

## Illinois Water Polo Agenda for September 18, 2017

### Attendance:

Kyle Perry – President  
Beto Garcia – Vice-President  
Elizabeth Timmons – Secretary  
Jesse Zien  
Chris Cloy  
Tim Daniel  
Perry Korbakis  
Rob Lindgren  
Fernanado Gamboa  
Carol Macola  
Marianne Perry

### 1. Opening comments – Kyle Perry

- There is a lot of good water polo going on in Illinois right now.
- National States Challenge was hosted by the Chicago Park District at Portage Park and Windy City Water Polo at Fenwick High School this past summer.
  - o This was a great high level tournament (teams from seven different states) hosted here and Illinois teams took 1<sup>st</sup> (Vulture), 3<sup>rd</sup> (CPD) and 4<sup>th</sup> (WCWP). Kingfish from Pennsylvania was 2<sup>nd</sup>. On the girls' side, Southside took 1<sup>st</sup>. Kingfish (PA) and Excel (PA) were 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. DUWP finished 4<sup>th</sup>.
  - o Many Illinois players were selected to the the all tournament team.
- Players Illinois high schools have sent off to colleges are making their mark. Iona's Brett Hofer (Andrew '17), IWP's Dave Perry Scholarship awardee, recently scored three goals in a w in over Connecticut College. Bucknell's Kyle Poland (Fenwick '17) earlier this month went up against UCLA's Matt Farmer (Fenwick '13); UCLA won.

### 2. Treasurers Report – Ron Biamonte (absent)

- Scholarship money has been sent and received.

### 3. Midwest Water Polo and Aquatics Association Executive Board Report – Rick Marsh, Garrin Kapecki, Jeff Wimer, Sally Stelnicki, Perry Korbakis

- Nothing to report at this time.

### 4. Reports:

#### a. All State Banquet – Sally Stelnicki (absent)

- Tentative date for the banquet is May 29<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday after Memorial Day).
  - o This is about 10 days from the state tournament (May 17-19).
  - o Location is still the Diplomat West as it is centrally located and has parking for all.
  - o Need to do more advertising and reaching out to coaches and parents to increase attendance. We also need to improve on getting coaches to see the importance of the event so they encourage their players to come, especially those who were selected to third and fourth teams.
  - o Need to find out from Sally if we have enough room to grow to add in all of the All-Sectional players as well. This is a goal moving forward to recognize that accomplishment as well.
    - For All-Sectional attendees, could we have token (keychain, sticker, etc) so they walked away with something to show for their accomplishment?
- All-State Banquet booklet organizer – VOLUNTEER NEEDED
  - o This person would be responsible for all facets of the banquet booklet.
    - This includes all updated from the previous year and being in contact with the printer. Kyle will help with this.
    - This includes getting word out regarding the ad and sponsorship program, collecting forms, payment, and advertisements for those who want to place ads. Kyle will help with this.
  - o We are hoping that more Hall of Fame members will participate in ads as the Hall of Fame website gets updated.

