquet at Diplomat West (Elmhurst).
  - Can we request that there are no other events on that day? We have requested this in the past, but we will ask again to see what we can do about this.
  - We've kept the ticket costs to \$25 in advance (with telephone, email commitment) or \$30 for walk-ins we don't expect. Because of the cost of the meal and the fact that most people will reserve tickets in advance, we are planning to increase the walk-in price to \$35 to help cover all the award costs.
  - We want to encourage officials to participate in the banquet more (see below for ideas). We would like to promote the banquet to officials early so they can RSVP and we can get an idea of numbers since the families that will attend generally do not RSVP until they know All-State Selections.
- With awards, we are looking to recreate our IWP logo since we do not have any original copies of the logo. At this point, we have a copy of a copy of a copy so it is difficult to use and transfer onto awards or send out.
  - Does anyone know where the original logo came from? Is there a special significance to it that would warrant keeping it as it is and just re-doing it so we have an original document to use?
  - In the future, we want to store the design on Google Drive so we can avoid not having access to the original document.
  - Kyle is looking into prices for creating a new logo.

- Jeff Plackett is going to open up options by going to the NC graphic design/art classes to see what students can come up with for us. These options will be brought to the March meeting.
  - Very soon, we will be creating a new pay-pal account and replacing the old one.
    - This would allow us to take payments for the banquet online as well as through the mail.
    - This also opens up doors for fundraising opportunities as we could use this for donations.
  - We want to have more officials in attendance at the banquet. IWP knows that it is good for coaches and kids to see them as people as well as officials. This event would encourage socializing between coaches and officials which often doesn't get to happen during the season. This is an important social gathering for ALL involved in water polo and we want everyone to attend and feel welcome. Here are some ideas to encourage more officials to join us:
    - Bring the Mike Murphy Award back to the banquet
    - Could we honor refs that have a certain number of years of service? Similar to HofF people where we ask them to stand and be recognized so we can provide acknowledgment for their hard work.
      - Could we read off the names of all the officials?
      - It would be nice to provide recognition for first year officials.
        - Perhaps they could receive a water bottle from Lively Bottle?
        - This could also be done to recognize those that have significant years of service.
    - Provide an opportunity for coaches to honor officials, like the Stelnicki award. Coaches have the opportunity to nominate an official and a vote will determine the winner.
      - It is extremely important that there are established guidelines for this award to avoid bias. While we want to recognize their work, IWP does not want to promote favoritism between officials and certain teams.
    - Could we have an early price for them if they register by a certain date?
    - Ask Perry for any ideas that he might have about officials' attendance at the banquet.
  - We are planning to do the water bottles as the awards for the All-State Players again this year.
    - When the Board of Directors meet, they will discuss this and see if there are any other ideas.
    - The Board of Directors will also be discussing and creating an annual budget so that the officers know what can be spent each year on awards. At the time the banquet started, there was an excess of funds and IWP was looking to use the money to promote the organization. Currently, there is not enough fundraising to continue with expensive awards for the long term so we need something sustainable.
- b. All-State Banquet booklet organizer- Heather Serrano
- Heather is excited to get this project underway and is already working on soliciting donations.
    - Please promote the opportunity to donate to coaches, officials, players, parents, etc.
  - While she has the template from the past several years, there are a lot of changes that are made each year so she has begun the process of creating the booklet for this coming year.
- c. Player Recognition – Chris Cloy
- Nothing to update at this time. Chris will continue to work on the process of player recognition and will be sending out emails throughout the season.
- d. Photography – Tom Musch
- Please make sure to promote and direct traffic to Tom's site for photos. These photos are what's included in the All-State Banquet slide show so the more teams that send in photos, the more teams get included in the slide show.
  - Coaches should send out the link to the parents at the beginning of the season to promote this. Maybe Chris Cloy can send out a mass email during the first week of the season so coaches have the website address to send out easily.
    - For any teams hosting a tournament, put the website info on your program to help promote!

