

WMSOA Annual General Meeting Minutes**9:00am****December 6, 2014****Grandville HS**

Officers Present: Doug Turkstra, Mark Lundvick, Bob Powers, Duncan Purvis, Paul Holwerda, Nick Balcer, Matt Koekkoek

Officers Absent: None

Outgoing WMSOA President Doug Turkstra called the Annual General Meeting (AGM) to order at 9:00am and welcomed everyone in attendance. 58 members signed in, in addition to all seven of the WMSOA Executive Committee. Most members arrived early to pay WMSOA and/or NISOA dues and game fees, as well as to partake in the donuts, bagels, and drinks provided. Doug thanked Nick Balcer for all his work putting together the meeting PowerPoints throughout the year, and asked the association to recognize those members who officiated high school regional tournament games and beyond and college NCAA and NAIA tournament games.

Secretary's Report...Duncan reminded the members that the secretary sends out the WMSOA emails and thanked those who respond when requested. He said the current email list is at 214 names and asked members to let him know if they would like to update their contact info. A motion was made to approve the 2013 WMSOA AGM Meeting Minutes that had been posted on the WMSOA website (www.wmsoa.org). The motion was seconded, and the vote passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report...Bob Powers presented the 2014 WMSOA Annual Operation Statement. At this time WMSOA has a bank balance of \$14,397.85. He noted our balance is very similar to where it was at the 2013 AGM, and that the Executive Committee stays committed to using some of the funds for improved training. He reminded members who pay NISOA dues that they are due by December 15th otherwise a late fee will be incurred.

Assignors Reports...Greg Pilbeam gave the report as the representative from the Assignment Committee, thanking the members for helping cover all the games in our area, considering all the changes. Greg, Bill Wagner, and Matt Koekkoek assigned a total of 5425 positions throughout the fall high school and college seasons. Greg urged officials to save their fall 2014 games off Arbiter now if needed, as they will be cleared in mid-December to make way for the spring assignments that he hopes will be published by March 1, 2015.

Greg noted that evaluations completed by local coaches and sent to the MHSAA demanded better AR mechanics from our officials. Several members present at the AGM shared this sentiment. WMSOA will work to try to improve training in this area.

Greg and John Crumb will be meeting with the OK Conference in early 2015. One topic on the table will be referee game fees. We are near the end of the current contract with the conference, and Greg and John will push for new game fees beginning with the fall 2015 high school season.

Another topic at the OK Conference meeting may be officials contracts. The OK Conference is currently saying that Arbiter acts as the contract, though Greg estimated 20% of local high schools still send paper contracts.

Penny Allen-Cook took over for David Neilson as commissioner of the MIAA Conference on July 1, 2014.

Jason White...WMSOA member and current Assistant Referee in the MLS spoke for a few minutes about his experience refereeing the friendly between Manchester United and Real Madrid at The Big House in Ann Arbor, MI in August 2014 and about some of his experiences around the country in the MLS, including the intense atmosphere created by the crowd in Kansas City and getting to work the first LA Galaxy game in LA after Landon Donovan was left off the USA's World Cup squad at which he scored two goals to become the all-time MLS goal scoring leader.

Ethics Committee Report...Mark Lundvick, current Vice President and therefore Chair of the Ethics Committee, gave his report. He went through the MHSAA Code of Conduct and instructed the members to always keep this code in the back of their minds, whether pregame, postgame, on-field, or off-field.

Executive Committee Elections...Mark conducted the elections for the open Vice President position, to replace him – as he succeeds to President to replace Doug, and for one Member-At-Large position, to replace Matt Koekkoek. Adam Carlson, Andrew Johnson, and Jim Krol were on the ballot for the Member-At-Large position and John Crumb and Paul Holwerda were on the ballot for the Vice President position. Each gave a brief statement about himself and his interest in the position. After the vote was taken, Jim was elected to the Member-At-Large position to serve a three year term and Paul was elected as Vice

President to serve a three year term as VP and then succeed to the office of President to serve a three year term. Per Article IV, Section 3 of the WMSOA Constitution and By-Laws, the six members of the new Executive Committee will vote for an interim Member-At-Large to fill the one year left of Paul's previous term as Member-At-Large that was vacated when he was elected as the new Vice President. Per the Constitution, that vote is binding until the next AGM, when Paul's Member-At-Large position was due to be voted on anyway.

New Business...Mark and Doug again highlighted that the major goal for the new year is to improve WMSOA's training of officials, specifically officials being asked to work in a three-man system when they may not be very familiar with the duties and mechanics of officials working a three-man system. Suggestions included holding the spring midseason meeting on a Saturday morning instead of a weeknight, making Assistant Referee training mandatory for an official before he or she may be assigned as an AR, and finding more mentors to watch games, among others.

Doug mentioned a few unfortunate instances of referee abuse that happened lately, and said the Executive Committee is working on drafting a letter to the MHSAA asking them to consider implementing suggested metrics to improve referee safety, specifically a recommended referee postgame protocol. If passed by the Executive Committee, the letter will be sent to other associations too, with hopes they will also send something similar to the MHSAA. Paul Carmichael addressed the legislative efforts happening in the State of Michigan to increase punishment for individuals found guilty of abuse of a sports official. Greg reiterated the importance – if you feel unsafe or are abused at a soccer site – to immediately call Greg to inform him, to put the details of what happened into your game report on Arbiter so there is an official record, and to file a concern report via the MHSAA website.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:35am.

Respectfully submitted,
Duncan Purvis / WMSOA Secretary