



**2023 USA Hockey
Pacific District Board of Directors Meeting**

Saturday ~ February 4, 2023
9:00 am P.S.T.
Park MGM
3770 S. Las Vegas Boulevard
Las Vegas, NV 89109
Madison Meeting Center, Room 1

Present

Rob Azevedo
John Beaulieu
Darren Eliot
Josh Ellis
Dan Ellison
Ben Frank
Wendy Goldstein
Thomas Hancock
Chris Hays
Kris Knauss
Lisa McPheters
Alex Morrison
Wayne Sawchuk
Lester Sparks
Darryl Thompson
Rick Trupp
Rosemary Voulelikas

Absent

Darin Campbell
John Silberstein
Matthew Zucker

Guests

Ken Martel, Senior Director Player Dev &
Coaching, USA Hockey

Minutes

- I. **Call to Order.** Meeting called to order at 9:00 am by Kris Knauss. Roll Call was taken. A motion was made for the approval of the agenda by Rob Azevedo, seconded by Darryl Thompson. Motion passed unanimously.
- II. **Approval of Minutes.** Thomas Hancock motioned for approval of October 15, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes, seconded by Lester Sparks. Motion passed unanimously. Darryl Thompson motioned for approval of the December 13, 2022 Zoom Conference Minutes, seconded by Lester Sparks. Motion passed unanimously.
- III. **Ken Martel, USA Hockey** – presentation. Discussed the historical trends in 8U hockey. Goalie Coaching. You don't need to be a goalie coach, but every coach is a coach of goalies. Norwegian School of Sport Sciences and NHL on Player Development Research. Sport science. A 3 year project.
- IV. **District Reports**
 - A. **Chairman Report** - Kris Knauss. Just coming back from a big winter meeting. Governance has been executed from 91 to a Congress model with 24 member directors. First board meeting was last week. Pacific District is sitting pretty well. Donna Kaufman was elected as Vice President of Membership for 3.5 years. TC Lewis moving into JR Council. Don Gould elected as VP of Girls Council. Ethics committee in place with non-board members. Charlie Fuertsch sits on this committee. Athlete Directors who have played internationally over past 10 years. 10+ athlete directors. Disabled section Rod Bedford (speed skater) new outside member. No longer have executive committee. Have 4 Director At Large seats, elected as follows: Kris Knauss in 4 year seat; Cheri Bonawitz in 3 year seat; Mike McMillan in 3 year seat; Joe Eppolito in 1 year seat. Will rotate through into a 3 year cycle. IT is still a pretty big issue for coaching section as well as others. 8U hockey across USA Hockey is really interesting. This district has done a really

good job with the 8U. Other districts are still asking for full ice waivers. Okay to push but should tie into how to truly develop the younger ages. Interesting discussions. Staff is now called Player Development Managers, no longer ADM Managers. 3 pilot programs. 18U Tier 1 up to 22 on rosters, max of 2 goalies, all can dress down. 13U Nationals in 2024 (12 team, not at large) and vertical integration (most complex) 15O, 16U, 18U only. Youth Tier 1 player can play up max 8 games. Handbook changes are in process. Please review the printed pages on the back table and make recommended suggestions. Select 17 National Camp is changing structure will serve as the Hlinka try out. Mike Trimboli sent out Membership council. He makes the appointment, Affiliate Presidents to recommend names. Kraken did get youth council approval.

