



Minnesota Curling Association

MINNESOTA CURLING ASSOCIATION ANNUAL SPRING MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

Meeting: 10:00am – 1:00pm, Saturday, May 18, 2019, Four Season Curling Club, Blaine, MN

Call to Order

In attendance: Sara Nickelson (Brainerd); Kelli Ellingson (Cambridge); Matt Raveling (Rochester); Sandra Makin (Dakota); Carrie Harms (Four Seasons); Tiffany Simons, Beth Baucom (Hibbing); Larry Barott (Mapleton); Rick Osbakken (Two Harbors); Judy Jones (Richfield); MCA 1st Vice President Phil Devore (Duluth); MCA President Kathy Busch (St. Paul); USCA Representatives Jeff Annis (Mapleton) and Nick Wellen (Four Seasons)
Absent: MCA Treasurer Norma O'Leary – Report Submitted

Recall 2018 Annual Meeting & Minutes

Unanimous acceptance of April 21, 2018, Meeting Minutes

U S C A Business – MN Representatives' Written and Oral Report from Jeff Annis and Nick Wellen

- (1) Distributed written copies of Key Items of Agreement from May 2019 USCA Board of Directors Meeting (included at the end of this report) and the USCA's Revenue and Expenses report.
- (2) Discussion on SafeSport training course: all MN clubs are responsible for training staff and volunteers who will be involved in any way with curlers under the age of 18. The MCA is compiling a roster of trained members, hoping for a complete list by June 23, 2019. Information can be found on the homepage of the MCA website.
- (3) The USCA has hired YSC to assist in securing financial sponsorships. Possible leads can be sent to Jeff.
- (4) USCA Board Member Reduction: at the May Directors Meeting it was approved to send the proposal forward for a full USCA membership vote at the 2019 Members Assembly. Minnesota will retain one full representative. Nick Wellen --who as of May 2019 has served two two-year terms as our rep-- was affirmed as a MN rep until the October vote. If the proposal passes (and MN gets one rep), Nick will resign.
- (5) The USCA seeks volunteers for committee work that will prepare documents and procedures to assist clubs with start-up, promotions, growth, nonprofit tax status, bonspiels, etc. Interested persons should contact Jeff.
- (6) Each club's roster information for USCA Media Guide should be sent to Terry Davis by August 1st.
- (7) The 2019 USCA Members Assembly Conference will be in Milwaukee, WI, October 11 – 13.

U S W C A Business

All clubs are encouraged to promote USWCA membership and opportunities to their club members. Information on Circuit Spiels, the Senior Friendship Tour in Eastern Canada, National Bonspiels, and more is available at www.uswca.org

Treasurer's Report – Submitted by Norma O'Leary, Treasurer, presented by Kathy Busch, President

Review of handout of 2018 – 2019 MCA Membership Reporting: Fiscal Year to Date: 5,635 paid members.
Review, Discussion, Acceptance of 2019-2020 Budget

INCOME:

(1) Primary sources of income are membership dues and championship playdown entry fees. Kathy Busch proposed raising dues from \$3 to \$4. It was noted dues have been \$3 for at least 20 years. Increase would allow for new line items proposed this year and for future considerations. (Examples below under Expenses.) Motion to raise MCA membership dues to \$4 made by Nick Wellen, second by Tiffany Simons, motion passed unanimously.

EXPENSES:

(1) Discussed possible expenses needed for potential U-14 State championship, this playdown could not be confirmed as happening in the 2019-2020 season. No expense money allocated.

(2) Discussed stipend and reimbursement of expenses of State Championships head officials. It was clarified that a stipend was automatic, reimbursement of expenses may or may not be needed depending upon official's distance from home to championship host club. Preference for assignment of officials should be given to officials in close proximity to event.

(3) Discussed adding stipend for MN head official, currently Susie Czarnetzki. During 2018-2019 season, Susie and Kathy Busch met three times to work on compiling an accurate list of certified officials, to discuss recruitment and training, to talk about needed equipment. Susie's on-site supervision was extremely helpful to the success of this past year's events and done at her own expense. Different amounts were considered, up to \$1,000 per year was affirmed.

(4) Discussed adding stipend for MCA President to be used for travel to MCA clubs, MCA events, and/or attending the USCA Members Assembly. Kathy Busch shared her experience of travels and would like to see the next and future MCA presidents be offered a travel stipend to encourage and allow for visits to clubs and meeting attendances. The amount of \$1,000 per year was affirmed.

(5) Suggestion of reimbursements to championship event officials, MN state head official, and MCA president for travel expenses be guided by and limited to the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) standards was favorably received and unofficially affirmed. Kathy Busch will research GSA and work with the MCA Executive Board to design protocol.