- When submitting photos, the only real information needed is which team is black and which team is white.
- e. Fundraising – Kyle Perry
- Dave Perry Classic Tournament – November 2018
    - 11 teams participated and each team was asked to give an extra \$25 to go directly to the scholarship fund. IWP received a nice donation from this tournament as almost every team participated.
  - For the fall age group leagues, AWP increased the cost to include a \$25/club donation for IWP.
    - This will continue for all leagues, but the summer league was already doing this. Cost for entering the leagues will increase slightly because of the added donation.
    - This will help create some continuous money coming in for IWP.
  - Scholarship Awareness Week will be hosted again this year by the MCAC.
    - There will be a flyer sent to coaches that can be handed out to parents with scholarship information.
    - Teams can participate however they would like – ask for donations, charge admissions, chuck a duck.
    - Other conferences can participate in this as well.
    - All coaches should ensure that all of their eligible players are applying for the scholarship.
  - Dave Perry is being inducted into the Fenwick Hall of Fame in April 2019. We would like to tie in some IWP events with the celebrations that Fenwick are doing.
  - Coaching clinic at Stevenson in December.
    - About 40 coaches in attendance and there was great feedback about the presentation and discussions.
    - We are hoping to do another clinic in the fall of 2019.
    - Cost for coaches went to pay for accommodations for Marcelo Leonardi (Michigan Womens' Head Coach) and the rest of the revenue went to IWP.
- f. Referees – Perry Korbakis
- Perry is always looking for new officials to contact. Please encourage anyone that you think might be interested to reach out to Perry.
    - High school graduates who are attending local colleges or home from college are good people to encourage.
  - Clinic at Fenwick on January 26 & 27.
  - Officials training tournament at Fenwick on February 8, 9, & 10.
- g. Website – Jesse Zien
- Last 30 days we had 548 sessions by 481 users with 959 page views with 1.75 pages per session on average and a bounce rate of 67.7%.
  - Last 90 days we had 1,822 sessions by 1,491 users with 3,436 page views with 1.89 pages per session on average and a bounce rate of 65.15%.
  - We continue to see solid traffic even during the cold winter months.
  - The annual site hosting renewal will come up shortly and the costs will be communicated once we have the exact numbers from GoDaddy. Jesse doesn't expect to see a change from last year's cost.
  - Jesse recommends adding an SSL because not having one does hurt search rankings. He will have pricing for this available for the March meeting.
  - There is a major update for the website that needs to be applied. Jesse was testing it and planning to push it before the Officials Meeting on 1/27. The IWP site will be down for an hour during the update and would be longer if the update doesn't go as planned. I will notify Kyle if the outage extends past a few hours.
- h. Hall of Fame – Jeff Wimer
- Nominations are always accepted and are added to the running list for the Hall of Fame.

- Jesse and Kyle are working on updating more bios on the website.

## 5. Liaisons Report

### a. & b. USWP Liaison – Midwest Board Members Present & ODP - Tim Daniel

- Tim is currently in NC for the ODP Regional Camp (1/12/19-1/13/19)
- Big update is that the schedule was adjust for this year so the National Championships will take place on March 2 & 3 instead of the weekend of the state swim meet.
  - Allows our athletes to not have to decide between the two events. Water polo players who attend will only miss a weekend of practices because no games allowed at that time of the water polo season.
  - While this change is beneficial for us, it may not be permanent. This is a good move for our athletes this year.

### c. College Programs Liaison – Laura Coffman (Carthage)

- Millikan University (in Decatur, IL) is adding Division III boys and girls water polo for 2020-2021 (about 18 months from now).
  - This is a unique opportunity for Illinois water polo players who might want to attend a school closer to home.

### d. Chicago Park District Liaison – Beto Garcia

- Nothing to report at this time.

## 6. League Updates – Jesse Zien

- Jesse is very excited about taking this over and is currently working on the summer schedule.
- Kyle has provided Jesse with the cost structure from previous years and he has most of the information he needs.
- At the March meeting, Jesse hopes to have a more extensive report that will include drafts of the emails to be sent out to teams, a cost structure and formal plan for the league.
- A question arose about game schedules at the meeting: Is it possible to have games on Wednesday night instead of Thursday night?
  - Kyle said this information needed to go on the form that is sent in by each team about the summer league.
    - There will also be a coaches questionnaire about the leagues at the end of the each season.

