

Illinois Water Polo Meeting Minutes for 1/26/20

Attendance:

Rose Wimer – Board of Directors
Carlos Seja – Board of Directors
Jeff Plackett – Board of Directors
Perry Korbakis – Board of Directors
Kyle Perry – President
Beto Garcia – Vice President
Heather Serrano – Treasurer
Elizabeth Timmons – Secretary
Tim Daniel – Liaison

1. Opening comments – Kyle Perry

- IWP would like to welcome our returning Vice-President and newly elected Treasurer as we kick off 2020.
- The Year in Review has not been completed yet so Kyle and Beto will be working on that for the next meeting.
 - o Please send them anything that is exciting and worthwhile about water polo in IL, including information about:
 - Who won state championships
 - Teams that competed in Turbo Cup
 - Teams competed in JOs
 - o The goal of the Year in Review is to highlight and touch on all levels of water polo in IL.

2. Treasurer's Report – Heather Serrano

- The Treasurer's Report is attached to the meeting minutes.
- Heather has had an exciting first few weeks including opening a new bank account with Chase (the bank she works for) so we now have a private banker and are treated as a company there.
 - o Interesting side note that the US national team was at a Chase in New York at the same time.
- The financial numbers in the report are as accurate as possible in terms of what is coming in and going out currently.
- At this time, we still need to add in the amount from the old account and the plan is to transfer that soon as we close out that account.
- IWP now has PayPal and Zelle accounts that are ready to take money. This should help with the banquet and any other fundraising opportunities.
- At this time, the biggest increase in income comes from the summer club that IWP runs.

3. Board of Director's Report

- The Board of Director's discussion centered around Coaching Clinics, Officiating Clinics, Fundraising and Parental Involvement that would help get the IWP name out there.
- The board has created a Google doc of ideas they are working on and discussions about what IWP should be doing.

4. Reports:

A. All State Banquet – Elizabeth Timmons

- The date will be Wednesday, June 3rd at the Diplomat West in Elmhurst.
 - o Kyle, Heather and Elizabeth will take a look at expenses for the banquet (awards, certificates, backpacks, etc.) and then decide price from there based on attendees.
- There was a discussion about the awards to hand out to All-State Athletes.

- What can we do if someone gets on for a second year and is anyone interested in keeping track of that?
 - Will reach out to Chris to see if that is something that is possible
- What can we do with extra awards that we will keep for the next year? Perry has storage for extra awards so that should not be a problem.
- IWP needs to come up with 4 awards based on number of years you were awarded All-State.
- Award options that were shared are backpack, water bottle, ball, towel, engraved pen, trophy of some sort, sweatshirt, patch for your backpack after the first year.
 - We will need to narrow down the list, but this year would be year 0 so all awards would be the same. We would change to different awards starting next year so we have 4 years to finalize the 4 gifts.
- Using PayPal and Zelle will cause IWP to lose a little money on the banquet to fees for those organizations. This is our first year to see if people still pay cash or choose to use PayPal or Zelle instead.
- Jesse will be working on opening a page on the website for people to sign up and pay, using event bright or evite (whichever can accept payments).
 - This could be used for fundraising as well.
- B. All-State Banquet booklet organizer- Heather Serrano
 - We are hoping to use Vendors (ex. Tread 365, Turbo, Speedo) to help sponsor the awards handed out at the banquet. In return, they would get an ad in the ad book.
 - This year, Kyle and Heather are going to try to reach out to coaches before the start of the season to get word out before we get going so we can hopefully get more parents involved as well.
 - IWP will also do more blasting of information as we get closer to deadline in May.
 - Hoping that if we get information out earlier, maybe schools can budget for it. This means maybe even trying to get word out in the fall so coaches can take the info to their AD and have it budgeted for before all money is already allocated.
 - Please do whatever you can to help make things come in earlier than the last minute. It is very difficult to put the booklet together at the last minute.
- C. Player Recognition – Chris Cloy
 - Nothing to report at this time.
- D. Photography – Tom Musch
 - Is planning to continue running his photo website for the 2019-2020 season.
 - IWP is hoping to get some new pictures onto the website to update it.
 - Be sure to remind parents to upload the photos to the website by giving them the information.
 - IWP will be sending out the website in all emails sent out to the coaches.
- E. Fundraising – Kyle Perry
 - IWP would like to do more in fundraising and raising awareness for the organization and what we do for water polo in Illinois.
 - If anyone is interested in helping with fundraising, please reach out to Kyle Perry
- F. Referees – Perry Korbakis
 - This past weekend there were 100 people at first IHSA classroom clinic.
 - Currently we have 105 registered officials, but only about 90 that will actually work on a regular basis.
 - Because of the number of games we can have on any given night of the season, we need to continue to recruit more officials. Please send the names of anyone you know that are interested in officiating to Perry.
 - This year's Officials' Training Tournament (Two Daves Tournament) is February 15 & 16 at Fenwick High School.
 - There will be a second classroom clinic for officials on February 23.
 - Perry is hoping to re-institute parents' night for the upcoming season.

