



**2021 USA Hockey  
Pacific District Board of Directors Meeting**

Saturday ~ February 13, 2021  
9:00 A.M. ~ 5:00 P.M. P.S.T.  
Mandalay Bay Resort & Casino  
3950 S Las Vegas Boulevard  
Las Vegas, NV 89119  
Meeting Room ~ Tradewinds DEF

**Present (in person)**

Wendy Goldstein  
Flint Doungchak  
Kathy McGarrigle  
Darren Eliot  
Thomas Hancock  
Chris Hays  
Robbie Kaufman  
Kris Knauss  
Lisa McPheters  
Andy Potter  
Darryl Thompson  
Rick Trupp  
Wayne Sawchuk

**Present (via Zoom)**

Matt Zucker  
Dan Ellison  
Steve Laing

**Not Present**

Jamie Campbell  
Darin Campbell  
Jon Gustafson  
John Silberstein  
Lester Sparks

**Guest**

Rob Azevedo

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**Minutes**

**I. Call to Order – Kris Knauss**

- Roll Call & Introductions
- Approval of Agenda

Darryl Thompson motioned to add to the agenda discussion concerning the number of girls teams to be allowed to participate at the Pacific District Tournaments. Thomas Hancock seconded the motion.

Girls Teams Participating at Pacific Districts was added under USA Hockey Reports, Item G 2021 Pacific District Tournaments.

Darryl Thompson moved to approve the agenda as amended. Andy Potter seconded. Motion passed. Kris stated that he, as is everyone, very sad about the passing of PNAHA President Dru Hammond. Dru was a great administrator and we will miss her greatly.

**II. Persons to be Heard – Rob Azevedo**

Honor to be here today. I learned to appreciate youth hockey at a whole different level with Dru's guidance. She worked tirelessly and without fail for the betterment of hockey in Washington State and we are saddened by her passing. Replacing her will be an enormous task.

III. **Approval of August 15, 2020 Minutes and September 29, 2020 Teleconference Minutes.**

Steve Laing moved to approve both sets of minutes; Darryl Thompson seconded the motion. Motion passed Unanimously

IV. **District Reports**

- A. Chairman Report - Kris Knauss. I've been spending a lot of time on Youth Council issues, i.e. national tournaments, compliance, tryout rules, all topics that are overly consuming. Also working with USA Hockey's Strategic Planning Committee. Very active on determining where there is success and what needs work. Lots of uncertainty of staff oversight. Also working with the Governance Committee on a variety of issues and processes. USA Hockey Board will vote in June on a new board makeup. Moving athlete directors from 20 to 33%. Sent out a poll to voting directors for areas to be cut in order to add a board member. Where we should reduce voting directors. Marketing council should move to a committee. At large Directors should have their voting rights reassessed. No decisions have been made at this time, but whatever we do recommend will require a two-thirds vote of the board of directors. Should college hockey have a seat? Consider reducing directors within a district, going from 4 to 3; 3 to 2. Term limits have been discussed. Higher level of turnover. Senior staff sent same information out to the staff which is interesting because it doesn't pertain to the staff. What is the role of a Director? Should there be better training? Reduce size of board from about 91 to 75 or 80. Losing support to reduce number of directors. Could combine legal council with some of the other administrative functions. Lots of discussion and thoughts out there. Hardest is there are only 243 eligible Athletic Directors. Pushing for 10+ year people. People like the volunteer support. But also, some real disproportionate areas of where the money is spent. USAH executive committee is discussing having the June meeting be virtual. Save dollars but a head scratcher. At the district levels we meet in person, but for annual congress they want to meet virtually. World Juniors was great, and players did well in the bubble atmosphere. True lockdown process to protect from COVID. All these discussions are good discussions, and it is very enlightening to learn how different districts operate.
- B. Financial Report - Chris Hays written report attached. At 60% compared to last year.
- C. Disabled Section – Matt Zucker provided a written report and discussed the information provided. Kris Knauss informed the board that Matt will be leaving us as representative, due to new employment and job requirements. The District needs to find a replacement for Matt, and to please send Kris any potential candidate. Darryl Thompson told Matt that he cannot be done until we find a replacement. Matt said that he is more than happy to help out, he loves the disabled section.
- D. Risk Manager Report – John Silberstein not present
- E. District CIC Report – Flint Doungchak, written report provided, and Flint discussed each item. Wayne Sawchuk raised the topic of the job responsibility letter sent from the Pacific District Board to Flint in August of 2020. Wayne asked if the board was happy with the job that Flint was doing or if anyone had any remaining issues? No concerns were expressed. Kris Knauss stated that he had taken the Bronze goaltending clinic and it was impressive to see the various roles of the instructors. Was a nice class to do, liked it very much.
- F. Alaska CIC Report - Rick Trupp – written report provided, and Rick discussed each item. Alaska implemented Coaches Corner in 2020 and believes it has been a good addition to the coaching program in Alaska.
- G. RIC Report – Dan Ellison extended condolences to the Washington group about Dru Hammond's passing. Loved her passions for hockey, sorry to see her go. In our thoughts and prayers. Virtual platforms for teaching going pretty well. Running about 75% for officials compared to last year. Now that hockey is opening up, that may become an issue. Registration for officials ends on March 24, so if not registered by then, we will have an issue. New RICs for California and Washington. Very experienced and really happy to have them on board. Have been working with Josh Ellis in Alaska to try and keep him up to speed. 33 officials from District nominated to work National Tournaments. Pretty reflective of the talent that we have in the District.
- H. Registrar's Report – Wendy Goldstein – written report provided. Jon Gustafson retiring in June. John Beaulieu will be replacing Jon as Director. We are at 65% for registration. The number of unclaimed people is really, really high. Hoping that because games aren't being played, organizations aren't claiming them. Really low on number of rosters throughout the district.