(6) Discussed raising reimbursement of USCA Board of Directors Representative from \$500 to \$700 per meeting attended. Currently, we stipend two reps for two meetings each, total is \$2,000. Since we will likely be moving to one rep (instead of two) with the adoption of the new USCA Board structure, the raise still results in a \$600 savings.

(7) New Expense Items: The additional new line items of \$400 for an online service to report championship event games and scores (e.g., via Curling Zone) and \$1,000 for possible purchase of championship equipment (e.g., LSD measuring tool) were discussed and affirmed.

ADDITIONAL:

(1) Suggestion to use Putnam investment fund monies to reimburse travel to MCA annual meeting was dismissed, Minnesota clubs might consider a mileage / meal stipend to send their members.

(2) Discussed using Putnam investment fund monies to stipend (e.g., via a lottery) two or three Minnesota curlers to attend the USCA Members Assembly was tabled until research on the intention of Putnam fund can be verified. Kathy Busch will contact Harold Anderson (St. Paul) who was likely MCA Treasurer when fund was created.

(3) Discussed the formation of a Finance Committee that could define financial goals and priorities, and set procedures. This committee could also work toward establishing a 501(c)3 fund for donations and contributions. Volunteers are needed, interested persons should contact Kathy Busch.

Motion to approve the revised MCA Budget for fiscal year 2019-2020 was made by Beth Baucom, second by Nick Wellen, motion passed unanimously.

Recap of 2018 – 2019 MCA State Events – Phil Devore, MCA 1st Vice President

Phil reported all events were successfully run – many thanks to the many volunteers at each host club. Men's and Women's Club State Championships at Curl Mesabi, Eveleth // U-18 Juniors at Duluth CC // Mixed State at Dakota CC, Lakeville.....State Bonspiels: Gopher State at Brainerd Lakes // Men's Seniors = Bemidji CC

Schedule of Host Clubs and Dates for 2019 – 2020 MCA State Events

Host Schedule: (also available on MCA website)

- Men's and Women's State Club Championships = Hibbing CC, January 17 – 19, 2020
- Mixed State Championship = Four Seasons, Blaine, February 21 – 23, 2020
- U-18 Boys' and Girls' State Championships = St. Paul CC, between 12/26/19 and 1/1/2020

State Bonspiels:

Women's Gopher State = TBD, March 2020 // Men's Seniors = Cambridge CC, January 2020

Discussion:

(1) Positive comments were made to encourage expanded use of online scoring resources such as TESN (12th End Sports Network) and Curling Zone.

(2) Suggest Men's and Women's Club Championships to be eight-end games to ease in host club scheduling – less days, which may attract more participants. Conversation to be continued with USCA Games Committee as it was affirmed curlers want the same competition in state / region playdowns as they'll see at national championships. To successfully hold MN Clubs at eight ends, the Nationals would have to do likewise.

Recap of 2018 – 2019 MCA Clubs hosted USCA Events

- Men's and Women's Club Nationals = Dakota, Lakeville
- Junior Men's and Women's Nationals = Two Harbors
- U-18 Boys' and Girls' Nationals = Chaska
- Senior Men's Nationals = Mapleton (with Mankato)
- 5 and Under National Bonspiel = Duluth

Next Year: Bemidji hosts the Mixed Nationals, February 27 – March 1, 2020

Discussion: Minnesota clubs hosting national events are advised to be very clear in contractual conversation with USCA about

(1) actual host stipend: The allotted \$1,000 will be reduced if the USCA incurs expenses such as those related to ice preparation and maintenance.

(2) live streaming license restrictions: There may be specifics about who can broadcast and when

Stretch Break

MCA Agenda Business

Proposed Revision of MCA Bylaws

The discussion on an updated revision of MCA Bylaws began in March 2018 with the intent for discussion at the April 2018 state meeting. Because time was running short at that meeting, it was decided comments should be sent to Kathy Busch by July 1st. One person sent comments and suggested changes which were incorporated.

Discussion at this year's meeting was on what process could be used to get this project completed. It was decided Kathy would send all clubs an invitation to assign a club member to review and send comments by July 1, 2019. An updated version would be sent to all clubs with discussion and ratification taking place via email in August and September with a goal to operate under the new Bylaws beginning October 1, 2019.

A copy of the 1997 (current) MCA Bylaws and the proposed new Bylaws are available on the MCA website.

MCA Website and Social Media Accounts

The MCA website is a growing resource of current information and a reservoir of MCA history. Click around!

