

MINUTES of NCASRA BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING May 1, 2007

I. The NCASRA Board was called to order by the President at 7:44 PM, May 1, 2007 in the cafeteria of Thomas Jefferson HSST. Forty-one of 53 voting members were present as follows:

<u>Executive Board Members</u>			
President	Rob Ittig	Vice President	Carl Wick
Treasurer	Lee West	Secretary	John White
<u>At-Large and Team Members</u>			
At-large (Past Pres)	-----	Langley	Susan McKay
At-Large (Towner)	-----	Mathews	-----
At-Large (Lee)	-----	McLean	Thomas Zegler
At-Large	Ryz Obuchowicz	Mount Vernon	Sue Davis
		National Cathedral	Alex McNamara
B-CC	Elizabeth Petty	Oakton	Julie Furuta-Toy
Bishop Ireton	Alan Borough	Potomac	-----
Bishop O'Connell	Steve Kapurch	Robinson	David Oakley
Christchurch	-----	Sidwell Friends	Eric Mayer
DeMatha	Rosemary Casey	South County	Mike Jordan
Elizabeth Seton	-----	Saint Albans	Lynn Hatch
Episcopal	-----	St Stephens/Ste Agnes	Mike Barron
Fairfax	Bob O'Brien	T C Williams	Tracy Hollingsworth
Forest Park	Ray Griggs	Thomas Jefferson	David Lampen
Gar-Field	Jim Keefer	W T Woodson	Fritz Roegge
Georgetown Day	Barbara Selig	Wakefield	-----
Georgetown Visitation	Jerry Myers	Walt Whitman	Jack Orrick
Gloucester	-----	Walter Johnson	Mark Baskin
Gunston Day School	-----	Washington-Lee	Donna Roberts
Holton Arms	Martin Zoltick	West Potomac	Steve Wanser
Holy Cross	Cindi Fahive-Sobel	West Springfield	Will Hiestand
Hylton	Mark Fichten	Westfield	Craig Trumbull
J E B Stuart	Chuck Pizer	Woodbridge	Hal Johnson
James Madison	Bob Smith	Woodrow Wilson	Leslie White
Lake Braddock	Jim Barnes	Yorktown	Greg Frey

Coordinators

DLOC	Michael Mutter	OLOC	Lee West
Personnel	Mark Lindon	Programs	Susan McIsaac
Trophies	Mike Stilwell / TJ Kozikowski	Web Master	Ron West

Committees

Audit	Steve Lee	Bylaws	John White
Communications	Cherie Lejeune	Coach Dev	Ryz Obuchowicz
Grievance	Harry Heim	Historian	Ed Wells
Nominations	Ryz Obuchowicz		

Representatives

Coaches Assn	Bryan Tylander	Crew Council Chair	Kerry Donley
Sandy Run Park	James Short	USRA Referees	Ryz Obuchowicz
Thompson Boat Center	-----	Anacostia Community Boathouse Association	Alan Borough

II. Secretary Report. John White:

A. The Minutes of the March 6, 2007 Board meeting were read and approved.

III. President's Report. Rob Ittig:

A. The following were appointed to the Audit Committee: Steve Lee, John Kowal, and Steve Meidt.

B. DLOC Regatta Director Replacement. Mike Mutter said we MAY have a candidate. Mike restated that he would not continue as Regatta Director.

C. Trophy Turn-in. Three schools, Westfield, Wilson, and Yorktown, were late returning trophies. In accordance with the bylaws, the boosters of these teams have to petition the President to participate in a championship regatta. Westfield submitted its petition at the meeting, the other two were received by May 5th.

D. Bylaws Committee Recommendations. Proposed changes to the bylaws are:

1. Grammar corrections (Article III, Sections 6 and 8)
2. LOC staffing requirement is defined (Article V, Section 1)
3. Clarification of Nominations Committee action (Article VIII, Section 1)
4. Clarification of grievance procedure (Article IX, Section 1)
5. Gunston Day School membership addition
6. Appendix F, NCASRA Trophy and Awards Policy, is added.
7. Appendix G, NCASRA Revenue Sharing, is added.
8. Appendix H, NCASRA Personnel and Equipment Support, is added.
9. Appendix I, Use of NCASRA Equipment for Non-NCASRA Activities, is added.

Changes 6 to 9 are addition of existing policies to consolidate them in one place. All other changes, except #2, are minor corrections. The second change would specify the staffing requirement for Local Organizing Committees (LOC), specifically the District LOC (DLOC). Copies of the proposed changes were handed out and will be voted at the next meeting, June 5th.

