

US Lacrosse - Oregon Chapter Meeting
June 5, 2006
Bridgeport Brewery

Board Members in Attendance:

Ann Witsil	Amy Einstein
Kent Roberts	Andrea Shatz
Terry Vance	Bill Lake
Sam Sadtler	Doug Foster
Dan Badder	Ron Miller
Tom Foster	Carie Strahorn

Absent: Jen Larsen, Josh Barbour, Ziba Cranmer, Dave Sanford, Bill Rexford

Welcome and Introductions

Approval of Minutes. Minutes from the August 3, 2005 meeting were approved with no changes.

Youth & High School Updates

Boys Youth, Bill Lake. They are building a database to track the huge growth of youth lacrosse, particularly in the southern part of the state. Key challenges are the need to identify key supporters and leaders in each area, reduce redundancy of efforts and optimize organizational activities at feeder system level. The infrastructure is in place for growth, they want to build on that.

Action: Board encourages new programs to use the on-line coaching 101 modules available, to attend the Chapter sponsored clinics in January, and encourages coordination between Boy's youth and Girl's Youth coordinator to create synergies, bring events to the Portland and outlying communities, and to effectively communicate all events well in advance. Board also thanked Bill for taking initiative and leadership with data base development.

Girls Youth, Kent Roberts. There are twenty five current teams and existing clubs are adding teams, mixing up grade level, even dipping into 5th grade level to offer and encourage a range of challenges across maturity of teams. It has also been difficult to connect with interested participants in Eugene. Roberts echoed intent to follow Lake's processes described above.

Action: Board will encourage and support to extent possible referee and coaching clinics in the area to train interested parents. Kent will campaign at UO clinics over the summer.

OHSLA, Ann Witsil for Dale Waagmeester. The biggest issue for the boys is the need for more referees. Dale (new OHSLA commissioner) has expressed need for more recruit--

ment, promotion and training to fill the pipeline with qualified referees.

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OGLA, Carie Strahorn. Program has twenty four varsity programs with five more JV teams scheduled to move to varsity level in 2006-2007. Association processes are at a point of beginning to need fine-tuning rules, regulations and systems to continue to support issues that surface, including clarifying due process steps to allow fair and appropriate airing and consideration of issues raised to the association. More work needs to be done here. Kent Roberts noted that walax.com also uses Sportability, but it is much easier to access than the OGLA mode. There is also a need to recruit, train and maintain strong referees.

Action: Online system Sportability is being fine-tuned to better support data needs. Carie will look at the walax site as a model for ease of accessibility.

Recent OGLA Grievance Issue Update, Amy Einstein. The Chapter Board was informed of a recent grievance filed by OWLUA to the OGLA as a result of poor sportsmanship by spectators at the OGLA Championship. The OGLA Board met to review the grievance filed decided to take action against the program on which the grievance was filed, modeled after OSAA guidelines, and designed to reduce impact on the players, whose behavior was not at issue. OGLA Board President Amy Einstein and Referee Ron Miller met with the program coach and high school principal to review the sanctions for this breach of behavior and briefly addressed issue with the Chapter board. The Chapter board supported the need for holding coaches accountable for player and spectator behavior and for reinforcing the imperative for acceptable conduct to all.

Due process was challenged as the OGLA worked to resolve issues raised by referees.

Action: Motion was moved and seconded to forward statement using USLA wording on good sportsmanship to all segments for dissemination to coaches, as well as for submission to Chapter website. Ann will review the US Lacrosse Code of Conduct and ask each organization to communicate sportsmanship expectations across player, parent and spectator groups. (Note: USLA does not have a formal code of conduct on sportsmanship. Ann raised this issue with USLA and will ask to have addressed at next Regions Council meeting in September. Meanwhile, a statement has been created for dissemination using wording available from USLA.)

Chapter Highlights

PCA Update. We had a poor turnout, losing money this year due to late coordination including dates, venue costs (Adidas v Nike, and conflicts with other clinics offered for boys' coaches in late fall), and unbudgeted costs for PCA materials. Board discussed need

to secure event by late September and to identify an individual to help coordinate event.

Action: Set the date early for the 3rd Saturday in January, contract the venue and stick with it. Build consistent expectations for the content (but mix up the PCA message year-to-year) and the timing during the season. Focus on a boys Lax 101, entry level coaching module for youth/JV and a Girls Lax 101 and advanced techniques (offense and defense).

Also teams were encouraged to send their coaches to the National convention in January to experience the fabulous curriculum. The chapter would like to explore ways of supporting that effort.

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Ann informed the board that the chapter applied for \$2,500 in grant funds from USLA to subsidize this post convention event regionally in Oregon. The request was still being re-viewed at time of meeting, but has since been approved! *(Note: Following this meeting, Ann was informed that USLA will award the OR Chapter \$2,000 for this purpose! In addition, since June, Ann has received several requests within the state for start up grant support from the chapter, mostly in terms of endorsement to USLA.)*

Financial Report. Despite deficit from January PCA/coaching clinic at Adidas, Ann reported that the Chapter account stands at @ \$3,500 as of June 5, 2006. Revenues are a result of reimbursements for Oregon memberships to US Lacrosse (\$1/member). Dave Sanders was not present and financial updates were not sent in time to be copied for attendees. *Please see attached financial reports.* Thanks were given to Dave for his concerted efforts on this front over the year.

Board was informed of need to close previous credit union account for the Chapter, as it had been opened under Sky Goodrich's name and he has moved out of town. A new no-cost checking account was opened at US Bank with Ann Witsil as initial signatory. *(Note: subsequent to June meeting, Dave resigned as Treasurer due to other commitments. Ann will ask Sam Sadtler to be co-signatory until another treasurer is identified.)*

Ann informed the board that the chapter banner was stolen last year (at the Laxworld Lax tournament) and we need to reorder one for events.

Action: It was moved and seconded to open new account with Ann (and Dave) as signatory, and to purchase a new banner.

Subsidies for Ref Training and Recruitment. Group discussed interest in providing funds to the men's and women's umpire associations for the purpose of helping to subsidize recruitment and training of refs.

Action: It was moved and seconded to provide the men's and women's umpire/ref associations in Oregon with \$300-\$500 each to subsidize referee recruiting and/or training..

Focus for 2006-2007

Website. We need to review the website for both efficiency of use and cost of maintenance. Currently, Brian Platz maintains the site, charging between \$100-200 per month.

Action: Ann will convene a subcommittee comprised of Bill Lake, Dave Sanford, Terry Vance, Sara Roberts and Ann Witsil to review options around optimizing our site. It was mentioned that www.pncll.org was a good model to review.

Compliance Reports. Ann asked board members to complete the Conflict of Interest forms that will accompany her end of year reporting to the US Lacrosse Association.

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Board Membership. Changes will be made to the Board in August based on the tenure of each member in his/her position.

Action: Members were asked to update their personal information on the roster and to confirm their interest in continuing serving on the board, or to identify candidates for their position to be voted on the September meeting.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:00 p.m.

Next Meeting

September 12, 2006, 5:30 pm.