MCA Membership Report

- Congratulations to Hibbing for hosting 104 teams in this year's Last Chance Bonspiel.
- Rick Osbakken encourages everyone to take advantage of all types of grant funding available for little projects and large endeavors. Kathy Busch suggested the MN Council of Nonprofits as a good resource.
- Richfield had fun with curling opportunities during the 2019 Super Bowl.
- The St. Croix Curling Center had a great start with spring curling leagues.

MCA Executive Board Officers, Committee Chairs, USCA Board Representatives

Kathy Busch repeated the call for a new MCA president. She has very much enjoyed these past five years but feels someone with more available time would be a better president. No one brought any nominations to this meeting. In June, Kathy will remind club officers to invite MN curlers to serve as President, 1st Vice President, or Secretary. Interested persons can contact Kathy Busch or refer to the MCA website for more information.

The discussion of the formation of committees to assist in enhancing and advancing MCA business was presented again this year. Volunteer leadership is needed to make these teams reality.

Communications // Finance // Officials // Icemakers

As written earlier in these minutes, Nick Wellen's second two-year term as MN rep to the USCA Board of Directors has concluded. Nick was affirmed as an interim representative until the October 2019 Membership Assembly votes on the proposed USCA Board structure changes.

Congratulations to Minnesota Curlers....

Women's State Club: Jamie Kraus, Kerry Hاديaris, Anna Bauman, Jill Brozic → Nationals = Silver Medal

A photo Thank You card sent to the MCA from Team Kraus for the stipend assistance was shared.

U-18 Men's: Kevin Tuma, Sidney Harris, Michael Mattson, Austin Bengtson, Samuel Clasen → Nationals = Gold Medal

U-18 Women's: Sara Olson, Maggie Payette, Abigail Page, Damaris Berg → Nationals = Bronze Medal

Mixed Doubles: Multiple Minnesota Teams, see [USA Website for Roster and Finals](#)

Nationals Seniors Women's: Margie Smith, Norma O'Leary, Debbie Dexter, Shelly Kosal → Worlds = Quarterfinals

Nationals Seniors Men's: Geoff Goodland, Mike Fraboni, Pete Westberg, Dan Wiza, Todd Birr → Worlds = Quarterfinals

1:06pm Motion to Adjourn, Seconded, All in Favor = Aye!



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May 2019 USCA Board Meeting Key Items of Agreement

*October 2014- In her workshop entitled **Director Education and Leadership Workshop**, Kae Rader suggested that we take a few minutes at the end of each meeting to discuss the significant positive results of the meeting and create a short list of talking points that we can take to our members as part of a consistent message from the Board.*

Motion of Support for the Governance 2.0 Report – The board approved a motion of support for a report from the Governance 2.0 Ad Hoc Committee’s suggested amendments to the By-Laws. The suggested amendments will be presented for adoption to the Members’ Assembly in October. If adopted the amendments will decrease the size of the board over a two-year period to 13 members, reallocating member-elected director seats to the states/regions through reducing the number of directors assigned for some regions and combining director seats for some regions. It also provides a mechanism for these directors to be elected at the Members’ Assembly.

Elections – A slate of nominees was presented by the Nominating/Governance Chair and approved by the board. Scott Stevinson becomes Board Vice-Chair; Hawley MacLean was re-elected as a Board Elected Director; Rich Lepping was elected as a representative to the World Curling Federation; Charles Brown will Chair the Judicial Committee, and Steven O’Keefe and Jeff Annis were elected to the Audit/Finance Committee.

By-Laws Amended – The board passed three minor amendments to the By-Laws. These changes deal with complaint procedures and the Code of Ethics. The changes were posted on the website and may be viewed there. Notification of the amendments’ adoption will be sent out in a timely manner (within five days of adoption) by the Secretary per By-Laws. If unchallenged, the changes, go into effect 30 days after the date of notification.

Updated SafeSport Policy Approved – The board approved updated language to the U.S. Center for SafeSport Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies (MAAPP), which are part of the USA Curling SafeSport Policy and Handbook. This action satisfies some of the items that the USCA is currently shown as “deficient” for in the USOC’s NGB Compliance and Audit report. This update represents several months of work with the USOC to make sure that the USCA and any member organization that adopts the USCA SafeSport Policy is in compliance with current standards.

Conflict of Interest, Code of Ethics, and Director Expectations Policies Updated – Changes in language to the Conflict of Interest Form, Code of Ethics Policy and Director’s Expectations Policy were approved. These changes bring the policies into alignment with our current By-Laws and provide a clearer delineation of the ethical standards, fiduciary responsibilities, and principles for USCA Board Members.

Town Hall Call – May 23, 7 p.m. C.D.T.

Next Board Meeting – July 30, Noon C.D.T.

Gordon Maclean - Secretary
US Curling Association