- I. Bobby Freeland Grants – Lester Sparks  
Applications were provided to the board for 4 Bobby Freeland Grants – City of Reno; Hockey Club Fairbanks; Rose City Hockey Club; and Klamath Ice Sports. In addition, Matt Zucker has a video to show on Reno Disabled Hockey. After reviewing the applications and watching the video, Darryl Thompson moved to approve all 4 Bobby Freeland Grants. Thomas Hancock seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Kris Knauss stated that he would like to see applications sent out on a timelier basis.
- J. Player Development
  - a. Boys Player Development – Kris Knauss. We are still on schedule for the Boys Player Development Camp in Las Vegas, May 6-9, 2021. Does anyone have any concerns or issues? All Affiliates need to submit their nominee lists by March 9. At 17s, we will not be doing a 40 man camp, to allow for last year's 16s to come. Will definitely be a different camp this year. At this time, we do not know if spectators will be allowed. We will be following the covid protocol for that state and the facility, City National Arena. Darryl Thompson asked where the national office is on having National Tournaments. Kris stated that presently Amherst is not open so USA Hockey may have to pull out of there. Regardless of National Tournaments, Kris believes the national office will want to host summer national camps at all ages. Kris also said that the NTDP is trying to expand their presence. They have gone a full year, now approaching 2 years, without looking at kids. They are having a hard time trying to chase down players to talk to. Kris does expect to have a high response from college and junior hockey coaches wanting to participate in the Boys Player Development Camp.
  - b. Western Region High Performance Camp – Wayne Sawchuk - we really want to have our multi-district camp. CC is looking at extending their college classes into June, which would eliminate our dorm space. Are we devaluing the camp if we go to a site and the kids are on their own? Thomas Hancock has said they have always had great feedback on this camp. Have virtual selection of players and that is difficult to do at this age level. Where do other affiliates stand on this? Wayne – doesn't want to cancel camp two years in a row. Andy Potter really appreciates the 14 camp for Oregon players because it opens their eyes to what they have to work toward for 15s camp. Would be a disservice to not have it. Robby Kaufman asked if we have looked at other venues. We'd love to keep it within the district, but a lot of moving parts right now with varying covid protocols.
  - c. Pacific District Goaltending Development Camp – Darin Campbell, not present. Written report provided.
  - d. Girls Player Development – Kathy McGarrigle. The Girls' Player Development Camp will be the May 6-9, 2021 at the Henderson, NV complex. Thank you to Darren Eliot for his support of holding this event in Nevada. I feel it will help spotlight female hockey and support its further growth in this affiliate. We will have further details forthcoming. Most affiliates are holding VIRTUAL selections. The affiliate committee agreed that there will be NO 2007 group this year to support a smaller camp and focus only on those divisions that might advance to the National Development Camps. Some affiliates may still consider 2007 players to form a list and evaluate their player pool, as their interest lies.
- K. Girls Section – Kathy McGarrigle. Written report provided, Kathy highlighted the effects districtwide from Covid, the effectiveness of the affiliate meetings for Girls/Women's hockey, and the Game On USA Hockey Women's Leadership Development Virtual Conference taking place over the last two weekends in February.
- L. High School Section – Steve Laing. Moving forward with the High School National Tournament.
- M. Affiliate Presidents' Reports
  - Nevada (NAHA) - Darren Eliot. Much like everyone else, dealing with the effects of Covid. Just getting some aspects of hockey to open up, and hope to continue seeing that progress. Really excited about our AHL team and the facility. Continue to see lots of growth in our youth hockey. We are looking to field a Tier 1 team in the coming season.
  - Alaska (ASHA) - Darryl Thompson. Lots of moving parts in Alaska. Anchorage market has been a struggle. Ice facilities dedicated to Covid emergency facilities. Lots of work from lots of people, including Kris Knauss, to get our facilities open and back to being used for hockey. We had an early tournament, with some Covid linked to the tournament, which made for bad press for hockey, and sometimes perception becomes reality.