- This used to be done all the time but then programs seemed to go away from it. This can be done for any coach that requests it through Perry.
- The goal for this year is to use this as an opportunity for coaches to connect officials to parents and also teach parents about working the table.
 - Heather has been working on a program to help explain officials to parents and there is a PPT that includes basic rules and FAQs from parents to help increase understanding and then also includes directions for working the table.
- The presentation is about 1 hour and eventually, we could move to have this online and available to coaches to use at their discretion.
- USAWP is looking to run a clinic working with Nick Cargola.
- American Water Polo
 - Would like to host 2 clinics for officials.
 - When would we want to do this?
- Videos and resources will be posted online for the season this year. These can be accessed through the IHSA website.
 - Resources will include good educational videos for:
 - Ordinary fouls
 - Exclusions
 - Penalties
 - Ball under

G. Website – Jesse Zien

- Jesse keeps adding events and information so now the calendar has become full of water polo events that involve IWP.
- Website statistics:
 - Last 30 days we had 676 sessions by 562 users with 1,420 page views with 2.10 pages per session on average and a bounce rate of 63.46%.
 - Last 90 days we had 1,801 sessions by 1,474 users with 3,492 page views with 1.94 pages per session on average and a bounce rate of 65.07%.
- Jesse is working with Heather to pay the bills for the website and email account. They are planning to set up the bills to direct debit the new bank account moving forward.

H. Hall of Fame – Jeff Wimer

- Nothing new to report at this time other than IWP is always taking Hall of Fame nominations for the running list.
- Please send eligible names to Jeff Wimer.
- Starting this year, we want to make the announcement of the recipients for the Hall of Fame earlier so that we can see greater attendance in their honor and maybe get a few ads for the ad book from their supporters.
 - Hall of Fame committee will now be responsible for selecting the Phil Stelnicki Award. This award was designed to be a lifetime achievement award so it should be for a long career (ex. Over 20 years of service to water polo in Illinois).

5. Liaisons Report

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

- Regional championships were in North Carolina on January 11th and 12th.
 - From our zone, each age group took 2 teams.
- ODP is trying to get their practice plans out so everyone can see what they are doing in the program.
- This year the national championship conflicts with the IHSA Boys' State Swim Meet. Tim is working hard to try to not have these two events conflict in the future.
- For this year, all coaching positions have been opened up for more transparency and to create a formal hiring process.

- There was an email blasted out that provided information about the application process.
- April 28-May 3, Indianapolis is hosting FINA Intercontinental Cup

b. Chicago Park District - Beto Garcia

- Currently starting their 14U and 10U winter leagues.
 - 14U has 29 teams playing at 10 locations.
 - 10U has 21 teams playing at 3 locations.
- This year, there is a 12U tournament but not a league. They are hoping to create a league next year.
- Senior men's league took place in the fall.
- Senior women's league is happening now in the winter season.
- It is looking very likely that the National States Challenge (NSC) hosted by AWP will come back to Chicago this summer.
 - They are possibly looking to use the weekend of 7/9 – 7/12 instead.
 - Regardless, AWP is looking for site for Friday night, so please let them know if you have the ability host or if there is a site you know of that is available on Friday night.
 - The NSC runs multiple sites to accommodate 10-16 teams at the 18U level for boys and girls.
 - Possibility for 14U teams to participate too.

c. College Programs Liaison - Ryan Castle (Carthage)

- On April 17-19, Carthage will host the Division III Championships for CWPA.
 - The NCAA Championship will take place on April 24-26.
- Augustana and Millikan adding programs for the 2021 seasons.
 - Augustana is building a new pool for this program.
 - This means these two schools will be looking for coaches which is one of the most difficult jobs to fill right now for AWP as they look to develop more collegiate programs.
 - Be sure to pass the word to anyone you know who wants to coach. This is an especially great opportunity for anyone coming out of college that wants to stay involved in the water polo world.

6. League Updates – Jesse Zien

- With USAWP doing the fall league, there is a chance that there could be a summer league run by USAWP as well.
- Even with the new league, IWP will continue to run the AWP league.
- This summer, games will be on Wednesday and Thursday nights with the league running from June 15th - July 27th. There will be a break for the 4th of July the week of June 29th.
- This information will get on the website once approved.

7. Old Business

a. Thanks to Rose for the successful coaching clinic this past December!

- This was huge success both financially for IWP and a great opportunity for coaches to learn.
- We hope Rose will continue to plan these incredible opportunities for Illinois coaches.

8. New Business

a. Chicago Blackhawks Host USA Water Polo!

- USAWP night at the Blackhawks Game will be on March 22nd at 6pm.
- There are still tickets available to be sure to check it out if you haven't already!

b. Wolves Game Aquatics Night

- The Chicago Wolves hosted an Aquatics Night on November 30th.
- The Wolves gave winter hats and swim caps out to all athletes.
- Water polo was minimally represented so we are looking for a bigger crowd next time, however there were many swim teams in attendance so the Aquatics Night was a success.

- c. Matt Farmer
 - Is currently playing with the national team and has played in Spain, Australia and Italy.
 - As the team prepares for the Olympics, they will be making their final selections. We will find out soon if Matt has made the Olympic team.
 - Good luck Matt!!!!!! We can't wait to see what you will do!
- d. February 8th and 9th clinic at Conant
 - Currently there are 70 coaches registered and registration is still open.
 - There are many good speakers and the topics will cover more than just offense and defense.
 - All coaches, but new coaches especially should be aware of this opportunity and ask their AD to cover the cost of attendance.
- e. Chris Cloy
 - IWP would like to have some wording added to the description of Coach of the Year to make sure all voting coaches know that winning state is not a requirement for receiving the Coach of the Year Award.
- f. Phil Stelnicki Award
 - Perry will start to work on the list of past winners so we don't give it to someone again.
- g. Current coaching positions available:
 - <http://illinoiswaterpolo.net/coaches/job-openings/>

9. Next meeting will be at the Fenwick Library: Sunday, March 8 7pm, Sunday, April 26 7pm, Sunday, September 13 7pm, and Sunday, November 15 7pm

10. Closing Comments & Adjournment

- Please don't forget that elections will be held at the November meeting for President and Secretary officer positions and two positions on the Board of Directors. According to the by-laws, a person needs to be at 3 out of 4 meetings to be eligible to vote or be elected to a position.