

MINUTES of NCASRA BOARD of DIRECTORS' MEETING December 6, 2005

I. The NCASRA Board was called to order by the President at 7:43 PM, December 6, 2005 in the cafeteria of Thomas Jefferson HSST. Forty voting members were present as follows:

Executive Board

President	John Brownell	Vice President	Rob Ittig
Treasurer	Lee West	Secretary	John White

At-Large and Team Members

At-Large Past Pres	Joseph Creed	Mathews	-----
At-large (Towner)	-----	McLean	Tom Zegler
At-large (Wick)	Carl Wick	Mount Vernon	Pam Hull
		National Cathedral	Alex McNamara
B-CC	-----	Oakton	Radwan Saade
Bishop Ireton	Denise Benoit	Potomac	Vera Vaughn
Bishop O'Connell	Steve Kapurch	Robinson	TJ Kozikowski
Christchurch	-----	Saint Albans	Lynn Hatch
DeMatha	C Vandenbossche	St Stephens/Ste Agnes	Wendy Johnson
Elizabeth Seton	-----	Sidwell Friends	Nancy Markowitz
Episcopal	Mark Gowin	South County	Peter Clarke
Fairfax	-----	T C Williams	Tracy Hollingsworth
Forest Park	Juanie Fuqua	Thomas Jefferson	David Lampen
Gar-Field	Jim Keefer	Wakefield	Vaughan Olbrys
Georgetown Day	Brooke Alexander	Walt Whitman	Jack Orrick
Georgetown Visitation	-----	Walter Johnson	Altan Gabbay
Gloucester	-----	Washington-Lee	Laura Adler
Holton Arms	Martin Zoltick	West Potomac	Mike Stilwell
Holy Cross	Richard Conran	West Springfield	Harry Heim
Hylton	-----	Westfield	Craig Trumbull
James Madison	Glenn Burger	Woodbridge	Hal Johnson
J E B Stuart	Chuck Pizer	Woodrow Wilson	-----
Lake Braddock	-----	W T Woodson	Vanette McKinney
Langley	Hal Hicks	Yorktown	Elaine Okal

Coordinators

DLOC	-----	OLOC / Concessions	Lee West
Communications	Steve Lee	Personnel	Mark Lindon
Programs	Steve Lee	Training	T J Kozikowski
Trophies	Mike Stilwell	Web Master	Ron West

Committees

Audit	Steve Lee	Bylaws	John White
Coaches Development	Ryz Obuchowicz	Concessions	Lee West
Corporate Sponsor	T J Kozikowski	Coxswain Certification	Ryz Obuchowicz
Grievance	TBD	Historian	-----

Representatives

Coaches Association	Bryan Tylander	Crew Council Chair	Mike Dobson
Sandy Run Park	James Short	USRA Referees	Ryz Obuchowicz
Thompson Boat Center	-----	Anacostia Community Boathouse Association	Vaughan Olbrys

II. Secretary's Report.

A. The Minutes of the November 1, 2005 Board meeting were read and approved as modified.

III. President's Report. USRowing Association Convention:

A. The President gave a synopsis of the presentation that included:

- How to run regattas
- Coaching Level I and Level II
- Junior National Team coach talk on how to build a winning team - the #1 item being fund raising ... use a nurturing touch but hold accountability ... everything but academics is second to crew ... consistency ... parents and Athletic Directors in concert ... etc.

B. Insurance Programs. Leonard and Bollinger provide insurance for hired drivers. In litigation, plaintiffs will sue to the limit of coverage, so increasing liability limits is not necessarily a good thing. Waivers help to limit costs. The \$550 USRowing membership fee includes new insurance coverage. Regular regatta insurance fees are going up "significantly," although not to the previous level of two years ago.

C. Safety. USRowing will keep the "Kitty Little" Safety Kits going as long as possible but might be available only as long as the current stock lasts. All teams are encouraged to obtain and hang up the new Safety Poster.

D. Youth Advisory Committee. The President asked Joe Creed to give a synopsis: There were two principal forums - General and Business (which was mainly about the Youth Invitational Regatta in Cincinnati). Forty-nine to fifty-five percent of USRowing membership is youth, however, financially, nothing goes towards youth programs. USRowing web site is not youth user friendly.

Lightweight issue - There is no current requirement for lightweight certification at the Youth Committee level, however, a certification program in order to participate as a lightweight rower, with a Doctor's evaluation required, is a proposal for the Committee to consider.

Youth Invitational Regatta (now a USRowing National Regatta): the VSRC and the NCC will each get one invitation per event. John Brownell mentioned that there is no qualifying regatta for Delaware schools and stated we could invite St Andrews to participate in the NCC to qualify. (But this might bump out a local team. It would be a Youth Committee decision in any event.) Joseph said that NEIMA (Northeast Invitational/Mid-Atlantic District Championships) is the St Andrews' designated qualifier.

IV. Vice President's Report.

The Rules were briefed to the Crew Council. The CC is going to establish a separate rules policy, but not for this year. By next July, the CC intends to have an approach on how rules changes are to be made.

