

Minutes of MSBOA Meeting

11/8/2015, Horgan Arena, Auburn

ATTENDANCE

Board 25 – Mark Alford
Board 26 – Dave Gustafson, Bill Loftus
Board 27 – Mike Hammond, Rich Antonelli
Board 28 – Mike Churchill
Board 30 – none
Board 31 – Joe Lavoie
Board 44 – Lou Levine
Board 54 – Peter Hansen, Ron Scarbrough
Board 95 – Jon Lowe
Board 130 – Bill Boutilier
Board 152 – Bernie Beriau, Mary Bradbury
Board 175 – Bill Miller, Nick Castellone
Board 208 – Babe Grady, Rich Vitali, Ron Martel

Call to Order – Meeting was called to order at 10:01am. A moment of silence was held to honor those who are no longer with us since our last meeting.

Approval of Minutes – A motion was made by Peter Hansen and seconded by Nick Castellone to approve the minutes of the April meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Financial Update – A statement of the MSBOA finances was provided to all members in attendance. The current balance in the checking account is \$12,700.72 and the Savings Maximizer is \$12,215.50 for a total balance of \$24,916.22. A motion was made by Jon Lowe and seconded by Peter Hansen to accept the report as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Life Membership Committee – Bill Miller reported that the Life Membership Committee had submitted the name of Board 95 member Jon Lowe for Life Membership to IAABO, and that Jon had indeed been approved for this honor. Jon will be receiving his Life Membership Honor at the IAABO Spring Meeting to be held in Orlando in April. Bill thanked the members of the Committee for their efforts and congratulated Jon on his selection. Bill also reminded the members in attendance of the procedure for nomination of officials for Life Membership, and that the deadline for the Committee to receive all materials for Life Membership would be April 1st, 2016 for consideration.

Officials versus Cancer – This year’s IAABO Officials versus Cancer week will be held January 25th through January 30th, 2016. Last year, Massachusetts was once again the top fundraising state and IAABO raised over \$280,000 for the OVC campaign. This put the total IAABO donation since the inception of the campaign at over one million dollars. A majority of this was due to the efforts of Lou Levine, who personally raised over \$50,000 for this cause. Lou was honored by IAABO at the Fall Conference in Denver for his efforts and took a moment to speak to the personal nature of his efforts. All boards were encouraged to develop a plan in regards to the OVC campaign and for the state to once again lead the way with the OVC donations.

Special Olympics – Babe Grady reported that this year’s Special Olympics is expected to be a much larger event than last year. The 2015 tournament was fully covered by 12 of the 13 state boards and Babe thanked all in attendance for their efforts in covering these games. It is expected that an additional 9-12 courts may be needed to cover this year’s games, and many of the additional games will be in the eastern and southeastern part of the state. Babe did also report that Special Olympics seems to be more organized than they have been in previous years and that our current contact has been very helpful in this process. Babe was hoping that all 13 boards will be able to participate this year to cover these events, which will start in January and continue into early March. Babe will be reaching out to each board as the schedule finalizes itself in order to accommodate these requests.

Background Checks – It was reported that all of the Massachusetts boards are currently in compliance with the Background Check requirement that the MIAA has implemented for the upcoming season. To date, nearly 3,200 officials have completed the process with only 3 having been flagged. All boards were encouraged to remind their officials to complete the process ASAP if they have not done so already.

Insurance Update – Rich Vitali reported in the absence of Larry Machione that all boards are currently in compliance and duly insured for the upcoming year. A discussion was held regarding insurance options as some boards currently use K&K for their D&O option while others use Borden and Perlman. The costs and services offered are slightly different for both and all boards were encouraged to explore their options and select the one that best suits them.

MIAA Update – Bill Boutilier reported that the MIAA had been meeting over the summer and fall in order to address certain concerns that raised themselves during last year’s events. The largest concerns had to do with locations for games, how officials are assigned to the games, who has a hand in the assignment process, the skill level of these officials in the three person mechanics and the way that ties are broken to determine how teams are seeded.

The MIAA continues to look for additional neutral sites that can be used for tournament games. The concern is that with the limited number of sites that are available, teams may end up playing “neutral court games” on their home court if the schedule is setup that way. One thing that will be new this year is the championship games will be moved to Springfield and will be part of a special weekend-long event. Games will be played at the MassMutual Center and Springfield College and the deal includes hotel discounts,

practice times and other perks. This has been an major focus for the MIAA and the hope is that it will be a success that can continue in the future.

A second concern that occurred had to do with how officials are selected for playoff games. It was overheard by MIAA officials that certain coaches would comment to officials during the game "How could you make that call? You were on my list!" This was a major concern for the MIAA that officials may be receiving undue pressure from coaches and that it would give the appearance of impropriety. This was brought up in committee and a new policy was voted in by a 14-2 count that would eliminate the coaches list as a part of the selection process. It would instead be replaced by allowing each assignor to select 10 officials to be considered for each gender that they assign. This also puts some accountability onto the assignors that they are selecting officials that they feel are capable and well trained to do the job. It also addresses the concern that some of the officials working tournament games seemed to have a very lax understanding of the three-person system that is used in the tournament.

This point lead to a large group discussion in regards to the use of three-person officiating teams throughout the state. Each area, league and assignor has their own designation for when three-person officiating teams are used. The question was raised if the MSBOA should suggest to the state that all games utilize three-person teams. Bill responded that the MIAA would most likely not go to that method as the schools would push back due to cost and the fact that some games do not need three officials on them. Another question was raised as to the official's fees for three-person games and if they are uniform everywhere in the state. The MIAA does not have an official fee set for three-person games but recommends that 85% of the two-person fee is given. Some leagues pay a full fee while others pay the 85% level.

Finally, Bill shared the financial report from the MIAA with the group. He stated that the MIAA is reporting that they are losing money on all sports except basketball and football, however the success of those sports have shown an overall growth at the MIAA level. The group asked questions specific to the fees received from the Background Checks and if the MIAA was using this as a profit center. A concern was also raised that the fees for games had not gone up the past two years, and this additional burden was being placed on officials without compensation for it. Bill reported that the MIAA was considering a possible \$2 fee increase to make up for this added expense and that this would be brought up for a vote in the future.

Fox Clinic – Mike Churchill reported that the Fox Clinic that was held on October 4th was a successful event. The total attendance was 132 members, including some from Massachusetts, Connecticut, Vermont, New Hampshire and New York. The presenters were exceptional and their topics were ones that are very important to our officials. It is recommended that when the event is held again in two years, it should be in a more central location as the attendance seems to be higher when held more centrally. The hope this last time was that attendance would be higher from the I-91 corridor but that did not come to fruition. The IAABO Foundation is covering the cost for one presenter and the MSBOA will reimburse Board 28 for the remainder of the costs that were expended, which should be well below the \$2,500 that was approved as a spending maximum in Denver.

Next Meeting – It was suggested that should the need arise, we would consider holding a mid-season conference call. Otherwise, the April meeting would be the next meeting and would be held on Sunday, April 10th.

Adjournment – A motion was made by Dave Gustafson and seconded by Bill Miller to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 11:39am.