

Illinois Water Polo Meeting Agenda for September 15, 2019

Attendance:

Kyle Perry – President
Beto Garcia – Vice President
Elizabeth Timmons – Secretary
Rose Wimer – Board of Directors
Carlos Seja – Board of Directors
Jeff Plackett – Board of Directors
Tim Daniel
Jesse Zien
Nicole Lum
AWP Representatives - Damon Newman and Dan Sharadin

1. Opening comments – Kyle Perry
 - AWP College talk was great! A lot of people and still going on.
 - Windy City Water polo/Fenwick trip to Australia
2. Treasurer’s Report – Ron Biamonte (not in attendance)
 - There is no Treasurer’s report at this meeting.
 - Still working on finalizing all payments from the All-State Banquet
 - Dave Perry College Scholarships have been sent to the schools.
 - o going forward going back to July 1st deadline next year (KP was traveling this year)
 - checks have all been deposited as of now as well (scholarship checks from April)
 - hoping to have an update by November meeting
 - need a new person to fill this job
3. Board of Directors’ Report
 - Will meet in November (30 min) and present some direction for IWP at the January meeting for the direction of IWP.
4. Reports:
 - a. All State Banquet – Elizabeth Timmons
 - Based on count and money collected, everyone who attended also paid.
 - One goal is to create a business account on PayPal for a nonprofit.
 - o This could be something for the new treasurer to do as they get started.
 - If this is accomplished, 2020 could be the first year that we can add online registration.
 - Looking at dates for next year, we would like to make sure we are the only event at the banquet hall.
 - o Elizabeth will be calling to see what is available.
 - o Tuesday, June 2nd or Thursday, June 4th
 - Also want to figure out the cost/plate for 2020 banquet.
 - a2. All-State Banquet booklet organizer- Heather Serrano
 - Kyle and Heather have discussed the details over several phone conversations and Heather is looking forward to taking this over on her own for 2020.
 - Coaches will be hearing from her soon so that the information is out there.
 - o In the past, a lot of schools took out ads and IWP is hoping to more of those ads in the next few years.
 - Please help promote this at your school, club, organization, etc to help increase fundraising through purchasing ads.

- b. Player Recognition – Chris Cloy
 - Chris is planning to continue this again for the next season.
 - In addition, he is looking for information from coaches to update the coaches' directory for the next season.
 - o Please send Chris any information about coaching changes so we can keep the directory up to date.
- b2. Photography – Tom Musch
 - Tom is planning to run his photo site again for the 2020 season.
 - IWP is grateful for his hard work and wants to congratulate him on a great job with the slide show at the banquet.
 - IWP is planning to use some of his photos for the IWP website to refresh what's up there currently.
- c. Fundraising – Kyle Perry
 - Based on what Kyle knows about money sent in, IWP met what was given out for the Scholarship and hopefully more.
 - In addition to regular donations, coaches/ref clinic, summer leagues, Lively Bottle (water bottles) and Jolyn have also contributed to fundraising.
- d. Referees – Perry Korbakis
 - Perry had no updates other than his reminder that we always need more officials.
- e. Website – Jesse Zien
 - Last 30 days we had 680 sessions by 556 users with 1,216 page views with 1.79 pages per session on average and a bounce rate of 65.00%.
 - Last 90 days we had 2,332 sessions by 1,806 users with 4,351 page views with 1.87 pages per session on average and a bounce rate of 64.79%.
 - In addition to regular traffic, we continue to see growth in volume.
 - At this time, IWP is ready for more information to put on the website.
 - Soon, IWP will need to do a hosting change when our website is up for renewal
 - o This is partly because the price structure of the company has changed.
 - Ideas for what to add:
 - o A section for sectional scores
 - o Anything noteworthy about Illinois Water Polo (articles, photos, etc)
 - o Creating an instagram instead of twitter. Some feel that Instagram is more relevant to kids these days and might be checked more often than Twitter.
 - As long as a school allows it, games could be streamed to the website.
 - Last year, we were looking at experimenting with posting schedule on IWP website.
 - o In the end, IWP never followed through because of so many changes and we didn't want anyone to be in the wrong place or at the wrong time.
 - o In addition, tournament schedules were not posted because often had coaches' personal information (cell phones and emails).
 - Next year, maybe IWP could send out email to AD and coaches to get a schedule without this information so the file can be posted and information can be used by players and parents.
 - This email could also include a little introduction to Jesse so that sending schedules and updates to him would become commonplace over the next few years.
 - If you hear of or know anything that is interesting about water polo in Illinois, send it Jesse

g. Hall of Fame – Jeff Wimer

- Nominations are always taken and added to the running list of candidates.
- Here are the guidelines for a nomination;
 - o Individuals may be nominated representing three categories: Athlete, Coach and Referee.
 - o Athlete: Any person who distinguished themselves in the field of Water Polo during his/her playing career. The nominee must have graduated High School at least 10 years prior to the date of nomination.
 - o Coach: Former head coaches who last coached five or more years prior to the date of nomination. Current head coaches who have been a head coach 15 or more years or who have won two or more State championships prior to the date of nomination.
 - o Referee: Referee must have refereed 15 or more years prior to the date of nomination.
- Please send nominations to Jeff Wimer at jwimer@d125.org

