

Minutes of MSBOA Meeting

1/27/2019, Horgan Skating Rink, Auburn

ATTENDANCE

Board 25 – none
Board 26 – Dave Gustafson
Board 27 – Mike Hammond, Rich Antonelli
Board 28 – Mike Churchill
Board 30 – Brian Mikolazyk
Board 31 – none
Board 44 – Tim O’Brien
Board 54 – Peter Hansen, Ron Scarbrough
Board 95 – Jon Lowe, John Rafferty
Board 130 – Bill Boutilier
Board 152 – none
Board 175 – Nick Castellone
Board 208 – Larry Machione, Ron Martel, Rich Vitali, Babe Grady

Call to Order – Meeting was called to order by President Larry Machione at 9:58am. A moment of silence was held in remembrance of those who had passed since our last meeting.

Approval of Minutes – A motion was made by Mike Hammond to approve the minutes that were provided to the membership via email, seconded by Rich Antonelli. The motion was unanimously passed.

Special Olympics – Babe Grady spoke to the group in regards to the Special Olympics coverage for this year. First and foremost, Babe wanted to express his thanks to certain individuals who have gone above and beyond in assisting with coordinating coverage for the multiple courts and events. Babe mentioned Chris Devlin (Board 27), Mark Friedman (130), Ryan Gleason (95), Tim O’Brien (44), Rita Stokinger (54) and Rich Vitali (208) who have gone above and beyond with their support. For this year, the March dates are the 9th and 10th and every board except for 152 has courts they will be covering over the weekend. Babe is going to reach out to Board 152 to have them assist in certain locations where we may need additional support so that all 13 boards are participating.

Life Membership Committee – Chairman Mike Hammond reported that Rich Antonelli of Board 27 was selected by the IAABO Life Membership Committee to receive the award of IAABO Life Membership at the April meeting in Atlantic City. He asked that all boards who are considering a nomination for this year have the nominations sent to President Larry Machione by April 1st and he will get them to Mike so the Committee can discuss and present a recommendation to the MSBOA at our April meeting. Tim O’Brien spoke to the fact that in the past, some of the nominations have been incomplete. These need to be fully filled out, and complete with letters of recommendation, pictures and ring sizes of the nominees.

Nomination Committee – Chairman Jon Lowe reported that the Nominations Committee is looking for members who are interested in serving in the positions available. This year we will be nominating an Interpreter and a Secretary-Treasurer for 3 year positions, as well as a Vice President. Jon reported that all nominations are due by April 1st and they should be sent directly to him.

State Board Website – Secretary Mike Churchill reported that a few new updates have been added, including a list of Board Secretaries and Interpreters contact information, the revised minutes from the November meeting and the Agenda for today's meeting. Mike is still working on the list of MSBOA Presidents to be listed as well as the list of MSBOA Secretaries which is complete as there have only been three in the 40 years of the MSBOA. Larry asked if there was a need to keep the list of Interpretation Meetings on the front page or if we should put something else there. The group discussed adding a link for the Officials versus Cancer campaign, the Spring Meeting link from IAABO, and also a picture of Rich with a quick blurb about his Life Membership Award in April. These will be added and updated.

Treasurer's Report – The current balance in the checking account is \$9,875.02 and the balance in the Savings Maximizer is \$10,006.41. The Secretary reported on the expenses paid since our last meeting and will provide the MSBOA members with an email that itemizes this list for everyone's reference. The check from IAABO is still outstanding for the Fall Convention, and Donnie Eppley reported this was an accidental oversight on their part and it has been submitted to be sent.

Larry opened up to the floor to continue our discussion from November as to how the proceeds from running the IAABO Fall Meeting (\$7,800) should be spent. It was reported that last time we hosted in Myrtle Beach, we provided an offset of the MSBOA dues for the following year. With the state running just under 2,500 officials, we would be looking at approximately \$7,500 in revenue that would be offset if we did this. Other ideas that had been sent about were having a large State Board dinner at the Spring Meeting in April, setting the money aside for a future convention, or possibly using it to create a recruiting advertisement campaign.

A motion was made by Ron Scarbrough and seconded by Peter Hansen to use the proceeds to offset the dues for the 2019-2020 season, as this would have the most impact on our member boards. A friendly amendment was offered by Jon Rafferty and then retracted to be put into a separate motion. The primary motion carried unanimously and the Secretary will disseminate this information to each of the member board Secretaries. A second motion was made by John Rafferty and seconded by Bill Boutilier to have the State Board pay for a table for Rich at the Life Member Luncheon in April, which would cost approximately \$350. The motion carried by a vote of 12-2 with Peter Hansen and Ron Scarbrough voting against it, and Rich Antonelli abstaining. Rich will notify the Secretary who will comprise the 10 seats at this table so that we don't end up doubling up on payments for those people.

