

**2026 WSSA Annual Membership Meeting Minutes**  
**January 28, 2026**  
**11:00 AM**  
**New Hanover County Government Center**

**A. Welcome and Introductory Remarks**

- The start of the meeting was delayed until approximately 11:25AM due to the presence of a former player permanently banned by the Board of Directors in 2024 from participation in any WSSA-related activities, including the Annual Meeting. Commissioner Clancy requested this individual to leave the meeting room, and he refused to do so. Several members present expressed concerns about this banned individual's continued presence. In response, Board members consulted with New Hanover County and Sheriff's Department officials. After a brief dialogue, it was agreed that to ease tensions, address personal safety concerns, and allow the meeting to proceed, the individual would be permitted to remain in the meeting, and a Deputy Sheriff would be posted in the room to intervene if a disruption occurred. The meeting proceeded without incident. At the conclusion of the meeting, the banned individual attempted to submit a 2026 Player Application Form and check to Treasurer Reardon who declined acceptance and reminded the individual that he was permanently banned from future League participation. (also see **G - New Business**)
- Commissioner Mike Clancy welcomed attendees and introduced all Board Members in attendance: Ed Dominelli, Tom Howley, Harry Marriner, Brian McCarthy, Dave Reardon, Tony Spataro, and Kevin Ulmer. Mike Gallagher was out of town.
- Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance.
- Commissioner Clancy introduced New Hanover County Commissioner Rob Zapple who made remarks complimenting WSSA for providing a valuable athletic and social outlet for seniors in the Cape Fear region and offering his continued support for WSSA and its members. Commissioner Clancy and the entire membership applauded Commissioner Zapple for his unwavering dedication to WSSA's mission and activities.
- Commissioner Clancy stated that WSSA completed its 31st year and that the state of the League was excellent.

**B. Election of Board Members**

The following individuals were elected by members present by acclamation for the vacant Board of Directors positions:

- Commissioner - Mike Clancy (unopposed)
- Secretary/Procurement Officer - John Wolff (unopposed)
- Atlantic President - Jeff Weston (unopposed)
- Legacy President - Skip Flynn (unopposed)
- Commissioner Clancy congratulated the new Board members, and along with Kevin Ulmer, presented outgoing Board members in attendance Tom Howley and Ed Dominelli with a Certificate of Appreciation for their service to the Board.
- Commissioner Clancy asked for a volunteer to assist Harry Marriner with maintaining the WSSA website.

### **C. Revisions to WSSA Bylaws**

- Ed Dominelli presented and explained a proposed revision to Article III – Elections of the WSSA Bylaws approved by the Board and posted on the WSSA website for at least 14 days prior to the Annual Meeting as required by Article V of the Bylaws.
- The following revision was approved by a majority vote of the members present:

#### **Article III - Elections (revised)**

##### **Section 1 - Election of Board of Directors Members**

The Board of Directors - The Board shall be elected by a majority vote of the Association members present at the annual general membership meeting. Each nominee will be listed on a ballot prepared by the current Secretary/Procurement Officer. The vote will be conducted only by ballot. If a nominee is unopposed on the ballot, the membership will have the right to vote No on the ballot. During the annual meeting ballots will be counted and announced by the Secretary/Procurement Officer.

If an unopposed candidate fails to receive a majority of the votes, in accordance with Article IV, Section 3 of the By-Laws, the Board shall appoint a temporary replacement who will have full voting privileges until such time as the next annual meeting. In the event of a commissioner vacancy, the deputy commissioner shall assume the duties of the commissioner.

Nominee's names must be submitted to the BOD at [wssa2017@gmail.com](mailto:wssa2017@gmail.com) at least 30 days prior to the annual meeting. Nominations will not be submitted from the floor during the annual meeting. In addition to the name of the nominee, a written statement (email can serve as the written statement) will be submitted by the nominee. This statement will include: 1) the reason why the nominee would like to serve on the BOD, 2) the nominee's qualifications and/or experience that will benefit the WSSA BOD and its membership.

##### **Section 2 – Term of Office**

The Term of office of all members of the Board of Directors will be for two years commencing immediately after the election. The election of officers to the Board will be by ballot. Any officer can be removed for good reason by a two thirds majority vote of the Board of Directors.