5. Liaisons Report

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

- Asked to have information emailed out to all through the coaches' directory and the event this weekend was great, including the 14U camp today.
 - o Sadly, there was not an 11U camp because the price was not marketable here at this time
 - \$90/3 hours
 - o Tim is working on getting this to be more affordable so we can see more player development at the lowest levels.
- Next up is the zone ID camp on first weekend of October.
 - o Dejan Udovicic is coming out.
 - o Tim is still working on schedule to make sure all athletes get time in the water and get to work with the coaches coming in for the event.
 - He is hoping to build in 3 separate clinics for each group to get Dan to all athletes
 - o Host sites are Stevenson, Conant and Hoffman Estates High Schools and registration is happening now.
- November
 - o The first camp in St. Louis will take place and athletes must attend this or zone ID.
- January
 - o The Midwest staff has been increased this year.
 - o USAWP is hoping to work in a clinic for officials with zone ID
- Midwest Elite League
 - o This is a new league for high school teams outside of the AWP run league.
 - o The league will be hosting tournaments every other weekend through November.
 - First weekend tournament was a success.
- February 8 & 9
 - o Looking into running a clinic for coaches and officials, not athletes.
 - o As of right now, this event is tentatively at Conant.
 - o Hannah Meyer is also working on this (and the Midwest Elite League above)
 - o Someone will be looking into if it is possible to get credit with IHSA.
 - o While there would be a registration fee, the clinic is open to all coaches and officials and it is not a requirement that you must be a USAWP member to come.

c. College Programs Liaison – VACANT

- Kyle is planning to reach out Ryan Castle at Carthage to see if he might be interested in the position.
- Please reach out to Kyle if you know anyone who might be interested in this position.
- d. Chicago Park District Liaison – Beto Garcia
 - Summer Wrap up:
 - o 11th year of Women’s League (only in Midwest)
 - o 6 locations running - south side, north side, central
 - o 6 teams to JOs - 12U boys/girls, 14U boys/girls, 16U boys, 18U girls and all except one made the championship division
 - worried about the new ID requirements for travel -> worried this will hurt their numbers

6. League Updates – Jesse Zien, Kyle Perry, and American Water Polo

- Fall League:
 - o This year we had 3 levels: 14U, 12U and 10U
 - o For this year, AWP saw the largest number of 14U teams.
 - o As we move into the future, more teams we can continue to get into the group.
- The AWP high school league going on as well right now for boys.
 - o The first games took place this weekend.
- American Water Polo – Damon Newman and Dan Sharadin
- CWPA wants to have more players in college with current structure, there are 1000s of kids who are not being reached to know there is a place they can play.
- 51 NCAA, about 150 clubs for men
- 67 NCAA, about 160 clubs for women
 - o AWP is wondering if this big group of players not continuing to play is because of a lack of understanding of the collegiate club system.
- To be able to reach more athletes, AWP is asking coaches to give them the contact info of graduating seniors so they know where these kids are going and can reach out to help them join a program or create a program if there isn’t one at their school.
 - o If the college doesn’t have a program, AWP will provide forms and walk them through the steps of getting a club started, help with recruiting players and provide equipment and a mentor team.
 - o The goal of this program is to get more of those players who might not feel gifted enough to play at the varsity level or don’t have a club continue to play.
 - o This will help IWP because these players will stay in the system and could come back to be coaches or officials after they are done with college.
- This will be a benefit to players as well since coaches send names and emails, AWP sends contact info to the coaches at schools where the players are going to increase the chance of communication between players and the coach/team leader.
- AWP is working to get more schools to start teams in new locations, especially the Midwest.
 - o Sadly, the last few schools they started working with couldn’t find coaches that stay. The school wants to start a program because they get tuition from players coming there.
- This has led some schools to think about dropping their program because it’s so tough to find a coach.
- The bottom line is that at all levels of water polo, we need more coaches.
 - o For these positions, schools are looking for people willing to move to where the job is and stay for several years.