- B. **Financial Report** - Chris Hays – written report provided.
- C. **Disabled Section** – Matt Zucker – written report provided.
- D. **Risk Manager Report** – John Silberstein Nothing to report
- E. **CIC Report** – Flint DOUNGCHAK written report provided and Rick Trupp – written report provided. Ken Martel commented that the Pacific District clinics are some of the best, very professional. Great representation.
- F. **RIC Report** – Dan Ellison numbers 2410 registered in district. Back to pre-covid numbers. End with 1800 best guess. Fits nationwide numbers. Presented at the winter meetings. Officials task force recommendations. 50% of first year officials don't return next year. Will provide report for Distribution. 40% of all of our officials are under the age of 18. Josh Ellis
- G. **Registrar's Report** – Wendy Goldstein – written report provided. No persons ran against Kris Knauss or Wayne Sawchuk for District Director positions. Hawaii is open now. Scoresheets in the district are a mess. No training is being given. Layers to the problems.
- H. **Bobby Freeland Grants** – Lester Sparks/Thomas Hancock All have been distributed and gearing up for next year.
- I. **Boys Player Development** – Kris Knauss – All nominees are now in. Going through the At Large requests. Fair warning to Affiliate Presidents. Going to lockdown the requests. Allocations will be changing for the future. Priority for PDC is to have blackout dates for camps.
Western Region High Performance Camp – Wayne Sawchuk – Last June \$50. Rocky Mountain matching it. Intern application has been sent out. 10 spots for interns. June 11 – 17. Players on the 12th. Encourages the 14 Girls to do a Multi District Camp 2024. Thomas Hancock motion for a 14U Girls Multi District Camp in 2023, Darryl Thompson seconds the motion. Motion passes unanimously.
Girls Player Development – Alex Morrison. Feels a girls 14U MDC is a great idea. Need to do a better job of getting the word out on Affiliate Camps. Katelyn Parker is a godsend.
- J. **Girls Council** – No seated member at mid-winter meeting. Common recommendation was Katelyn Parker. She is very interested in the position and has spoken to 2 of 3 supervisors. Just waiting for last boss to okay her taking on this role. Just finished up the 18U Worlds for girls.
- K. **High School Section** – Rosemary Voulelikas National awards were issued. 1 from Alaska and 1 from California. 8 in prep. Division 1 has 12 teams; Division 2 has 16 teams.
- L. **Affiliate Presidents' Reports**
Presidents' Dinner - Thomas Hancock – Grant funding \$16,000 estimated. Split between goaltending development and girls development. Andy Anderson Award to Carol Hamming; Dempsey Anderson Award to Andy Potter; Pete Anderson Award to Tony Millis.
Nevada - Darren Eliot – written report. Girls hockey was a focus for us, including the Rivalry Games. Other focus was its Nevada, not just Vegas. Select Camp. Had 3 girls from Reno (35) and 2 boys (110) from Reno. High School team going for High School Nationals. 16U and 18U Tier 1 Nationals for 2024.
Alaska – Darryl Thompson – Select camps were done weekend prior to Christmas. Boys and Girls combined. Heard great things from people at both camps. Held some practice pieces, not just all games. Team Alaska (hosted by ASHA). No 150 Team this year. Girls want to go with Team Alaska for Tier 1 next year. Uptick in some SafeSport stuff. Sometimes wished it didn't go to national center first. We could mitigate some issues quicker and/or better. We have some proposed bylaws out to our board. Will be holding some task force meetings in February and March.
PNAHA – Rob Azevedo – Female summit Kraken Arena. Enlightening to see the passion for the game at this event. Great energy. Rivalry game that night was also Great. Kraken was allowed to be a Tier 1 association at 14, 16 18. Wayne Sawchuk asked if they would do a 13O in Washington for 2023/24 and Rob said he did not see that happening. Washington Player Development camp, had some practice first, some interaction with their teammates. 14U camp will be in March. Adding 13's in with 14's to give them a look at the process.

Oregon - Lester Sparks – Affiliate Player Development Camp went well. Numbers slightly down. Oregon does a development camp. Full weekend. 14U, 16U 18U teams going to nationals this year. First time, so pretty cool. 19U Girls pulling out of District Championship. Would not be a positive experience. Getting ready for our annual jamborees.

California – Thomas Hancock – Nashville all 5 presidents. Great having all 5 Pacific District Presidents together, interacting. Focus on Diversity and Inclusion, felt it was meaningful and positive. Will be having more meetings between the 5 of us to address issues, etc. Really feel the changes within USA Hockey will allow for actual change to happen. Elected an Affiliate President Director Steve Oleheiser. National office wanting to engage the affiliate presidents more. Affiliate Select camp, thank you Wayne Sawchuk for your help. Working to “change the culture”. Have some task groups set up, working to eliminate bullying and includes diversity and inclusion training. Training for all CAHA personnel. A custodian parent will need to do training to register their players. Coaches, Managers, Team volunteers will also have to do training. Will potentially require 2 team meetings to cover these topics and have conversation. Will have to provide documentation that this training has taken place. Tier 1 participation. 5 to 6 association. Comparatively nationally, we have too many Tier 1 teams. Would be better to have just 3 Tier 1 teams, and tied to the NHL teams.

