

**WSSA 2020
Board of Directors Meeting
February 6, 2020**

The first 2020 WSSA board of directors meeting was called to order at 12:30 pm at the New Hanover Pine Valley library on February 6, 2020. Those in attendance were: Walter Aaron, Charlie Backes, David Reardon, Joe Newcomb, Mike Gallagher, Tony Spataro, Skip Flynn, and Gary Kohunsky.

The board confirmed that the minutes of the January 2, 2020 board meeting had been read and approved.

Dave Reardon presented the treasurer's report indicating we have a \$26,000 balance. Dave reported that we received Humana's \$1500.00 League sponsorship check in January, and 72 players have paid their \$100 membership fees. It appears five of those 72 are new players. There's a balance of approximately \$6000.00 in the team funds from last year and WSSA expects to receive about \$6000.00 in sponsorship payments this year.

Money collected or donated for WSSA's 25th anniversary events totals \$1137.00 to-date. A complete financial report is attached to these minutes.

There was discussion concerning the 2020 procurement process and budget for 2020. Gary indicated that the procurement process is still being worked out and that nothing has been finalized concerning equipping the teams with jerseys, equipment, etc. While this is a 'correction year' to bring all the teams up to a standard agreeable by the division presidents, the details of those standards and the procurement process have to be approved by the board and will be included as part of the WSSA manual.

**Status of ongoing projects
25th Anniversary Committee**

Gary reported that the committee meet earlier in the week and while Mike Abernathy has been acting as that committee's chairman, since he's no longer a WSSA BOD, he requested that Joe Newcomb and Gary carry the message of what business was conducted during the planning committee's meeting. The following items need board approval from the board: 1) a hot dog lunch provided by the Trolley Stop at the opening day ceremonies at Olsen Park (cost unknown), 2) an anniversary cake(s) at the banquet, 3) commemorative 25th anniversary jerseys for the players who were on the 1995 rosters.

Gary stated that while no actual cost for the 3 items had been provided by the anniversary planning committee, the amount of money allocated by the board of directors was up to \$10,000.00 and the total spend for all the events could be contained within that \$10,000.00 upper limit. Walter suggested that the commemorative jerseys also be made available to the players for purchase in the same way that an additional commemorative hat could be obtained.

There was discussion about the banquet, the location, the caterers, attendees, etc. The number of total attendees and identifying an RSVP process are important next steps, and the board and planning committee will work together on these steps. It was recommended that the planning committee's chairman be invited to attend all board meetings prior to opening day to ensure continuity of plans, RSVPs, costs, etc. Walter will contact Mike Abernathy.

The discussion then turned to enforcement of the March 1 deadline for submission of application and \$100 annual membership fee for returning players and March 15 for new players. The presidents voiced that player commitment by March 1 for returning players is essential for assessment of number of players and the beginning of the team selection, and that an incentive would serve to motivate payment by March 1 and a late fee would serve to motivate them to avoid that by paying earlier. Players cannot be allowed to play, to be on the field, if they have not filled out an application and paid the membership fee.

The board agreed that a new player, if they join before teams are selected, pay \$100. If a new player joins once the regular season has begun, the schedule of pro rata fees in the manual will apply.

A late fee of \$25 was approved by the board to be assessed for returning players who submit payment after the March 1 deadline (total membership fee = \$125.00). The postmarked date if mailed will determine when the check/payment is received. The \$125.00 fee will be assessed for any/all returning players after the March 1 deadline until regular season play begins.

After play begins, a returning player's fee will be based on the schedule in the manual and using \$125.00 as the base fee for calculation. A returning player who has been injured, is recovering from surgery or procedure, etc. will be charged a fee using the manual's schedule and a base fee of \$100.

Eligibility to attend the WSSA's banquet at no cost for the player and guest for returning players is having the \$100 application fee receiving by March 1. After March 1, returning players and guests may attend the banquet, but at their own cost.

An email will be sent out to all players on last year's roster outlining the fees and the banquet as soon as possible.

Umpires

Charlie reported that there is an umpire meeting scheduled at the Boathouse restaurant Wednesday, February 12 at 10 am. The board agreed that the umpires will receive the 25th anniversary hats and will be invited along with a guest to the banquet (no cost to them for either). Charlie advised that he will be umpiring again in 2020. After discussion there was agreement that umpires should fill out and sign the 2020 WSSA application which includes our standard waiver, and check the box on the application indicating their interest in umpiring. They do not have to pay the annual membership fee.

