

Minutes

WSSA Annual Membership meeting

7 February, 2018

The 2018 WSSA annual membership meeting was held at the Break Time Grille in Wilmington, North Carolina on 7 February, 2018. Six of the seven seated WSSA Board Members and 77 players/members were in attendance. The attendance sheet will be attached to these minutes (hard copy only and in the secretary's possession).

The meeting was called to order by Mike Abernathy, WSSA Commissioner and opened with prayer by Bob Perry. Mike gave recognition to each seated board member by name.

The WSSA Treasurer, Gary Swanson, provided the 2017 year end financial report. WSSA Cash balance at the end of the calendar year was \$19,825 comprised of \$ 9,163 Team Balances and \$ 10,662 WSSA administrative cash balance. The proposed 2018 budget presented cited income of \$ 18,220 VS. expenditures of \$ 16,495 leaving a potential surplus of \$ 1,725. A motion was made and seconded and the 2017 year end financial report, the proposed 2018 WSSA budget and 2018 league fees of \$100 were unanimously approved.

Walter Aaron reported that Olsen Park and Ogden Park have been secured for the season with a backup field at Olsen if needed.

Jim Ratkus, the Atlantic Division President, gave a presentation on what is planned for the 2018 season. For the Atlantic Division in 2018, unlike in 2017, there will be no split- season and all rainout make-up games will be planned to occur at the end of the season. Also, the "no over-run" rule will be made permanent and there will be a 5 week break in mid-season. The concept of starting each batter with a one ball/ one strike (1-1) count will be implemented on a trial basis. A copy of the 2018 schedule will be attached to these minutes (hard copy) and is also posted on the WSSA Web site.

Jerry Kaplan, President of the Coastal Division, addressed the potential loss of as many as 27 players from the 2017 season which may have an impact on the Coastal Division. Until the final numbers are compiled, the number of teams in Coastal and Legacy Divisions will be in limbo. The Coastal and Legacy Divisions have approved the calendar for their upcoming season. A copy of that calendar will be included as an attachment to these minutes and is also posted on the WSSA web site. Jerry acknowledged that Spring Training for the new players will begin on March 1st at Ogden Park. All participant applications are due no later than 31 March, 2018 along with payment of \$100 league fees.

Chip Krieger was introduced as the active/ acting representative working for the Board on Legacy Division matters. Chip reported that he has three manager candidates and has need for one more as the board is striving for a four team division this year.

Walt Aaron, WSSA Deputy Commissioner, addressed the initiative to have WSSA hire and schedule our own umpires thus doing away with the need to enter into a contract with another agency to do so for us and the decision was made to further evaluate this proposal before implemented. He also addressed that the use of Empie Park is unknown at this point and there is some uncertainty about use of the Olsen Fields for any Division other than Atlantic Division. One possible new addition might be the use of the

Town Creek Fields in Brunswick County but final determination on which fields are in play must be held in abeyance until the make-up of the number of teams by each division can be finalized.

A question from the floor was raised concerning an email to a New Hanover county commissioner from a division president over field conditions at Ogden Park. The question from a member asked if proper protocol was followed by the division president in contacting the county commissioner without approval from the Director of Marketing and Public Relations. The Public Relations Director will review this issue with the board.

Gary Kohunsky, WSSA Director of Marketing and Public Relations encouraged current members to assist in recruiting new players/members.

Jim Ratkus, Atlantic Division President, addressed a change in the way sponsorship will be managed. There will be one sponsor per team. A special committee will be established, chaired by the Director of Marketing, to oversee the sponsorship funds. This committee will make recommendations to the WSSA board for final approval on distribution/use of sponsorship funds. A final report will be provided to each sponsor on the use of their funds. Jim, in closing, stated that any existing team with two sponsors will be able to retain them for now. A discussion from the floor raised the fact that the BOD was putting too much responsibility on one individual and when, or if, this person elects to quit, the WSSA organization will be hard pressed to find another replacement.

Mike Abernathy, WSSA Commissioner, introduced and explained the proposed changes to the WSSA Bylaws. After some discussion with attendees, the majority of the WSSA members voted to leave the name of the league as is—that is, WSSA rather than the proposed change to WSSL. A motion was also made, seconded and the majority approved the revision of the WSSA Bylaws as written. Mike also explained that with the approval of the revised Bylaws, this authorized the “Wilmington Senior Softball Association Manual”. He mentioned to the membership that the board has the responsibility to revise, add, or delete items in this manual when appropriate and the process was explained in the manual that the membership voted to accept. Any member may petition for a change by communicating this request to the board.

The nominees for the WSSA Board of Directors were announced. Those nominated for election to a two year term commencing in 2018 were, Mike Abernathy as Commissioner, Skip Flynn as Secretary, Jim Ratkus as Atlantic Division President and Chip Krieger as Legacy Division President. The later position adds an additional seated member to the WSSA Board, as approved in the By-laws previously approved. Also nominated for election for the remaining one year terms of the appointed Board members were Jerry Kaplan as Coastal Division President and Gary Kohunsky as Director of Marketing & Public relations.

A motion was made, seconded and all of the above nominees were elected to their respective positions by unanimous decision. Not up for election this year were Walt Aaron, Deputy Commissioner and Gary Swanson, Treasurer. These 2 position plus the 6 newly elected above comprise the new 2018 WSSA Board for the 2018 season.

Charlie Backes announced a bowling tournament for existing WSSA members to be held on 8 February, 2018.

Walt Aaron addressed that the WSSA hat and shirt fundraising efforts fell short in participation. Dennis Telmanik then gave a brief presentation on a cruise – the WSSA Group Cruise Fund Raiser - that could help in raising funds for the defibrillators that the league is interested in purchasing. Cruise date on the Celebrity line (Silhouette) is Feb 22 – Mar 3, 2019. A copy of the itinerary will be attached to these minutes (hard copy).

A copy of all of the slides displayed at the meeting will be attached to these minutes (hard copy).

The meeting adjourned at 12:15pm.