

## **WSSA 2020**

### **Board of Directors' Meeting**

**March 16, 2020**

**Attendees: Walter Aaron, Charlie Backes, Dave Reardon, Joe Newcomb, Mike Gallagher, Tony Spataro, Skip Flynn, Gary Kohunsky**

**The meeting was called to order at 10:05 am in the NHC Pine Valley Library. Minutes of the February 6, 2020 board meeting had previously been approved and posted on the WSSA website.**

**Dave Reardon provided the treasurer's report indicating that the current cash balance for 2020 is \$37,161. He also stated that a total of 176 players have paid the 2020 application fee. Dave then provided an accounting of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary contributions made by individuals and area businesses. He also reported that 4 sponsors have provided their sponsorship fees for 2020; however, Able Insurance made a payment of \$800 perhaps in error as 2020 marks the second year Able is a team sponsor; and after the first year, the yearly fee drops to \$500. Jeff Butler of Able Insurance will be contacted and informed about the WSSA sponsorship fee levels. It was also noted that Able Insurance has also generously contributed to the WSSA 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary events.**

**There was discussion following the treasurer's report regarding the requested reimbursement of \$612.06 made by Jim Myers in February for 10 jerseys, 24 hats, and 1 scorebook purchased in 2019. The delay in submitting receipts for reimbursement was not explained; however, the board agreed to reimburse him for the full amount of his request.**

**There was further discussion on the number of paid players – new prospects and returning. While very few returning players have not yet paid, the board agreed not to assess the \$25 penalty announced earlier this year.**

**The discussion turned to the contributions received for the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary events and what the disposition of those funds would be since the planned opening day and banquet have been cancelled. Walter indicated he was going to contact the contributors via letter to explain the situation and cancellation/reschedule.**

**Dave asked what was being done to secure the sponsorship payments from those 8 who have not yet paid the 2020 fee. Walter indicated that he and Joe Newcomb were still planning to meet with all the WSSA sponsors and payment discussions could be held at that time. It was also brought to the board's attention that since there has been no formal process by which WSSA sends out an annual reminder or statement for payment, and sponsors for the most part have paid sometime during the calendar year in the past, there was no reason at this time to contact the sponsors. Also, the board reinforced that any player, manager, or board member who is or has been the contact with a sponsor is encouraged to continue that relationship on behalf of the WSSA. If necessary, the board will send reminder letters to sponsors after the player, manager, or board member makes initial contact.**

**In light of the delay of the start of the season due to Covid-19 and the guidance generated by New Hanover county regarding crowd size and number of 'at risk' individuals, should some sponsors question if they are paying for less than a full season, it should be noted and communicated that at this time our intent is to play a full season when we do get started. There are still too many unknowns and uncertainties to quantify what the 2020 season will look like and may, in fact, not be a 60-game season.**

**More discussion followed about options for purchasing generic jerseys for all teams with all sponsors logos represented, and with teams wearing different colors; and perhaps for future years after 2020, provide the same league hats bearing the WSSA logo. It was recommended that this discussion be continued by the division presidents and procurement officer in a separate meeting.**

Walter reported that all 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary events have been cancelled; sponsors and special guests should be contacted. Mike Abernathy will be contacted to insure the \$100 deposit to hold the Shrine for the banquet will be refunded. There was discussion by the board to perhaps suggest that the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary banquet be combined with the annual end of season banquet. While Carrabba's may not be able to accommodate the large number of attendees, it was made known that Carrabba's caters, and it's possible the Shrine could still be considered as the venue, and Carrabba's provides the food. This will be passed along to Mike Abernathy and the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary planning committee.

Walter stated that Harry Marriner has volunteered to be the WSSA social media coordinator. He is eager to help and is qualified. The secretary and director of marketing will meet with Harry to discuss the protocols of our website with regard to content, accuracy, and timing.

The discussion then turned to procurement. Gary provided copies of a proposed procurement process document which would, after board approval, become section 7 of the WSSA manual. The board reviewed and modified the document and with the changes, approved it. Gary will add the modified procurement section to the manual and send the updated manual to Walter for posting on the website.

The next item under procurement was a review of the 12 teams' inventories, gaps, condition, and year of jersey purchase. The discussion continued with a proposed schedule for purchase of jerseys and gear. It was suggested that all 12 teams receive (replace) 1 jersey each year and that the life of a jersey be no more than 2 years. Further, it was proposed that teams wear only 1 color, not 2. Gary will set up a meeting with the presidents to continue the discussion and to take the next steps for equipping the teams for the 2020 season. Gary will also research stickers which can be applied to equipment and gear that indicates 'Property of WSSA.'

It was noted that bats typically carry a 1-year guarantee and documentation which accompanies new equipment will be maintained by the procurement officer. Old bats can be resold, reclaimed, or recycled and Gary will research and retire old equipment when necessary.

The board then turned to the agenda item regarding our suspension and resumption of spring training and the regular season due to the coronavirus situation. The decision regarding spring training was that 1 additional week or a minimum of 3 days will be scheduled. After the 3 divisions draft, 1 week of team practice will be scheduled, and then the regular season will begin. The length of the season and the length of the summer break are yet to be determined; however, the presidents were asked to schedule their teams to play a 60-game season without dates now.

The board agreed that the WSSA should not give direction to and/or sanction managers or teams about the use of the fields at Ogden while the county has provided strict guidance regarding crowd size and 'at risk' individuals for safety and health reasons. It was acknowledged that players may show up at Ogden but they do so as individuals and not part of any organized WSSA practice or training.

The next board meeting will be held on April 14 at 11 am, location TBD.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Kohunsky  
WSSA Secretary and Procurement Officer

