

**ASA MID-AMERICA REGION (12)**  
**ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**Oklahoma City, OK**  
**November 9, 2008**

**CALL TO ORDER: 7:05**

**ATTENDANCE: (Sign-in Sheet)**

**Council Members:** Joe Sproul – Kansas ASA; Tom Topping – Iowa ASA; Joe Patterson – Nebraska; Mel Pinkley – St. Louis Metro ASA; Chuck Hawke – KC Metro ASA; and Joey Rich – Missouri ASA. Jim Westerhaus, Sarah McMahon, Rod Peer, Dave Epperson, Bob McMahon – Kansas ASA; Doug Lindaman, Ron Zimmerman, Ed Murphy, Bill Blanchard – Iowa ASA; Bob Brown, Renee Williams, Tim Watts, Ed Brisaio – Nebraska ASA; Chuck Cox, Ronald Fischer, Dave Fischer, Roger Finnestead, Mike Myers – St Louis Metro ASA; Mary Mahoney, Milo Mitchell, John Orłowski, Roger Randall – KC Metro ASA; Mark Nelson, Kristy Bullock, Susan Provance – Missouri ASA. Guests: Nancy Sharples.

**INTRODUCTIONS:** Each commissioner introduced the staff they had in attendance at the meeting.

**PROXY APPOINTMENTS:** Susan Provance for Jack McCracken, Missouri ASA Player Representative; Bob McMahon for Jeff Bachman, Kansas ASA Player Representative; Tim Watts for Mel Hyman, Nebraska ASA Player Representative; Ed Brisaio for Jeff Sloan, Nebraska ASA Allied Member; Bill Blanchard for Keith Sanvold, Iowa ASA At-Large Player Representative; Roger Finnestead for Jim Crites, St Louis Metro ASA JO Commissioner; Dave Fischer for Chuck Cox, St Louis Metro ASA UIC; and Ron Fischer for Mike Myers, St Louis Metro ASA Player Representative.

**Motion to Approve:** Mark Nelson                      **Second:** Mary Mahoney                      **APPROVED**

**APPOINTMENT:** Joe Sproul appointed Mary Mahoney to assign the General Session seats for the Mid America Region (12) at the conclusion of the regional meeting.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** A packet of the information available to the regional membership, which included the agenda, 2009 tournaments to be assigned, tournament awards and the price increase that will take place in 2009, the code change proposals submitted to the regional director, a participation report, and the financial report. He requested that the agenda for the meeting be revised to hold the committee meetings after the new business was concluded.

**AGENDA:** Presented with the revision.

**Motion to Approve:** Mark Nelson                      **Second:** Joey Rich                      **APPROVED**

**2007 MINUTES:** Copy of minutes had been emailed to membership prior to convention.

**Motion to Approve:** Mel Pinkley                      **Second:** Chuck Hawke                      **APPROVED**

**REGIONAL DIRECTORS REPORT:** Financial statement as presented on paper.

**Motion to Approve:** Ron Fischer                      **Second:** Doug Lindaman                      **APPROVED**

**OLD BUSINESS:** Joe Sproul reminded everyone that participation reports have been submitted to the national office, so it is important that each association gets their regional assessment fee of \$15 per team up to date.

The information that is being sent into the website needs to be done in a form (PDF) that can be handled more efficiently. The information the regional director needs to have also needs to be presented in a more timely fashion.

Tournament hosts that are awarding berths to the teams, need to make sure that the flyers that are being presented, clarify which teams are eligible to receive those berths.

The cost of the Mid America Awards package will be increasing this coming season. Medals will be going up to \$3.75 from \$3.25 this past year. Cost break down is on the 2008 awards expense sheet in the packet.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Joe Sproul had asked Regional JO Representative, Renee Williams, to check with the other regional JO's that still hold regional championships, to see how their tournaments were doing. Renee reported that the regions still holding championships, and that number is small, that the number of teams participating in the tournaments is down, and that they are going to have trouble keeping them going if the trend remains the same. Mary Mahoney stated that she hates to see us give up that weekend for regional tournaments, as our teams will then be going to play for other associations. She doesn't want to give up on the tournaments, but realizes that they may need to be let go. Joe Sproul thanked Mary for the efforts she has made to make the tournaments work, and her support of the tournaments.

**Legislation:** Article: 201.04 Mid-America Region – Championship Tournaments and Berths  
Amendment to Read:

Delete all Girls' Fast Pitch Region Championships with the exception of the 18U Class A and Gold, and move all available advancing berths to the Mid-America Region USA/ASA National & Hall of Fame Qualifier.

**Motion to Approve:** Ed Brisaio

**Second:** Roger Randall

**APPROVED**

It was discussed and decided that the 10U berths, because the region has not used their available berths the last few years, would be awarded to the Regional Commissioners if requested, by the Regional Director.

**Legislation:** Article 104.01 Regional Director Number: 1  
Amendment to Read:

The Regional Director shall be a member of the National Council, nominated by a State or Metro Commissioner and elected every even year for a term of two (2) years. All nominations shall be brought before the council for election by a majority vote of the Regional Council members.

**Motion to Approve:** Joey Rich

**Second:** Ron Zimmerman

**APPROVED**

**Legislation:** Article 104.02 Regional Player Representative Number: 1  
Amendment to Read:

The Regional Player Representative shall be a State or Metro Player representative or a State or Metro at-large Player Representative, nominated by the Player Representative Committee and elected every year for a term of one (1) year. All nominations shall be brought before the council for election by a majority vote of the Regional Council Members.