- IF YOU KNOW OF SOMEONE WHO WOULD BE INTERESTED IN THIS POSITION, PLEASE HAVE THEM CONTACT KYLE ([kperry@fenwickfriars.com](mailto:kperry@fenwickfriars.com)) ASAP.
  - This would be a good resume builder for a recent college graduate, but all are welcome to volunteer!
- b. Player Recognition – Chris Cloy
  - Chris will continue to work on this.
  - The idea was brought up of going back to in-person All-State Voting. The discussion was based on the idea that it is easier to not participate if you only email and lack of participation hurts other schools' players, not your players.
  - IWP will create a survey regarding the current process.
  - All-Sectional voting would still be emailed.
  - Even if a change is made, this is a topic to constant revisit every few years to see what works best for participation.
- c. Hall of Fame – Jeff Wimer (absent)
  - Always looking for nominations.
  - Nominations are always accepted and nominees are added to the running list. Nominees are never removed from the list.
    - Deadline is usually a few months prior to the banquet for a nominee to be considered for that year.
  - Currently 16 bios on the website for Hall of Fame members and hoping to have at least 20 by the end of 2017.
- d. Fundraising – Kyle Perry
  - i. Lively Bottle – LaGrange Park
    - Lively Bottle is run by Gary Radville, a member of the IWP Hall of Fame.
    - Currently 10% of all water bottles sold through the IWP portal will be donated back.
    - Discounts are available for team orders.
    - This is IWP's official water bottle partner until 2020.
  - ii. Sugar Beet Food Co-op Beet Bucks Program – Potential fundraising idea
    - Information: <http://sugarbeetcoop.squarespace.com/new-page-8/>
  - iii. Tread365
    - Future opportunities to fundraise with them?
    - Going forward, they will create the All-State Team Balls to be handed out to All-State players at the banquet.
    - Last year, they were a banquet sponsor.
  - iv. Jim Caliendo
    - Suggestion to bring him to the next meeting to discuss how he has raised so much money over the last few years in Jane's memory.
    - Difference for IWP vs. his work will be that we don't have a set community to work with for fundraising as we work with all of Illinois.
  - v. India Hicks and Jolyn
    - Both of these opportunities made a few hundred dollars for the Dave Perry College Scholarship, and we would like to take advantage of them again in the future.
- e. Referees – Perry Korbakis
  - The Columbus day tournament hosted by Tim Daniel will also include a referee clinic.
  - Illinois is always in need of more officials so please send anyone who might be interested in becoming a ref to Perry.
- f. Communications – Position Vacant – VOLUNTEER NEEDED
  - Lynn has done a fantastic job as our communications liason but must step down at this time. Thank you Lynn for your service!
  - The duties of the Communications Liason include:
    - Finding information about water polo action in Illinois or events that Illinois teams are participating in (example: high school girls' teams heading to Floriday over Christmas break for games). to be shared on the website.
    - Researching pertinent water polo events for inclusion on the website and to highlight all of the water polo opportunities for Illinois players.
    - IF YOU KNOW OF SOMEONE WHO WOULD BE INTERESTED IN THIS POSITION, PLEASE HAVE THEM CONTACT KYLE ([kperry@fenwickfriars.com](mailto:kperry@fenwickfriars.com)) ASAP.

- This would be a good resume builder for a recent graduate, but all are welcome to volunteer!

g. Website – Jesse Zien

- Website numbers over the last last 90 days

- 2,086 sessions, 1,570 users, 4,030 page views, Bounce Rate 65.34%, Organic Search lead to 900 visitors, 1.93 pages / session, page load time down to 4.44 (from 6.21).
- High Traffic month was May with 5,025 visitors.
- We are #1 position on Google for Illinois Water Polo with a 61.4% click through rate. Top 10 for most searches related to water polo in the area.
- Now that we have this information, we can push advertising, especially during periods of heave access to the website.

h. Photography – Tom Musch

- Remind parents to send in photos so they can be on the website, in the banquet book and in the banquet slide show.
- Currently IWP website connects with Tom’s website so it’s easy to submit and access photos.

5. Liaisons Report

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

- June 15-17 is the Midwest Qualifier

- Location is in St. Louis for the boys.
- The girls teams have not had a qualifying tournament in the last few years because of cost.

- June 23-24 is the College Showcase.

- Location is Conant and Hoffman Estates.

- ZIT (Zone Identification Tournament)

- October 7-8 (Columbus Day weekend).
- Same weekend as the Champions Qualifier Tournament for 14U division.
- Location is Stevenson (Mundelein will be used if more space is needed).

- There is no 18U champion. All teams are guaranteed 4 games and the schedule will be out shortly. This way travelling teams can plan accordingly to travel home.

- There will be a college recruiting discussion as a part of the weekend.