MIAA Update and Interpretation Session – Interpreter Bill Boutilier reported that the next MIAA meeting is scheduled for February 4th, and if there were any concerns that we would like the MIAA to address, to please send them along to Bill. He also reported that the MIAA would like to have a level of involvement with the Special Olympics in the state and is working towards that position. To that end, Bill asked that each Secretary please send a list of their officials that worked Special Olympics games to Babe Grady so that these officials can be properly recognized by the MIAA for their contributions.

John Rafferty spoke about the issues that have arose with some officials who are not getting their background checks done. John mentioned that he has done some research and that there is no Massachusetts State Law which requires officials to have this background check done, even though school contracted workers are required to. There is a legal distinction between being an independent contractor and a subcontractor as well.

The MIAA policy regarding background checks requires that officials who are working in the tournament games must have this check completed, but it does not require it for those who work regular season games. They do have a recommendation that officials who work are checked, and they leave it to the member schools to have a definitive policy to follow. The question was then raised that not all assignors use Arbiter, and how would those assignors be made aware of which officials

are certified. It was discussed that the onus falls on the assignor to make sure they are aware of officials having completed that check.

IAABO Rep Ron Martel – Ron reported that IAABO is advancing two changes to the Constitution that are simply wording changes to the Dual Membership policy. The changes will make the policy gender neutral, and these will be voted on in April.

Ron also reported that there has been continued tension between the leadership of IAABO and the Foundation, which is technically a separate entity. One of the major friction points has been their willingness to lend financial support to IAABO endeavors, such as the Fox Clinic. Some members of the Foundation felt that their scholarship support of the IAABO camps was sufficient. A permanent position has been created for “Administrator for Public Relations” on the Foundation board to facilitate these types of communications and to work towards a better relationship. This position will be filled by IAABO Past President Joe Gintoli.

Lastly, Ron reported that it is expected that Barry Fuller of Maine will be nominated for the IAABO Vice President’s position this coming April. Ron reported that most likely he will be considered for nomination into the chairs in the following year. The IAABO Region 2 Representative position is due for re-election this year as well. A motion was made by Rich Vitali and seconded by Nick Castellone to nominate Ron for the Region 2 Representative. The motion was unanimous and a letter of support for this nomination will be sent forward by Larry.

Other Old Business – Rich Antonelli wanted to expound on his comments from the November meeting. He is interested in becoming the Massachusetts IAABO Region 2 Rep should the position become available. The Secretary was asked to note this in the November minutes, as it was not specifically stated.

IAABO Spring Meeting – The Spring Meeting will be held on April 25th to April 28th in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Larry is hoping for a large turnout from our Massachusetts boards. A comment was made about the air options for Atlantic City, with Philadelphia and Trenton being the best options for those who will be flying.

MIAA Pay Proposals – A discussion occurred about our proposed official’s fees for the upcoming years and that in order to make it more enticing for officials to work to move up to the Varsity level, that we should push forward our proposal for the JV fees to be kept flat for two years in which the Varsity fee would go up by \$6 each of those years. That would create enough of a disparity between the two to make it more desirable. Larry proposed that we put out a survey to our officials with one to six years’ experience to see if a higher varsity pay rate would be more enticing to get them to work towards that level. A committee made up of Brian Mikolazyk, Nick Castellone and Dan Bryant will put this survey together and send it out to those officials.

Exam Results – Rich asked each board that if they have not submitted their results from the Refresher Exam to please do so as he needs to finalize his report for the IAABO meeting.

Adding New Members – Mike Hammond brought up that Tom Lopes has been in discussion regarding the possibility of some of the Mass. Non-IAABO members reaching out to merge into IAABO boards. The major driver for this seems to be the insurance that those officials don’t currently have on the non-IAABO Boards. These officials would be required to join the boards in their own geographic areas should they decide to join.

Boots mentioned that per the IAABO regulations, our boards have the option to admit a member if they have three years officiating experience and have been duly certified by another board. Brian showed a list of current MIAA enrollments, which had numbers for these non-IAABO Boards and asked the question if we should consider bringing these officials on without any sort of penalty. John

Rafferty stated he feels we should reach out and try to get these 240 officials on board. Tim O'Brien stated that we could create a future issue by making a precedent. Larry suggested that we extend a one time offer to all of these members to join in to our boards, but also felt as though we should have a committee review the situation further and make a formal suggestion at our April meeting. Larry appointed a committee of Brian Mikolazyk, Ron Scarbrough, Rich Antonelli, Tim O'Brien, Rich Vitali, Dan Bryant and Jon Lowe to discuss this at length and bring a suggestion to us at the April meeting.

Next Meeting – Larry reported the next meeting would be held on Sunday, April 7th at Horgan Arena in Auburn at 10:00AM.

Adjournment – With no other business to conduct, a motion was made by Jon Lowe and seconded by Rich Vitali to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 11:34am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Churchill, Secretary-Treasurer
MSBOA Board 15