



WASHINGTON OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION
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**Minutes of the
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
AUGUST 14, 1998, Bellevue, WA**

President Ken Jones called the meeting to order and welcomed the attendees. Following the salute to the flag, which was led by Chic Sale, those attending introduced themselves. They were as follows: Region 1- Harry Reich (Boards) and Jim Carter (Associations); Region 2- Tim Stevens (Associations); Region 3- Pam Calnan (Boards); Region 4- Tom Jones (Boards) and Larry Hearst (Associations); Region 5- Dick Eglet (Boards) and Ed Rhoades (Associations); Region 6- Chic Sale (Associations) and Dan Mencke (Boards); Sports Representatives- Dean Ratliff (Gymnastics); George Eastman (Soccer); Jim Meyerhoff (Wrestling); Mike Burton representing the National Federation of Interscholastic Officials Association (NFIOA); and Steve Bridge representing the Washington Secondary School Athletic Administrators Association (WSSAAA).

The Board meeting was preceded by a Thursday evening work session / meal function ("Western-style" barbecue), which was held from 5:30 to 7:45 PM. The purpose of the work session was to prioritize the recommendations of the WOA Strategic Planning Teams. During opening discussion on Friday morning, **the Board on a motion by George Eastman seconded by Larry Hearst APPROVED the following recommendations and established the priorities for implementation.**

PRIORITY NUMBER ONE

Recruitment— The Board agreed that the WOA office should disseminate an informational brochure that outlines several ideas which local associations can implement to recruit officials. The group also agreed that efforts should be made to develop a program that would address the "humanizing" of officials. Other suggestions included the development of the following: a video / power point presentation regarding the values of officiating; a recruitment brochure that would be distributed to all high school seniors who have participated in WIAA sanctioned events; and a curriculum for officiating that could be utilized in high school physical education classes.

The Board suggested surveying assigning secretaries to help determine the need for more officials.

PRIORITY NUMBER TWO

Training—The Board expressed its support for the recently concluded basketball officials training camps and discussed the implementation of similar camps for other WIAA-sanctioned sports. (Please see Basketball Officials Training Camps)

PRIORITY NUMBER THREE

Retention—The Board established priorities for retaining officials as follows:

1. Develop a data base of members that includes historical information about each official;
2. Create state service awards;
3. Create an annual awards assembly that would at some future date include a WOA Hall of Fame;
4. Develop a WOA Foundation.

The Board also discussed surveying select assigning secretaries to determine the percentage of new officials who are retained from year to year. In addition, the Board requested the continuation of the **WOA NEWSLETTER**.

At the conclusion of the Board's Thursday evening work session to establish the strategic committee's priorities, the Board requested a plan from Executive Director Colbrese, prioritizing items to include timelines for implementation, staffing needs, and budget.

To begin Friday's Board of Director's meeting, on a motion by Mike Burton seconded by Tom Jones, the Board APPROVED the meeting's agenda with two additions, the WOA Newsletter and soccer fees. The board members also requested that a form be used for placing additional items on the agenda.

On a motion by Tom Jones seconded by Larry Hearst, the Board APPROVED the minutes of the April 3, 1998, meeting of the Board of Directors and the April 4, 1998, meeting of the WOA Representative Assembly with one correction noted in each set of minutes.

BASKETBALL OFFICIALS TRAINING CAMPS

Mr. Colbrese then introduced WOA / WIAA Basketball Camp Clinicians Steve Brown and Stu Gorski who summarized the recently concluded WOA / WIAA basketball officials training camps, as well as proposed changes should the camps be continued.

The Board thanked and congratulated the clinicians, which also included Michelle Duncan of the Seattle Board, Larry Johnson of the Tacoma Board and Chuck Fillippini of the Inland Empire Association.

Following a lengthy debate, which included a presentation on the budget for the 1998 camps, **the Board on a motion by Dan Mencke seconded by Dick Eglet APPROVED the basketball officials training camps for 1999 and 2000. The APPROVED motion included that by the year 2000 the camps either break even or make a profit.**

ADDITIONAL SUMMER OFFICIATING / JUDGING CAMPS

On a motion by George Eastman seconded by Larry Hearst, the Board APPROVED that the Executive Director explore the potential for additional WOA / WIAA officiating camps with the intention of having at least football and volleyball camps beginning in the summer of 1999. The Board agreed that those camps either break even or show a profit by the year 2001.

The motion included the potential for the Executive Director to develop additional camps in other WIAA-sanctioned sports. The Board suggested that individuals', who are interested in developing such camps in their area, submit a proposal to the Executive Director. In addition, the Executive Director requested from Board members, names of potential clinicians for the 1998-99 year.

OFFICIALS OBSERVER'S PASS

The Board discussed the potential for an observer's pass that would be provided to officials by WOA to allow entry into WIAA events. While some members indicated they currently have a formal agreement established in their area, other board members indicated that the assigning secretary need only contact a school's athletic director to receive permission.