Some discussion ensued on the assignments of schools to an LOC. The issue is the “permanent” staffing requirements to be provided to the LOC to conduct regattas. Such personnel are required at every regatta of the season and provide the nucleus of the volunteers who ensure a safe regatta. These persons must be present even if his/her school is not participating, and therein is the problem obtaining the required staffing. Discussion with the schools involved is ongoing to find a solution.

IV. Vice President's Report. Carl Wick:

The Trailer Driving School that was scheduled for March 24, 2007 did not occur. It was scheduled too late to adequately advertise and get people signed up, and foul weather conspired to make that date not workable.

Launch Driver Orientation problems encountered this year. The biggest issue was the number to sign up, in excess of 225, which was too large to be accommodated. Also, the bad weather caused cancellation of one session. Some schools signed up many, many more candidates than volunteer driver slots assigned and therefore caused some schools not to be able to obtain enough to satisfy its requirement.

Several things were discussed. One suggestion is to let the schools do the driver education through its own coaching staff, taking parents out on team practice. This would get familiarity with his/her own school launch and possibly free the coach to concentrate more on coaching. The drivers assigned to shuttle service or safety boats don't need the referee driving instruction. Referees would train only those volunteers designated to drive referees. Reinstating the fall orientation session was suggested and endorsed as a means of not only training more people, but maintaining awareness of the driver requirement.

V. Treasurer's Report. Lee West:

A. The financial statements for January through April were reviewed. It was noted the income was less than programmed because two regattas were cancelled.

B. In her capacity as the Mid-Atlantic Representative to the USRA Youth Committee, Lee explained the eligibility for the Youth National Championship regatta in Cincinnati, Ohio. She listed the events in which the winners at VSRC and NCC would qualify to attend. Should the winner decline, the bid would be offered to the second place team, then the third place team, but no bid would be offered to less than the third place finisher.

The discussion led to the question of VHSL sanction to attend the Youth National Championships. Kerry Donley said he would check to see if the waiver approved last year carries over year to year (which is what we thought had been approved). It turns out, subsequently, that the waiver was for last year only and the request to attend this year must be submitted anew. It is difficult to do so at this late date since the VHSL body has already met for the last time. It was decided by the Executive Board to wait and see if any school indicated a desire to go ... if not, it is a moot issue.

VI. Representative's Reports.

A. Crew Council. Kerry Donley: The Crew Council meets May 8th at TJHSST. All Memorandums of Understanding are in and dues paid. The cancelled dual meets on April 28th and subsequent reshuffling of teams to the Potomac and Sandy Run were not an issue to the CC. They wanted the crews to compete and the cancellation was out of the control of the participants.

B. Coaches Association. Bryan Tylander: The regatta Head Coach system is working fine. He requested parking passes for the coaches.

C. USRA Referees. Ryz Obuchowicz: Regatta manning has been much better this year and no serious deficiencies have been encountered. The Chief Referees need to know in advance who the Regatta Head Coach is ... there needs to be a written "posting" of these assignments. He noted that the schools predominately participating in dual and triple meets are not providing referees/candidates (i.e., they are not contributing this resource to support dual/tri meet events.

D. Sandy Run Park. James Short: NTR

E. Thompson Boat Center. Gary Weeden: Not present.

F. Anacostia Community Boathouse Association. Alan Borough: The new ACBA representative is Kelley O'Connell, who was not able to come this evening. No new information on the 11th Street Bridge work.

VII. Coordinator Reports.

A. DLOC. Michael Mutter: All Potomac regattas were held and, in general, were 30% larger this year. A regatta size of 1000 rowers is the max that can be reasonably accommodated.

B. OLOC. Lee West: NTR. Parking for the VSRC regatta will be a problem. Try to maximize carpooling. Offsite parking will be at South County high School with shuttle service. The Ted Phoenix regatta will start at 9 AM.

C. Personnel. Mark Lindon: Reminded all that launch drivers on the Potomac must have a Launch Operator Certificate. The Harbor Police were checking. Reminded all that volunteers are to sign in upon arrival in the AM. Some volunteers seem to get "lost" between sign-in and arrival at the duty location. Which is another issue – allow time to get to Sandy Run, sign in, and walk to the assigned location. Don't arrive at the shift start time ... it leaves no time to get to the finish line or start platform, for instance.