California (CAHA) - Thomas Hancock. From our President's Meeting, we have selected the following individuals for the Anderson Awards:

Andy Anderson, Anne Culley, (Alaska)

Dempsey Anderson – Jack Bowkus, (California) posthumously

Pete Anderson – Annette Lin, (Washington)

We also discussed the funding of our District, electing to continue as we have in the past.

Oregon (OSHA) - Andy Potter. Not a lot of hockey happening in Oregon as well, due to Covid. Not allowed to play hockey because it's a contact sport. Do have two outdoor rinks, but very limited in allowing skaters from outside their area due to covid. We did have our first girls tier team ever, which is very exciting. Had to cancel all state tournaments. Presently, our Governor reserves the right to move back to more restrictive measures as deemed necessary.

Washington (PNAHA) – Robby Kaufman. Very difficult to be here with the loss of Dru. Difficult time for PNAHA. Presently, all our rinks are now playing games. We hope to continue to move forward, putting Covid behind us. We feel we have the ability to host a district player development camp should the need arise.

#### V. USA Hockey Reports

- A. Player Safety – Jaime Campbell, not present. Written report provided.
- B. Youth Council – Kris Knauss. Primarily working on the national tournament process. San Jose pulled out of hosting the 14U and 15U Tier 1 this year due to state covid restrictions, and they will get those tournaments back in 2023. Believe Irvine has pulled out of hosting the Girls Tier I and Tier II tournaments as well.
- C. Adult Council – Thomas Hancock. USA Hockey cancelled the Labatt Pond Hockey tournament due to covid. A lot of adults are playing, unsanctioned. Hopefully just a one year thing, but we need to get the adults registered and sanctioned.
- D. Legal Council – Steve Laing & Darryl Thompson. Darryl stated that a variety of subcommittees are being set up for long term strategy.
- E. SafeSport Report – Steve Laing. No changes at this time. Working on modifications that will be reported on and or voted on at Annual Congress.
- F. Player Development Committee – Kris Knauss – have not met since last meeting. Nothing to report.
- G. 2021 Pacific District Tournaments – Steve Laing. Steve turned the floor over to Girls/Women's Section Representative Kathy McGarrigle. Kathy and the Affiliate Girls Representatives would like to see and addition of a 3 team tournament for the Girls Pacific District Tournament. Kathy stressed the importance of the maximum number of Girls teams playing at the district tournament even if it means an odd number of teams. The increase in expense should not be a deterrent to teams participating. She presented a proposed schedule for a 3 team tournament. Darryl Thompson motioned for a one (1) year exception to allow for a 3 team tournament. Thomas Hancock seconded the motion. Kris Knauss objected for purposes of discussion. He stated that USA hockey does not allow for an odd number of tournaments. The proposed schedule is unfair for team rest. Additionally, we have Girls teams that refuse to play one another during the season, but yet we reward them by inviting all teams to the District Tournament. There is a reason why we moved the District into compliance with the National Tournament guidelines. The District Tournament should be a District Championship with teams that can compete at that level, not an open jamboree. Darryl Thompson believes all teams is good for development of girls' hockey. It's been a strange year. Believe we need to support girls' hockey and what the affiliate representatives want. Steve Laing agreed that we serve our membership but doesn't believe that including all teams for the District Tournament is a true promotion of the development of girls' hockey. Thomas Hancock stated that budget concerns are a concern, especially in a covid year. Steve has done a good job of searching out and finding ice. He chose to second the motion because it is restricted to just this one year. Wayne Sawchuk said he hears what everyone is saying and support girls' hockey, believing the more teams the better. But the teams need to be competitive to be at Districts, and based on what he is seeing, some of the teams are not. Additionally, the suggested schedule(s) are not ideal for parity. A rollcall vote was taken, resulting as follows: PNAHA – No; OSHA – Yes; CAHA – Yes; ASHA – Yes; NAHA – Yes; Director Sawchuk – No; Director Laing – No; Director Knauss – No; Director Gustafson – Not Present. Motion fails.