The group discussed the fact that by state law, gate receipts are considered Associated Student Body (ASB) monies and, therefore, there are certain procedures that must be followed. **On a motion by Dan Mencke seconded by Mike Burton, the Board APPROVED observer's passes to remain a local option.**

NFIOA

Mike Burton, former president of the NFIOA, spoke about several issues regarding the association at the national level. He urged Board members and assigning secretaries to submit nominations for state and section awards.

George Eastman and Dan Mencke reported on their attendance at the NFIOA / NFICA (Coaches) Leadership Conference. Both indicated that while the WOA as an organization has several programs which are ahead of other state associations, there are areas that need improvement.

After some discussion, **on a motion by Ed Rhoades seconded by Harry Reich, the Board APPROVED continuing to send two Board members to future Leadership Conferences.** The policy would state that when possible, a Board member from the east and one from the west representing a board and an association be allowed to attend.

Board members interested in attending the 1999 conference were asked to submit their names to the Executive Director. The Board also agreed that the new WOA Coordinator be permitted to attend. Attendees will be required to provide a written and an oral report about the conference during the August Board meeting, with recommendations on any new practices, policies, or rules / regulations that would benefit WOA.

WOA ADMINISTRATIVE STAFFING SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

Dan Mencke and George Eastman discussed their meeting with Cindy C-Wilson and WOA / WIAA Executive Director, Mike Colbrese about the potential for additional staffing for the Washington Officials Association.

After discussing the issue, the Board asked the Executive Director to review the priorities that were established from the WOA Strategic Plan and determine the current staff's ability to implement them. Once the Board reviews the Executive Director's report, the WOA Board will determine the appropriate steps to take.

OFFICIALS BACKGROUND CHECKS

During the April Board meeting, the Board recommended that all local associations / boards institute a process that would allow background checks for officials. At that time the Board recommended a release form that had been used successfully by the Yakima Valley Association / Board.

WIAA Associate Executive Director, John Olson presented a release form that officials would be required to sign prior to membership in the WOA. The form would require individuals to acknowledge conviction of a criminal act and would allow the WOA to do a background check through the Washington State Highway Patrol. The Board expressed concerns about the process and the potential expense of the background checks. **On a motion by George Eastman seconded by Tim Stevens, the Board APPROVED that the Executive Director implement a process by which all current and potential members in the WOA would be required to sign a release form. (Attachment #1)**

STATE EVENT ALLOCATION PROCESS

Dan Mencke presented a proposal to the Board permitting the WOA / WIAA to utilize the local association's / board's number of registrations and the number of schools serviced from the preceding year, to determine allocations for the current year. (For example, the numbers from 1998-99 would determine allocations for the 1999-2000.)

After considerable discussion, **on a motion by George Eastman seconded by Dan Mencke, the Board APPROVED the process described above, allowing the numbers from the 1998-99 season determine the allocations for 1999-2000 state events.** The Board also directed that this issue be placed on the agendas for the spring WOA Board and Representative Assembly meetings.

WIAA EXECUTIVE BOARD ACTION

Jim Carter, the WOA Board's representative to the WIAA Executive Board, reported that the WIAA Executive Board **APPROVED** a request from the WOA Executive Board to raise the lodging rate for clinicians and state event officials from \$40.00 per night to \$50.00. Mr. Carter also reported the cooperative spirit of the WIAA Executive Board is encouraging.

REQUEST FROM SOUTH SOUND BASKETBALL

The Board reviewed a request from the South Sound Basketball Association to count Elma High School toward its number of allocations. Currently, Grays Harbor Basketball Association / Board counts Elma High School as part of its service area because it has serviced the school for several years. South Sound has been working five of eight boys and girls varsity and junior varsity contests and all C squad contests for Elma High School because Grays Harbor has indicated they do not have enough officials. Grays Harbor works all of Elma High School's other home contests and has been under the assumption that the agreement Elma High School has with South Sound is a "grandfathered" situation.

A motion by Chic Sale seconded by Dan Mencke allowed Grays Harbor to keep the allocation and service all of Elma High School's contests was DEFEATED. A motion by Tom Jones seconded by Dick Eglet that South Sound be given Elma High School for allocation purposes was also DEFEATED.

Following further discussion, the Board agreed that Grays Harbor keep Elma High School in its service area. **On a motion by Jim Meyerhoff seconded by Pam Calnan, the Board APPROVED that South Sound and Grays Harbor submit the issue of counting Elma High School to WOA Region 4, with Elma High School involved in the discussions. Mr. Hearst and Mr. Jones indicated that they would convene a meeting of the Region 4 group in the near future.**

MABTON HIGH SCHOOL REQUEST TO CHANGE ASSOCIATIONS / BOARDS

The Board reviewed a letter from Mabton High Schools Athletic Director, Andy Affholter in which he requests to have more input into officials selected for post season play by changing from the Tri-Cities Association / Board to the Yakima Valley Association / Board. The Board also reviewed letters for the Tri-Cities officials groups indicating the Board was opposed to the change while the Association took no position on the request.