- Please send any feedback about this tournament to Tim Daniel so he can continue to improve it each year.

- Discussion about 14U development in Midwest.

- In a recent Midwest Zone Board conference call, there was a discussion about the development of 14U programs in the Midwest.

- Currently there are minimal age group clubs in OH, MI, and St. Louis area.

- The USAWP Midwest Board would like to see more development of players at that young level.

- How can IWP help?

- The discussion continued to what parents and players get for their financial contributions to join USAWP or AWP.

- Qualifier tournament is extremely expensive (\$500 entry fee) for just one weekend of games. Coaches were interested in how that money was helping to build the sport here in Illinois.

- What can the coaches tell the parents that they are getting for that fee?

- National team coaches do come out to participate in these USAWP tournaments, so that is a perk for players so they get exposure to high level coaches.

- Players are eligible for ODP through a tournament like the ZIT or an ODP camp.

- Bronze membership is required to participate and silver or gold are required later depending on if you are selected or not.

- Currently USAWP is having a sale so if you buy your membership now, you will be good for all of 2018 too.

- There are also financial aid options – contact USAWP.

- In helping run our leagues, AWP provided all participating clubs with a money in and money out analysis so we can see how money is being allocated and quickly address any issues that might arise. Can USAWP events do the same?

c. College Programs Liaison – Ryan Hall - McKendree Water Polo Coach (absent)

- McKendree just started playing their season.

- This position is so someone can give us an idea of what is going on at the NCAA level.
  - He is invested in improving Illinois water polo players because he would like to recruit many of them.
  - We should see some more from him at the next meeting after the season has gotten more underway.
- d. Chicago Park District Liaison – Beto Garcia
- No Senior Men’s summer tournament this year.
    - o Only 5 teams confirmed so the tournament got dropped.
    - o Next year, more information will go out about it and the tournament will run again.
  - 10<sup>th</sup> year of the Senior Women’s Summer League.
    - o There are usually between 6-9 teams participating and Windy City Water Polo won this year’s championship.
    - o Next year, the goal is to extend it another week or two and have only 2 games per week.
  - National States Challenge was a success hosted at Portage Park.
    - o Joe Grisbeck was an amazing announcer and dj that kept the energy up with his commentary and good music.
    - o Weather held out so all games ran.
  - Women’s Midwest Open is still growing and getting better each year.
    - o 8 teams this year and they are still looking for more teams.
    - o Next year, they are looking to bring in outside referees instead of having the park district referees work.
  - CPD sent 4 teams to JOs.
    - o Two 14U boys’ teams.
    - o 12U girls’ team
    - o 14U girls team
6. League Updates – Rob Lindgren
- See attached document from Rob Lindgren
7. Old Business
- a. By-law update, review, and discussion.
- Copies of the new by-laws were distributed at the meeting. In case you didn’t attend, they are also attached to this email.
  - Please read the by-laws and come with revisions at the next meeting or email Carol Macola (c\_macola@hotmail.com) or Marianne Perry (perrym606@yahoo.com).
  - Remember this is a working draft so we need changes.
    - o This document must include the mission statement and description of what IWP is today, detailed job descriptions for each position and information about the timing of elections.
  - What else do you think the by-laws should include?
8. New Business
- Upcoming Clinics and Tournaments
    - o Fenwick High School will be hosting the clinic run by the Alumni Water Polo Club on November 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>.
      - Flyer will be sent out so people can register.
      - Designed for high school boys/girls and 13 and 14 year olds.
    - o College Water Polo Tournament will be hosted at Naperville North on November 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>.
      - Competitive Women’s tournament including local teams (WildCats) and traveling teams from Toronto and Carthage.
9. Next meetings: Monday, October 16 & Monday, November 13 at Fenwick 7pm. At the November meeting, the president hopes to provide a meeting schedule which will consist of all 2018 meeting.
10. Closing Comments & Adjournment