- General consensus is that those just getting started after graduating would be best because pay is average.
 - For example, Urbana pays \$38000/year but the coach could run camps or clinics and start an age-group club to supplement (possibly even double) that.
 - Also, the places where these schools are located often have low cost of living so the salary is a reasonable amount of money.
 - Some schools will allow coaches to take masters classes for free and/or provide housing
 - For example, Utica has a grad assistant position. This person is the head coach of the water polo team and can take grad classes for free and is provided housing.
- AWP will provide mentorship by connecting any new coach with an experienced coach.
- The added tuition is what is most important to these schools, not just a winning record.
 - The last 7 schools that added a program with CWPA / AWP's help did it simply for tuition.
 - This means coaches are more responsible for coaching and recruiting. They would be released for not bringing in 20 new girls/boys. A coach would not be released because they didn't have a winning record.
- One of our biggest challenges is to get the information out there. We need to make sure people coming back to coach in our programs know about these opportunities.
- AWP has developed an **Alumni Initiative**.
 - They travel to and speak with graduating seniors in all Varsity and Club teams in CWPA. They encourage these graduating players to do one of 4 things:
 1. Become a mentor
 2. Become a coach
 3. Become a referee
 4. Give financially back to your institution
- Damon also discussed the desire of AWP to help develop more quality coaches (at all levels).
- In 2020, AWP is hoping to have 3 clinics to help improve the quality of coaches and have education for coaches in our area.
 - Major details are still being worked out but maybe about 8 hours each.
 - Topics include:
 - Offense
 - Defense
 - Special teams (6 on 5, 5 on 6, counter attacks, penalties)
 - Timeframe and topics can be adjusted to our needs so we need to communicate what coaches in our area would like to see.
 - Another possible topic could be sport psychology and reaching the players that we currently have because this becoming more important each year.
 - There was also a discussion about maybe shortening the days to make it more accessible because people already give so much of their time to water polo during the season.
 - AWP will need the help of IWP to spread the word to make sure that coaches come to these.
 - If there is a cost, part of it could be a fee that goes right to IWP, so this would work as a fundraiser of IWP.

- If we work to get someone with a big name to come and help run the clinic, there would most likely need to be a cost associated with this.
 - Clinics would include classroom and water components.
 - Right now, AWP is looking for dates that might work for coaches in our area.
 - Concern about sending out a survey is that there might be very few if any responses.
 - We are planning to discuss this in November and looking to put 3 dates in 2020 calendar
 - Possibilities include the first weekend of season, mid season and after the season.
 - Wondering if there is a way to get people to get CPDU credits.
 - ISBE needs to be contacted about this and Carlos is looking into this.
- AWP really wants this to be about coaches' education.
 - Currently there are a ton of free resources on their website that include many basic skills good for novice coaches. They have also recently developed a coaches' certification.
- Question was brought up about doing something similar for officials.
 - In the past, Ed Reed, Scott Volt, and others have come up for the yearly clinic that AWP runs for the officials.
 - AWP is also looking into doing an officials clinic teamed up with Azevedo when he runs his player clinics.
- AWP Leagues:
 - Please remember that the leagues are here to serve us (coaches and players in our community). It is very difficult for them to do this when the surveys that go out to improve the leagues are not filled out. This means feedback is not received and we can't work together to find solutions to problems.
 - For example, there is a current frustration from coaches over forfeiting.
 - We need to remember that coaches set up rules for the league and AWP will adjust the rules based on coaches' requests.
 - This way we can all work together to find an appropriate solution.
 - AWP does not want to be painted as not caring about people not showing up for games but the coaches in the league need to have a discussion to change or develop rules to address whatever is frustrating them.
- AWP needs more feedback from us about what needs to change. By sharing with them what we want to change, AWP will help formalize the process and implement whatever is necessary.

7. Old Business

a. Dave Perry College Scholarship

- There was a brief discussion about the scholarship and issues with sending out checks this year.
- The board of directors will discuss this before the November meeting and then more information will be present at the November IWP meeting.
 - Kyle will send an email to set up the board of directors meeting and let everyone know what needs to be discussed.

b. Thank you to all our sponsors at the all-state banquet and all those who helped Illinois Water Polo this past year. A special thanks to Zumo.

- -PRINT SPONSOR: Zumo

- -GOLD SPONSOR: USA Water Polo
- -SILVER SPONSOR: Gruszczycki & Smith Law, LLP
- BRONZE SPONSORS: Lyons Aquatics, Fenwick High School, Windy City Water Polo, Trend 365
- IN-KIND SUPPORTERS: Classic Design Awards, Inc., Liberty Creative Solutions, Lively Bottles, Zumo
- SPECIAL THANKS TO ZUMO who sold towels and bags at the banquet and they gave a free suit to the 2 players of the year

8. New Business

- a. 2019 Meeting schedule: Monday, November 18 7pm. 2020 meeting schedule will be announced at the November meeting. Elections will be held at our November meeting. The two positions that are at the end of their two year cycle are: Vice President (currently Beto Garcia) and Treasurer (currently Ron Biamonte). Nominations for Treasurer and Vice-President will be accepted at the meeting. If any of our liaisons or committee members are not interested in staying on for another year, this should be made known tonight so that replacements can be found.
 - Nominations:
 - o Beto for VP
 - o Treasurer – At this time there are no nominations but we need find someone because Ron can no longer have the position. Please reach out to anyone with a financial background to see if they are interested in becoming our treasurer.
 - We are also looking for someone to fill the College Liaison position. They are in charge of getting the senior list to send to AWP or a current coach that can let us know what is happening in the college world of water polo.
 - Please email nominations to Kyle (kperry@fenwickfriars.com)

9. Next meeting will be at the Fenwick Library: Sunday, November 17 7pm

- Meeting has been moved to Monday, November 18th @ 7pm because of a conflict with the Bears game.
- This means the schedule might move any nonessential stuff to December meeting because the November meeting is a weeknight and we need to do elections.

10. Closing Comments & Adjournment

- Please email nominations and we will see you in November.