After some discussion, **on a motion by Jim Meyerhoff seconded by Tom Jones, the Board APPROVED that Mabton High School remains in the Tri-Cities service area.** The Board also stipulated that if both Tri-Cities groups favored the move and the Yakima Valley Association / Board was willing to accept a new school, they would support the request.

The Board requested a complete list of association / board service areas.

THREE-PERSON BASKETBALL AND FIVE-PERSON FOOTBALL MECHANICS

The Board reviewed a letter from the Tri-Cities Basketball Board assigning secretary, Mel Hatcher requesting the Tri-Cities Basketball Association and Board be allowed to utilize three-person mechanics for 4A boys and girls varsity non-league basketball contests. In addition, the Board also reviewed a copy of an e-mail from Kamiakin High School Athletic Director, Randy Dolven indicating the Big 9 Athletic Directors support for the request.

Mr. Colbrese informed the Board that the decision on such a request would need approval of both the WIAA and WOA Executive Boards. During the August meeting, the WIAA Executive Board tabled the request until the WOA Board met to discuss it. **The Board spent considerable time discussing the pros and cons of the request and on a motion by George Eastman seconded by Mike Burton DENIED the request.**

The Board reviewed a letter from Mike Burton, written on behalf of the Western Washington Football Association, requesting that five-person crews be allowed for post season play if both schools agree.

The Board discussed the fact there are currently three leagues which have followed the WIAA's approval process, which are being allowed to utilize five-person crews during the regular season. The Board was informed that Washington is one of the few states that does not utilize five-person crews in all varsity contests or in at least one classification during the regular season. **On a motion by George Eastman seconded by Jim Carter, the Board APPROVED the request that the WIAA Executive Board allow five person crews during the first two rounds of playoffs, if the two competing schools agree, as well as for all semi-final and championship contests.**

The Board discussed attempts to retain veteran officials and three-person basketball and five-person football would fit-in with these attempts. **After further discussion, the Board on a motion by Larry Hearst seconded by Ed Rhoades APPROVED a request to the WIAA / WOA Fee Review Committee to discuss moving the state toward three-person basketball and five-person football mechanics.** The Board suggested placing this issue on the agenda for the spring WOA Board and Representative Assembly meetings.

WOA CONSTITUTION

The Board directed Larry Hearst to propose changes to the constitution that would delineate the powers and responsibilities of the WOA Board of Directors and the WOA Representative Assembly.

The Board discussed the 1998 WOA Representative Assembly, in particular the issues that were raised regarding the voting process and verification of voting delegates. After discussion the Board assigned Mr. Hearst the responsibility of appointing a "credentials" committee that would validate voting delegates and distribute voting paddles to those who are eligible to vote. In addition, the Board directed the by-laws be amended to include the process for electing and appointing Board members.

The Board discussed the agenda for the WOA Representative Assembly with the consensus that the meeting becomes more meaningful for assigning secretaries. The Board requested developing an agenda that would fulfill this purpose.

WOA BUDGET

Executive Director Colbrese presented the WOA financial report for 1997-98 and the proposed budget for 1998-99. WIAA / WOA Business Manager Kathy Kinch joined the meeting to assist with the presentation. Mr. Colbrese explained that the basketball camps negatively impacted the budget but not more than anticipated. He also explained that the 1998-99 budget reflects an additional \$15,000 that the WIAA will contribute toward rules clinics which WIAA member school head coaches are required to attend.

Following discussion on a motion by Dan Mencke seconded by Harry Reich, the Board APPROVED the WOA financial report for 1997-98 and the proposed budget for 1998-99. (Attachment #2)

SOCCER OFFICIALS MEMBERSHIP FEES

The Board discussed that currently soccer officials pay one fee even though they may officiate both boys and girls soccer. At the same time, basketball officials pay two fees if they work both boys and girls basketball.

On a motion by Dan Mencke seconded by Tom Jones, the Board APPROVED that soccer officials, who work both boys and girls contests, pay two fees beginning with the 1999-2000 membership year. The Board requested notifying all assigning secretaries of this decision and to place the issue on the spring Board and Representative Assembly agendas.

WOA COORDINATOR POSITION

On a motion by Chic Sale seconded by Jim Carter the Board expressed their sincere appreciation for the professional, cordial manner in which Linda Wood has handled her position. The group commended her for the great strides that the association has taken during her tenure. They authorized the President and Executive Director to provide Ms. Wood with a gift symbolizing their appreciation.

Ken Jones thanked the attendees for a great meeting and adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Wood
WOA Coordinator

Mike Colbrese
Executive Director