Steve Laing addressed the board on the District Tournament Location. Looking at Dallas Texas, utilizing two facilities. A budget was sent out to the board previously for hosting the tournament in Dallas. Steve Laing motioned to move all District Tournaments to Dallas, Texas. Robby Kaufman seconded the motion. Kris Knauss objected for discussion purposes. Kathy McGarrigle asked if this is the closest location. Thomas Hancock brings up the possibility of Arizona. Steve Laing said that Texas offered to make two of their facilities available. Cost was better in Dallas. Coming down to the wire, we have to determine a location. Kris Knauss had questions on staffing. What will we have to do to meet national office requirements and Covid guidelines. Have to provide player safety at each facility. COVID structured protocol. Dallas will allow spectators. All have to have temperature check, have to follow Covid policy and we will have to police. Thomas Hancock motion to table the discussion for 1 week and have a special meeting to look at alternative sites further west. Darryl Thompson seconded the motion. Kris Knauss asked Steve Laing to address this request. Steve said he would reach out to Arizona to see if they could accommodate our needs. Significant debate ensued on exploring Arizona more prior to committing to Dallas. During this discussion, Steve was able to get information on Arizona and came back with an update. Arizona is available and we would have a two rink facility in both Chandler and Scottsdale. We would be using local officials, bringing them to Arizona. Arizona does allow 2 spectators per player. Thomas Hancock moved to host the tournament in Arizona. Darryl Thompson seconded the motion. Kris Knauss objected for discussion purposes. Steve Laing will work with the rings, etc. to get this done and cancel Dallas. But we need to start paying bills right away. Also, any affiliate presidents that can attend the tournament and help out, please do. Motion passed with one abstention from Steve Laing.

**VI. New Business**

- A. Election of Chairperson – Wayne Sawchuk nominated Kris Knauss for reelection. Thomas Hancock seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- B. Disabled Section – Matthew Zucker’s term is over in June 2021, and he is not running due to new life responsibilities. Please send all recommendations for a new Disabled Section person to Kris Knauss.
- C. Next meeting – June 11, 2021 Denver Marriott Tech Center
- D. Set up a committee to work on Girls Hockey for District Tournaments to include Darryl Thompson, Chair, Steve Laing, Thomas Hancock, Kathy McGarrigle, and Wendy Goldstein.

**VII. Final Comments & Adjournment**

Kathy McGarrigle – thanks everyone for listening to her thoughts and concerns on girls’ hockey and district tournaments.

Darren Eliot – February 24<sup>th</sup> hard and fast date for high school applications.

Wayne Sawchuk – Nice to see everyone in person

Darryl Thompson – Thanks Steve for all his work on the District Tournament.

Andy Potter – Happy to be here on behalf of Oregon Hockey. Really enjoyed the meeting.

Wendy Goldstein – Great to be here and meet some new people

Robby Kaufman – Thanks for having me here.

Rob Azevedo – Concerned about moving the Multi-district camp out to far, as kids may not be on the ice.

Wayne responded that we want to do it right, it has a good brand, and we want to continue that.

Matt Zucker – thank you for all your support. Lots of help from Steve Laing on planning the Reno event. Been great to have our athletes on the ice some during this crazy time

Dan Ellison – It will be fun to get back into a rink. Reach out to me with anything on the officials’ side

Steve Laing – will be moving forward on District Tournament in Phoenix.

Kris Knauss – appreciate everyone making the trip to Las Vegas. Steve, thank you for taking care of things with the District Tournaments.

Meeting Adjourned.