D. Programs. Bill & Susan McIsaac: NTR

E. Trophies. Mike Stilwell: His report is at Attachment 1 to these minutes.

VIII. Committee Reports.

A. Audit. Steve Lee: NTR

B. Bylaws. John White: NTR

C. Coaches Development. Ryz Obuchowicz: NTR

D. Communications. Cherie Lejeune: Lisa Fiebelman has stepped down from the Communications Committee. We have been successful in getting more coverage of regatta results this year and have had a couple of feature articles in the Washington Post. See her notice at Attachment 2.

E. Grievance. Harry Heim: NTR

F. Historian. Ed Wells: He will research and rewrite the historical Overview of rowing in the National Capital area that is in the Orientation Handbooks.

G. Nomination. Ryz Obuchowicz: Ryz reported to the BOD that no one has indicated a desire to be nominated for NCASRA office (amidst general laughter) and requested anyone that may be interested contact him..

Attachment 1

All trophies have been sent in for updates and the work for the most part is complete. PW Engraving made a couple of mistakes, and I had one omission of info that caused three trophies to be redone, or information added. I am picking up the remaining trophies on Wednesday and will bring them to the regattas with me.

One of the trophies that needed some work was the Men's 3rd 4 from the TPR last year. I missed that DeMatha did not get the trophy engraved when they returned the trophy. DeMatha should be charged for the engraving. John White mentioned to me that it might be advisable to charge the school \$15.00 for the effort to encourage the schools to comply with the rules.

All the plaques have been completed and I've given John White the NCC plaques, and I've turned over all the plaques for the TPR and the VRSC to Sandy Payne, the VRSC award coordinator. Sandy also has all of the trophies for the TPR and VRSC's with the exception of the trophies I've already noted.

Notes on two trophies: For the plinth on the Rothstein Trophy (NACSRA #43), I had PWE make a very nice black and gold metal event plinth. They were not able to make a cast bronze plinth to replace the cast one that was on the trophy. The metal one looks very nice, but I wanted you to know this before the regatta in case you get some questions. We would need to find out where they original plinth was made if we want to have a cast bronze plinth made.

The Ted Phoenix Trophy (NCASRA #56). If you may recall, last year there was some comments made by Yorktown, the winner of the event in 2006, that the figure on the trophy is a male, and the event the trophy is designated for is a women's event. The women's freshmen 8 to be exact. PWE said that they remembered that trophy and they did not make the trophy. PWE mentioned that the person who was in charge of getting the trophy made originally took it to several places before they found a trophy shop able to make it. If we want to have the figure replaced with a female, we would need to find out where the trophy was made and take it there. PWE also mentioned that it would be a pretty pricey change in their opinion, given the amount of work. If it is of any help to you, the Yorktown coach said they would pay for the work, but this was last year right after the regatta. The trophy is very attractive just the way it is. I personally don't think we should go through the trouble, but I will leave that up to you.

As instructed by John White, I've placed an order for the 110 bronze medals needed for the VRSC's. They are generic medals that are bronze and have 3rd Place on the front and cost \$3.75 each. I would need to know if you want to have VRSC 2007 engraved on the back. I asked PWE if this could be done in time and they said they could, but I would need to know from you if you want this done. PWE charges \$1.00 per word, so this would add \$2.00 per medal. I don't think it's necessary, but I will leave that up to you.

I also need to inform you of a bit of a problem with the VRSC award job. It is now a two day job, 5/5 & 5/12. Last year only the VRSC's were held at Sandy Run. I will be certain to make sure that any and all prospective volunteers for this job in the future know well in advance what the job duties are, and what they are expected to do.

I'm quite confident this year will be smoother than last year as we have a second volunteer helping with awards. It should make things run much smoother. And I want to thank Lee for seeing that this happened this year. I truly believe it is a much needed addition to this job. Since the West Potomac OLOC rep, Preston Mullen, will be there both weekends, I will have Preston handle all of the transport for the VRSC's.

Mike Stilwell

TO ALL NCASRA MEMBERS

The racing season will be over in less than 3 weeks. This year, the media support for our rowing efforts has grown. There have been weekly stories in the Washington Post, plus they have included top races in their HS Sunday print score box and posting all results online, in the Hot Spot. The local papers, like Sun Gazette and Community Times, have also been friendly.

We still need your local media contacts to compile the master media list. We also like a copy of all the articles that you have that mention your teams. They will go into a media archive.

There is still plenty of time to get your team in print. The VA Scholastic Rowing Championship regatta will be attended by many journalists if all goes well. Remember for any submissions, try to follow the guidelines handed out, and remember photos are your best bet.

May is the Scholastic Rowing month in Virginia, by proclamation, so those of you who have clubs in the state should take advantage of that. You can find the Proclamation on the NCASRA website.

If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact:
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