**Motion to Approve:** Ed Brisaio

**Second:** Mark Nelson

**APPROVED**

**Legislation:** Article 104.03 Regional Junior Olympic Commissioner Number: 1  
Amendment to Read:

The Regional Junior Olympic Commissioner shall be a State or Metro Junior Olympic Commissioner, nominated by the Junior Olympic committee, and elected every year for a term of one (1) year. All nominations shall be brought before the council for election by a majority vote of the Regional Council Members.

**Motion to Approve:** Ron Zimmerman                      **Second:** Mark Nelson                      **APPROVED**

**Legislation:** Article 104.04 Regional Umpire-in-Chief Number 1  
Amendment to Read:

The Regional Umpire-in-Chief shall be nominated by the Umpire Committee, and elected every year for a term of one (1) year. All nominations shall be brought before the council for election by a majority vote of the Regional Council Members.

**Motion to Approve:** Joe Patterson                      **Second:** Renee Williams                      **APPROVED**

**Legislation:** Article 203.00 Sites General Number: 1 Letter: b Page: 7  
Amendment to Read:

Tournaments that are allocated to the Region by ASA, Northern Territory Tournaments on rotation to the Region, and all unassigned Regional Tournaments will be determined by a majority vote of all qualified voting members from the Mid-America Region at the annual meeting.

**Motion to Approve:** Mel Pinkley                      **Second:** Chuck Cox

Discussion: It was decided that Northern Territory tournaments could not be included in this amendment. It was then decided that Letter: b should be left alone, and the amended legislation should be a new Letter: c. The author of the legislation, Mark Nelson, amended it to then read:

Tournaments that are allocated to the Region by ASA, and all unassigned Regional Tournaments will be determined by a majority vote of all qualified voting members from the Mid-America Region at the annual meeting.

**Motion to Approve as Amended:** Ed Brisaio                      **Second:** Joey Rich                      **REJECTED**

Susan Provance asked if cities who were eliminated from contention for tournaments could have an earlier notification, so that they might be able to get in on tournaments that were in the rotation. The commissioners agreed that they would try to give the bidding cities earlier notification if at all possible.

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS BREAK: 8:00pm**

**RETURN CALL TO ORDER: 8:40pm**

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

### **Commissioner's Meeting Report:** Reported by Joe Sproul

Voting for Northern Territory Tournaments will be conducted at the Territory Meeting. The Mid-America Region receives first choice in tournaments as they lead the Northern Territory in registrations.

The regional tournaments were awarded as follows: Men's Slow Pitch "C" and "D" Regional Qualifiers to Iowa ASA; Women's Slow Pitch "C" Regional Qualifier to Missouri ASA; Women's Slow Pitch "D" Regional Qualifier is unassigned. The 18U Gold Northern Territory Qualifier to KC Metro ASA; and the 18U and 18 Gold Regional Championships to St. Louis Metro ASA.

Joe Sproul announced that he would not be running for Regional Director for another term, nor his board of directors seat this year. He thanked the regional staff for doing a great job during his terms of service, and looks forward to continuing a great working relationship with the organization as a state commissioner for the next few years.

Mel Pinkley has one piece of legislation before the Northern Territory concerning the entry fee for our Northern Territory Nationals. He is requesting that they be raised to \$400.

### **Player Representatives Meeting Report:** Reported by Doug Lindaman

Player representatives from each of the six local associations within the Mid-America Region met on Sunday evening, November 9, at the ASA National Council Meeting in Oklahoma City, OK.

An open discussion about the proposed code changes and proposed rule changes was held. Topics included the home run rule changes, courtesy runner changes, pitching boxes in both fast and slow pitch, the 1 ball/1 strike count in slow pitch, two piece bats, stealing in slow pitch and classification issues.

The committee nominated Doug Lindaman to serve as Regional Player Representative.

### **Junior Olympic Commissioners Report:** Reported by Renee Williams

The JO Commissioners discussed the effects they felt that the requirement for coaches to be ACE certified would have on their team registrations. We are in agreement that background checks on the coaches is necessary.

Renee Williams was nominated to serve as Regional JO commissioner.

### **Regional Umpire-in-Chief Report:** Reported by Dave Epperson

The regional UIC's discussed some of the rule and code changes being proposed to the council this year.

Dave reported that the three national tournaments in the region that he had the privilege of being UIC, were all good tournaments, that the region could be proud of their work.

The Umpire National School is being held in Lincoln, NE this spring. They have good facilities and a good staff that has been assigned to work it. Dates and contacts are all available on the web site.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS:** (Nominations are from committees)

**Player Representative Nomination(s):** Doug Lindaman

**Motion to Accept:** Joe Patterson                      **Second:** Jim Westerhaus                      **APPROVED**

**Junior Olympic Commissioner Nomination(s):** Renee Williams

**Motion to Accept:** Kristy Bullock                      **Second:** Ron Zimmerman                      **APPROVED**

**Umpire-in-Chief Nominations(s):** Dave Epperson

**Motion to Accept:** Tim Watts                      **Second:** Joe Patterson                      **APPROVED**

**Regional Director Nomination(s):** Tom Topping

**Motion to Accept:** Doug Lindaman                      **Second:** Joe Sproul                      **APPROVED**

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

**Legislation: Amendment to Read:**

The Regional 10U "A" National Tournament Berths that are available due to the dropping of the Regional Championships will be awarded on a rotation basis to each association.

**Motion to Approve:** Tom Topping                      **Second:** Renee Williams                      **APPROVED**

A discussion was held on whether or not to make the Regional Player Representative, JO Commissioner, and UIC offices be elected to a 2 year term as well. It was decided that to change our regional code to accommodate that action would be in violation of the national code. It was decided that they could be reaffirmed by acclamation, on the odd years.

**MEETING ADJOURNED: 9:17pm**

