

Region 121 Board Meeting Agenda
January 12, 2010 / Tuesday
Arroyo Elementary School – 225 Ulysses St.
Commissioner Russell Platamone – 805.791.6333

Attendees: Crystal Barlow, Chris Boynton, Jamie Carter, Ken Crowle, Alison Enos, Jim Fleckenstein, Mike Greenup, Leonard Hendricks, Bob Lang, Concetta Langford, Dan Mason, Alain Missoul, Mary Morrissey, Russell Platamone, Cheryl Platamone, Brian Ring, Karyn Ring, Jayna Rose, Danny Sison, John Tone, Roger Weiss.

7:00pm Arrival and food

****Birthdays announcements:** Jim Fleckenstein, Bob Lang and John Tone.

Meeting called to order by: Russell S. Platamone at 7:25 pm

Approval of November minutes- Karyn Ring motioned to approve and Chris Boynton seconded the motion. Minutes approved by board vote.

Welcome to any new board members/visitors – No new members.

Commissioner Update: New board starts next month. Good year let me know if you want to stay in the position you have or change. We have received great compliments from the surrounding regions. Please develop a critic on how to improve your position in a positive and developmental progression. Thank you to Cheryl for tonight's meal.

New Years Tournament Update: – Brian Ring – A great New Years Tournament with ninety-two teams. Every division had 16 teams except BU14 had twelve. No problem with coaches and only six yellow cards the whole weekend. Very smooth and vendors well accepted. Coaches were extremely happy with the gifts we gave them for participating. Everyone loved the trophies and appreciated the strong construction and quality of them. Our reputation for having one of the best tournaments was upheld once again. We received a lot of compliments from coaches. Brian wanted to thank all that helped but also wanted to give an extra thank you to Dan Mason (working the fields all day), Danny Sison, (putting goals together and the wonderful printed game cards and being there all the time) and the referee's for all their dedication. Also Russ for being there all three days. Brian wanted to make a change for this upcoming year in dropping the referee deposit and make the event a referee invitation only event. Ken Crowle asked the price of the coach bags and gifts. Brian advised the bags were \$15 each but score gave us one free for each bag we purchased. The balls were \$11 each including the printed new years logo. Two t-shirts \$7 each and the pins. The complete package is about \$25 and the coaches go crazy over the items. Ken mentioned it was great we did that because the coaches work so hard to take care of the teams. Brian also mentioned we did not sell as many t-shirts so we gave the first place teams additional shirts which was well received and appreciated by the players and coaches. Brian mentioned

he felt it was more important to develop good will and good services along with these items instead of worrying to make money. This direction will build better relationships with teams so they come back time and again. When Brian took over three years ago we had 72 teams and now we have 92 teams.

Russell wanted to extend a huge thank you to Brian Ring for running a very successful, fun and safe tournament and extended an additional thank you to Karyn Ring for her dedicated service to the region and her husband. Brian is always looking to improve and change things to make sure the kids have a lot of fun and joy. And with that mentioned, Brian is already looking at adding an additional four teams to give more kids the ability to improve their skills and have a great time.

Commissioner Update: We had one problem at the tournament, which involved a parent and his dog. The parent refused to obey the safety rules to protect the players. The problem was solved and new rules have already been implemented to protect all children from animals on the fields.

Treasurer Report: – Roger Weiss – Roger mentioned he is going to continue to send the report by way of email to all board members to save on paper. In regard to the new years tournament we collect referee fees of \$150 per team. We collected \$12,300 for the tournament and refunded \$10,100. That means we made \$2,200. If we drop the referee fee and increase the tournament fee by \$25 for 92 teams we make \$2,300 and then it is a wash. And that will eliminate the controversy of collecting fees, keeping track of those who did and did not supply referees and the refunding of all the checks. It simplifies the process and makes everyone happy. All referee returns have already been mailed before this meeting. Chris Boynton feels with the quality of our referees and the amount that respond to the invitation we should do fine in dropping the ref fees. Roger mentioned he did not have all the bills paid yet and some money was coming in from vendors but his estimate is the tournament will make approximately \$20,000. Roger felt the tournament was very well run and very successful.

Roger mentioned in the P&L it showed an expense of \$1,640, which was the appreciation dinner for the board. At this time we are doing very well with our accounts and recently we had a CD that matured and

he transferred it to the checking account. We will look into the future to invest again in a CD that has a good rate and requested input from the board.

Russell mentioned the Recreation and Park District is meeting this month on allocating fields to AYSO. It might take some time but they are meeting with the school district to come up with a solution to help us in acquiring field space.

Roger mentioned we have \$118,000 in our checking and recommends transferring \$60,000 to a CD in the near future. We also have two additional CD's that will mature this year and include \$60,000 in one and \$87,000 in another.

Roger Weiss made a motion to open an additional CD using \$60,000 from our existing checking account. Chris Boynton made a second. Russell Platamone called a vote for the motion. The board was asked to cast a vote at which time a unanimous vote was taken to open the \$60,000 CD.

Last item Roger wanted to suggest was fall registration prices. Last year we were \$90 for first child, \$75 for the second and \$50 for any additional player. Roger suggested if we are going to increase our fees he suggested \$95 for the first child and \$75 for each additional.

Commissioner Update: Russell wanted to thank Cheryl Platamone again for a great dinner for the board and for all the work she did to order and handle the trophies and medals for the new years tournament.