## 7. Old Business

### a. 2018 Year in Review

- This is something that Beto has started to put together but it is not finished yet.
- The goal is to highlight what IWP has accomplished and done for water polo in Illinois.
- Items to get included:
  - Millikan starting a program
  - IHSA champions
  - Illinois teams that participated in the National States Challenge (NSC) and include recognition for the winners or highest placing teams from IL in each age group.
  - Recognition of the top teams from Illinois that participated at the USAWP Junior Olympics tournament.
  - Information about ODP and what Tim is doing, including recognizing Illinois players that are participating.
- Goal is to have this online before our next meeting so that it can be discussed and approved by the members of IWP.

### b. Springfield Water Polo – Tim Caldwell

- Tim has asked to help with this.

- They want to have a league but right now we are not sure how we can help them get bodies in the water.
  - They feel like a league would help to initiate more commitment from players.
- IWP wants to encourage this so there is more water polo outside of the Chicago pocket. Having a program in Springfield hopefully would encourage other schools around there to start programs too.
- c. IWP Coaching clinic – tentative March 2 & 3, organization awareness, and fundraiser 2019
  - Location would most likely be at Fenwick.
  - Speakers to include:
    - Orthopedic surgeon who specializes in shoulder issues.
    - Local coaches who are willing to present on topics.
  - This would be one day only, with a minimal cost and most likely a social gathering after.
  - In addition to helping coaches and promoting IWP, this would be a small fundraiser for IWP.
- d. USA Water Polo and the Chicago Bulls
  - March 3<sup>rd</sup> was the original date discussed but nothing from USAWP has been finalized
  - If this does go through, the clinic would be only one day and not on the same day as the Bulls game.
- e. Aquatics Night at the Chicago Wolves
  - Similar situation to the Chicago Bulls event.
- f. Alumni Clinic at Fenwick this past weekend (January 12 & 13)
  - Windy City hosted a clinic run by the Alumni Water Polo Club (includes many players from USC) from California.
  - Occidental Head Coach and Long Beach State Assistant Coach came in for the clinic. Both schools have received some good players from Illinois in the past so the coaches were excited to look at the players in attendance.
    - There is an Illinois water polo player currently at Occidental.
  - The current starting goalie for Pacific was one of the athletes who worked with our players.
  - All kids that attended had a lot of fun so the goal is to run this again in the future.
    - November's clinic last year had better turnout but we moved the date this year to not conflict with the Azevedo clinic that was running on that weekend.
  - IWP is hoping that coaches will encourage their players to participate in these opportunities in the future.
    - In addition to coaching and teaching skills, the clinics often offer some collegiate counseling about how to get in and what to look for when applying.

## 8. New Business

- a. 2019 Meeting schedule: Sunday, March 10 7pm, Sunday, April 14 7pm, Sunday, September 15 7pm, and Sunday, November 17 7pm.
- b. Girls team - Greenwich is coming to Illinois this spring during water polo season and looking to play games
  - Coaches need to remember that games can only be scheduled if this is a high school varsity team.
- c. Jolyn has new reps for our area now.
  - Alyssa Turza: Alyssa.turza@jolynclothing.com OR 708-805-9709
  - Alexis Jones: Alexis@jolynclothing.com OR 847-849-3712
  - These are very easy fundraisers for women's programs. The representatives take care of almost everything and the school/program gets a kickback of 10% of all the sales that day.
  - IWP has received several donations from Jolyn through their school fundraisers for both IWP and Dave Perry College Scholarship.
- d. College Recruiting Talk – Jeff Plackett

- Sophomore and Junior student athletes would be the targeted audience for this talk. Any seniors that have not committed yet should attend as well.
- Laura Coffman (Carthage College) will be there to discuss topics as well.
- This is for players, parents and coaches.
- This event took place on January 28<sup>th</sup> and emails were sent out to all coaches to help spread the word.
- There is a similar talk that takes place at Stevenson High School (DO WE HAVE A DATE FOR THIS?)
- One of the goals of IWP for the future is to have monthly clinics for about 1 hour to discuss a specific topic. This would be helpful and welcoming for new coaches and a way to keep everyone engaged throughout the year.

9. Next meeting will be at the Fenwick Library: Sunday, March 10 7pm

10. Closing Comments & Adjournment

- Meeting ended at 8:45pm.