## **D. Financial Report**

The WSSA Financial Report was presented by Treasurer Dave Reardon and a general discussion ensued with the members.

- Overall, the League is very sound financially.
- Dave Reardon displayed and explained the League's Financial Statement for the period 1-1-25 to 12-31-25. The Statement included a comparative analysis of income and expenses for the years 2021-2025 and budgeted 2026 income and expenses.
- League finished with a balance of about \$18,000 on December 31, 2025.
- Expenses are expected to increase next year due to additional fees for umpires because of Wednesday games in the Coastal and Legacy Divisions, and the purchase of additional ball caps. A loss of \$11,150 might result in 2026 largely due to these increased expenditures.
- League has 19 total sponsors with a good possibility of a couple new sponsors coming onboard this year.
- League had 220 members in 2025 and expects about 240 players in 2026.
- A total of 588 games is expected to be played in 2026.
- The issue of umpire availability and skill level was addressed at length. The cadre of trained umpires cannot cover all the games and players on bye have filled in with a degree of success. It was agreed that umpire training by a qualified person should be provided to player umpires to ensure familiarity with applicable USA Softball and WSSA rules. Jay Harrington said he would investigate finding someone to conduct this training and will advise Brian McCarthy.
- Financial Statement will be posted on the WSSA website.

## **E. Marketing and Public Relations**

Kevin Ulmer gave a PowerPoint presentation that included the following:

- Games played in 2025 – Atlantic – 66/team; Coastal – 59/team; and Legacy – 52/team.
- WSSA 2025 Community Involvement Activities: Knights of Columbus Blood Drive, Sister Issac Center Coat Drive, NC Special Olympics, Food Bank Food Drive, Wilmington Saint Patrick's Day Parade, Day at the Ballpark for Champions and Carolina Bay Seniors, CPR Training. Member Jim Dillon offered his convertible for WSSA's use in the 2026 St. Pat's Parade,

- A Legacy batting competition to be held in 2026 to support paws4 people/paws4vets.
- Introduction of a WSSA storefront in collaboration with Creative Ads through which WSSA shirts, caps, sweatshirts/pants can be purchased online by WSSA players and their families. Link will be on WSSA website.
- 2026 Season will start on Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup> with Spring Training commencing on March 10<sup>th</sup> and continuing through March 26<sup>th</sup>.
- New player orientation will be more formalized and be held on Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 1PM at the NCH Public Library on Military Cutoff.

## **F. Playing Fields Update**

Brian McCarthy provided a playing field update.

- Ogden fields have undergone extensive improvements particularly to the infield areas.
- Ogden fields will be open for pre-season play on March 1<sup>st</sup> unless Brian is advised otherwise by the County.
- Ogden fields will be available for play from 9:00AM to 2:00PM on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday in 2026.

## **G. New Business**

- Mike Clancy announced that the Board has approved the creation of an Expansion Committee to study the steady growth of the League and present recommendations to the Board on how best to manage League expansion in a controlled manner and ensure maximum player participation, safety, and enjoyment. Outgoing Board members Tom Howley and Ed Dominelli volunteered to serve. The Board directed that the Committee be comprised of three representatives from each Division to include at least one member from each Division with less than two years in the League. Members are encouraged to provide input to the Committee.
- Commissioner Clancy then opened the floor to questions from members in good standing.

- Two members questioned the Board's actions regarding the banned individual present at the meeting. Commissioner Clancy said the Board deliberated its actions at great length and acted within its authority, and he would not discuss this personnel action any further. He indicated that the ban was permanent and could not be revoked by a future Board in order to protect any future Board's and League's liability in the event of the banned player returning and engaging in similar behavior. (This decision was reflected in the official Board Minutes for November 14, 2024.)
- Members indicated that there has been inconsistent enforcement of base running rules particularly for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> base. It was agreed the rules should be reviewed by umpires and managers and consistently enforced.
- A question was raised about the NC Senior Games. Commissioner Clancy indicated that the League is not involved in the Games and merely provides uniforms to WSSA participants in the Games.

Meeting adjourned at 12:23PM.

Respectfully submitted: Ed Dominelli and John Wolff