The review hearing for Sarah Hilton was scheduled for January 6, 2010. She was sent two notifications on the meeting and the night before she responded that she was aware of the meeting. On January 6, 2010 the review committee, Keith Krasnigor, Mike Greenup, Roger Weiss, Jayna Rose and Bob Lang, arrived at 7pm at Arroyo Elementary School to prepare for the hearing scheduled at 7:30pm. Ms. Hilton was advised of the 7:30pm time and location. When 8pm arrived and no arrival or response from Ms. Hilton the meeting was concluded with a vote to remove Coach Sarah Hilton. On January 8, 2010 a letter was sent to Ms. Sarah Hilton of her removal from coaching for AYSO. Russell thanked the review committee for all their time and effort in this matter.

Russell mentioned ideas for the board to look at for discussion at the February meeting. Items include:

The calendar updated for the rest of the year. Suggestions on how to improve your job. Checking the website to make sure your job area on the site is up to date and has all the information needed. The use of email blasts to parents in the hope to keep them informed. The email blasts should be kept to one subject

area as not to overwhelm the parents with information. Study if we can eliminate the printing of the coach and parent manuals and have them only on the website. Weekly fall newsletter on the website only. Coach and parent manual including all the information they need to know such as sections covering in detail the all-star coach, area league play and tournament play. A possibility of on line registration only. They would still come in to pay and volunteer but there would be no regular registration forms accepted. Also possibly supplying laptop computers so parents can register on line. The hope is to cut down on incorrect information do to the inability of board members to read the writing or printing of parents and attaining correct email addresses. The creation of a parent pledge agreement before allowed to register a player filled out at registration. Also Roger mentioned a sheet to ask the parents how they found out about registration so we can better track our advertising efforts. Also look into the advertising sheets to schools and the validity if it is working. More advertising signs in the city during registration if it is legal by the city. Update on picture day – new vendor to make things easier or do we eliminate picture day.

Russell mentioned the Section meeting coming up in April, which will be held on a cruise ship. The decision to go had to be made quickly as notification of the event was not told to Russell until late. Russell decided to allow five board members along including himself to participate in this experiment. Those involved are Mary Morrissey, Alison Enos, Leonard Hendricks and Roger Weiss. The board members spouses are allowed to participate also. With this experiment there could be a discussion to bring back the yearly Tri Section Meetings and hold them on a cruise ship. This is only under discussion at this point. That meeting would be open to all board members who would like to improve and advance their knowledge in different job functions in the region.

The Flex Program was discussed last year by the board and everyone at that time was against the implementation of the program at that time. The major fact of having extra work added onto the board members and most not wanting to do the extra work of running the program. A vote was not taken properly and when Russell was asked by the Area Director if the board had taken an authorities vote the answer was no. Do to a time problem and not being able to wait for the next board meeting, Russell sent out an email to the board members requesting their response in writing on the Flex Program. Russell heard back from 18 board members – 16 against and 3 for the program. Russell discussed the program with the three members (Leonard Hendricks, Alain Missoul and Danny Sison) in favor of the program

along with Jim Lyon of Region 4 and he decided the three board members that wanted to launch the program could handle 2 to 3 teams joining the flex program. In the interest of joining the other regions to attempt to make the Flex Program work, he gave permission to start a small two or three team participation in the program.

Registrar Update: Mary Morrissey – For spring season we are at 432 players signed up. 10 U6 boy teams 10 U6 girl teams, 8 U8 boys, 10 U8 girls, 6 U10 boys, 8 U10 girls, 4 U12 boys, 4 U12 girls, for the U14 division we are still planning a playing strategy with enough to form 2 U14 boy and 2 U14 girl teams. U16 and U19 are in the same circumstance and we are working on it. There are 24 U16/U19 registered players and 49 U14 players.

Registration will close the day before the spring season starts and Play It Again Sports will continue to accept registration forms. As for the older divisions a decision will be made to implement a soccer fest type of playing for the spring season.

Spring Additional Updates: Karyn Ring requested we do not play on April 17 because of the Simi Valley School Junior Olympics. The board fully agreed to show support and cooperation with the school district and the kids participating in the Junior Olympics.

The painting of the fields is usually done by the Perfect Field and costs upward to \$1,200. The board discussed having tournament teams paint the fields as fundraisers to help them to go to tournaments and the region to save money and keep it within the organization. Everyone agreed and Roger suggested two teams to earn \$500 each for painting the spring fields. Roger also suggested if we are going to pay outside vendors to do what we could set up as foundries we should keep the service in house.

Fall Registrar Update: Mary Morrissey – Fall registration dates are April 21 6pm to 9pm, April 24 9am to 12pm, and May 1 9am to 12pm.

Fall fees update: Chris Boynton advised if we are going to need money for new fields for fall we would probably need to increase our fees. If we are not going to see fields this year, we could stay at or reduce our fees for playing. Russell mentioned we are negotiating for field use but it would be a year or two before all of this could be put into place. Bob Lang mentioned a \$10 increase could help to pay for the coach training we approved for last year and want to continue using this year. Roger mentioned we jumped from \$80 to \$90 a few years ago possibly four or five year. Mary mentioned if we do not need the money than we should keep our fees the same. Jamie Carter, new member, mentioned she has three children that are playing AYSO and that one of the great reasons she came to AYSO was the inexpensive price we offered especially when you have to register three children and the economy is in the shape it is. If we raise the fees we could see a lot of children not getting the chance to play a sport. Russell asked the board if we could reduce the price. Chris mentioned it would be a great service if we reduce our fees and tell the parents we understand the problems in today's world and we are going to try and help you out.

Brian Ring made a motion to amend our current fall registration fees to be \$80 for the first child and \$60 for each additional child in the same family. Alison Enos made a second. Russell Platamone called a vote for the motion. The board was asked to cast a vote at which time a unanimous vote was taken to amend the registration fees recommended by Brian Ring.

New Business: - Bob Lang mentioned the new field flags showing the field number on them and they also have an blank advertising section and he is going to sell sponsorship and advertising this fall.

9:00 pm Meeting Adjourned by Russell Platamone