Charlie also advised that he needs to check with Tony Laws about our insurance and the certificates which are needed by the city and county.

Dave stated that he needs to have the umpires fill out a 1099 form. Charlie will get the forms signed.

Legacy

Skip presented a slate of managers to the board for approval. They include Dwight Crainshaw (Dres Mortensen as AM), Tom Howley (Henry Winters, AM), Stuart White (Gary Kohunsky, AM), and Scott Powell (AM TBD). The board approved the slate of managers. Skip also explained that the managers have met and discussed team makeup for the 2020 season but nothing has yet been finalized as that will be based on the number of returning and new players. Legacy will employ the 'run through the base' rule and will not be imposing the infield fly rule.

The managers have decided that correct use of the pitchers' screen or wearing pitchers' mask is now required of all pitchers in the division; so, if the pitcher's screen is not used, the pitcher must wear a face mask. If the umpire determines that the pitcher is not stepping behind the screen following every pitch, he will be warned once. After that, the umpire will instruct the pitcher's manager that the pitcher will have to be replaced before the game continues. The pitcher who failed to use the screen correctly is not prohibited from play in that game and may continue to bat and play any other position. He may also pitch in the second game.

Skip also continued that during Spring Training a trial using the screen will be in effect. The pitchers screen will be placed halfway between the pitcher's mound and home plate, and pitchers will pitch the ball over the screen.

Coastal

Tony reminded the board that the Coastal slate of managers had been previously approved by the board, but his managers did meet and decided that they will implement the 'run to base' rule this year. The managers agreed to take the leadership role this year with umpire help and support to be proactive and mutually agree if collisions were accidental or intentional. To protect players and keeping in mind that player safety is always a priority, those instances where the managers agree the collision was intentional, a player will be ejected from that game. Coastal will not be imposing the infield fly rule.

Atlantic

Mike reported that he is still short 2 managers, is still looking, and requested that once his slate of managers is filled, can the board approve via email. The board agreed to do so.

Purchasing

Gary reported that he has sent the 3 presidents a draft of the procurement process and inventory form to get the ball rolling, but since they haven't met to discuss or finalize anything, it's still a work in progress. He also stated that a complete and comprehensive inventory of all WSSA property is necessary and needs to be conducted ASAP, and before any considerations for team purchases are entertained.

Another item Gary brought up is the need for a consolidated storage unit to hold WSSA property during the off season after managers collect jerseys, WSSA bats, etc. so no one is individually burdened with housing WSSA property. Any surplus items need to be stored and a small, climate-controlled unit would accommodate that, again taking the responsibility away from individuals to store and safeguard WSSA property.

It was discussed and agreed that all WSSA owned property needs to be collected and inventoried at the end of the season every year.

All board members would have access privileges to the unit. Gary provided some cost details for available units, and the board approved Walter and Gary researching available units and costs – including all discounts – and renting a unit on behalf of WSSA. The annual expense has been approved in advance by the board and not to exceed \$75/month.

Sponsor Relations

Walter reported that he is working with Joe to set up a meeting with all our sponsors to introduce himself as the new commissioner and to thank them for their financial support. The board agreed that this effort in maintaining good sponsor relationships is essential.

Gary added that perhaps as early as next year, the board should consider raising our sponsorship fees as the costs of apparel, equipment, and supplies continues to increase; and purchasing new or replacement items with the funds that are spelled out in our sponsorship program for new and existing sponsors is proving to be a financial challenge. Skip also said we should look at our membership fees next year to determine if our expenses would necessitate an increase.

Gary was tasked with providing each division with scorebooks for the 2020 season.

Social Media Platforms

Walter stated that we have more than a website for WSSA (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter) and while he has been maintaining all of the vehicles, it's a huge amount of work and feels we need a WSSA social media coordinator.

Walter continued that the WSSA should have a social media committee headed by the director of marketing and public relations to establish a framework for how we want WSSA represented and marketed. Additional members should include the secretary and the commissioner at a minimum.

The division presidents will ask their players if anyone has the interest, skill level, etc. to take on the responsibility of the WSSA social media coordinator.

The meeting was adjourned at 2 pm.