V. Treasurer's Report.

Dues are due the next meeting, January 10, 2006. The Treasurer explained the current financial report, specifically income from sale of an asset other than inventory (single shell donated last year) and

“donations” from fall head races and expenses for the safety handbook, personnel handbook, auditor fee, office supplies and going away gift for the Sandy Run Park Manager, Brian Hennesy.

VI. Representative’s Reports.

A. Crew Council. Mike Dobson said the next Crew Council meeting is December 8th at 10 AM in the Freedom School in Prince William County. The schedule will be reviewed for approval. He noted that five schools were not present at the previous CC meeting (Ireton, O’Connell, Episcopal, Georgetown Visitation, and Oakton) and, according to the CC rules, MUST attend this meeting to avoid sanctioning action. The NCASRA representatives from these five (and all schools) were going to take action to ensure his/her AD was aware of the CC meeting.

B. Anacostia Community Boathouse Association. NTR

C. Coaches Association. Bryan Tylander discussed regatta events changes. The 2nd and lightweight events will be combined; 4th events are now 4th/Novice; points have been adjusted for VSRC and NCC team trophies; VSRC events having more than 21 entries will have time trials on the Friday prior to pare the field to 18 entries. This is to avoid the situation of the 2005 VSRC when the M-1-4 had five heats with only one to advance to the final. Now there will be three heats with two advancing to the final.

D. USRA Referees. Ryz Obuchowicz said “referee information packets” have been handed to all booster representatives and each is requested to help recruit referee candidates. Even if a new referee only participates as long as his/her child is rowing, it helps immensely with staffing our local regattas. Ryz is also taking orders for a group buy of flotation suits for referees and coaches at a reduced cost (\$249). Minimum order is 25 and inputs are needed by January 15, 2006. Information will be sent out by the Secretary (done January 7th).

E. Sandy Run Park. James Short introduced himself as the newly assigned Sandy Run Park Manager (but he has been with the NVRPA for 22 years). He reiterated that when the Occoquan opens for rowing in February 2006, only four-stroke outboard engines will be allowed on the water ... two-stroke engines are now banned.

F. Thompson Boat Center. NTR

VII. Coordinator Reports.

A. Communications / Programs. Steve Lee: Team pictures and biographies for regatta programs are due March 7, 2005. Steve Lee and Rick Towner will come to the schools to take team pictures, if requested, during the first week of on-water practice. Pictures are to be submitted by hand or by mail, NOT by e-mail, pictures are to be digital grade, not photograph (which would have to be digitized).

B. DLOC. NTR

C. OLOC. The first OLOC meeting went well ... the next meeting is in February.

D. Personnel. Mark Lindon gave a comprehensive explanation of how volunteers are allocated. The Secretary will forward a copy of the regatta schedule and spreadsheet listing where each school is rowing for every regatta. (Done December 8th)

E. Training. TJ Kozikowski: Dates for launch driver training in March will be announced soon.

F. Trophies. NTR

G. Web Master. NTR

VIII. Committee Reports.

A. Audit. Steve Lee: The auditor gave NCASRA a clean bill of health, written report to follow.

B. Coaches Development. Ryz Obuchowicz: The handbook with sources on how to find coaches is to be posted on the NCASRA web site.

C. Concessions. NTR

D. Corporate Sponsorship. TJ Kozikowski: Just getting started ... looking for funding sources to improve capital assets and things like rowing barges (stable platforms used to train novices, sixteen at a time). He is trying to promote NCASRA as a health/water sport organization, not just rowing. The USRowing convention session on sponsors emphasized getting small, continuous donations vice large, one-time contributions. The Committee is working to get a policy down on paper with specifics on approaches to obtain sponsors and the type of sponsor desired.

E. Coxswain Certification. Ryz Obuchowicz: Exam development is going OK ... working on various sources to compile questions. There was discussion on how the certification process would be executed. A draft policy will be presented at the NCASRA meeting on January 10th.

Coxswain training and certification exam format was discussed at some length, during which it was mentioned that Vespoli is sponsoring a Coxswain Training Clinic in the Fairview Marriott (Arlington Boulevard and Route 50 in Fairfax) on January 28, 2006. The cost is \$90 advance registration, \$100 at the door. This cost may put the clinic out of the reach of many who desire to attend. It was asked if the cost can be waived or reduced (by bulk registrations?) ... answer was NO. This led to discussion of alternate means. On a suggestion by Lee West, John Brownell stated that the \$1000 set aside for coaches training has not been used and it could be used to fund attendance. He made a MOTION: If the \$1000 donated for coaches training was not used, propose using it to send coxswains from schools with limited funds. Motion passed unanimously. Requests for financial assistance are to be sent to the President.

F. Historian. NTR

IX. Reading and Consideration of Communications. NTR

X. Old Business. None

XI. New Business. None

XII. Announcements. None

XIII. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 9:25 PM.
The next meeting is Tuesday, January 10, 2006 TJHSST Cafeteria.