V. **USA Hockey Reports**

- A. **Youth Council** – Kris Knauss – nothing to report.
- B. **Adult Council** – Thomas Hancock – will send a report out. Adult classic back to Alaska end of April.
- C. **Legal Council** – Darryl Thompson – Mostly handbook changes.
- D. **SafeSport Report** – Darryl Thompson – changes to existing policy is mostly grammatical cleanup. Sent through our secretary the highlights.
- E. **Player Development Committee** – Kris Knauss – have already touched on these issues. The 8U waivers and goal tending development, as well as blackout dates. Wayne Sawchuk said its disappointing that organizationally people are still fighting the 8U half ice.
- F. **2023 Pacific District Tournaments** – Wayne Sawchuk
 - **Schedule – Youth Tier I Tournament** – Darryl Thompson moved to approve schedule; Lester Sparks seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.
 - **Schedule – Girls Tier I & Tier II Tournament** – Thomas Hancock moved to approve schedule; Rob Azevedo seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

VI. **New Business**

- A. **Conforming By-Law Changes** – not yet complete, may do a zoom meeting later to address.
- B. **2024 Pacific District Championships Dates & Locations**
 - **Youth Tier 1 13O, 14U, 15O** to be held Feb 22-25, 2024, hosted by Seattle Kraken. Wayne Sawchuk motioned to approve; Darryl Thompson seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously.
 - **Girls Tier I & II all ages** to be held Feb 22-25, 2024, in San Jose at Sharks Ice. Ben Frank motioned to approve; John Beaulieu seconded the motion. Discussion ensued that a 2-sheet facility does not work for the Girls District Championships. Motion passes unanimously.
 - **Youth Tier 1 16U & 18U** to be held Feb 29 – March 3, 2024, in Anchorage, Alaska. Rob Azevedo motioned to approve; Darryl Thompson seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously. Wayne Sawchuk stated that he would like to utilize Anaheim for a super site in 2025.
- C. **Pacific District Goaltending Development Camp Organization.** Kraken Facility, August 4-6, 2023. \$1500 in the red for 2022. Task Force for where to use excess monies – Darryl, Lester, Darren E., Heavy D as non-voting member. Retroactively award a Bobby Freeland grant. Thomas Hancock motioned to approve this grant; Rob Azevedo seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously.
- D. **Next meeting** – June 2023 - at Annual Congress. Date to be determined.
- E. **October 2023 Meeting** – Seattle – TBD with Seattle Kraken – Friday meeting from 1:00 to 5:00 pm for Player Development and Board meeting on Saturday. October 13 & 14. Wayne Sawchuk motioned to approve; Darryl Thompson seconded. Motion passes unanimously.
- F. **Membership Council seat** – affiliate presidents dig deep on this.
- G. **Girls Council seat.** Thomas Hancock nominates Katelyn Parker for the Girls Council Seat for a full term; Rob Azevedo seconded. Contingent on green light from Ms. Parker’s work. Motion passes unanimously.
- H. **Election of Chairperson.** Wayne Sawchuk motions for Kris Knauss to remain as Chairperson; Thomas Hancock seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

VII. **Final Comments & Adjournment**

Darren Eliot – no comments.

Alex Morrison – good to see everyone.

Dan Ellison – Congratulations to Steve Stevens on receiving the Chet Stewart Award.

Lester Sparks – All good.

Wendy Goldstein – Good meeting.

John Beaulieu – good.

Rick Trupp – About developing cultures, game is changing so fast. Book for all to read – No One Wins Alone.

Rosemary Voulelikas– learning a lot being on this board. Been good.

Josh Ellis – Thanks to the Pacific District and ASHA for supporting Alaska officials.

Chris Hays – good.

Ben Frank – good.

Thomas Hancock – trying to effect change through firm and solid leadership. Challenge us to go back to our associations to establish stronger comments to quality and effectiveness.

Rob Azevedo – Agree with Thomas. Working with the other Affiliate Presidents is great.

Darryl Thompson – We are not defined by the 5%. 95% of what happens is pretty amazing.

Ken Martel – no comment.

Wayne Sawchuk – Appreciate the great conversations that have taken place.

Lisa McPheters – no comment.

Kris Knauss – Thank you to Ken Martel for making the trip here. He will be at the district tournament, which is great. A lot of discussion about how the new congress is going to interact and get everything done. Work in progress. I see my role is to be a voice for the Districts. All Districts need to be heard. Did get a seat on the International Council. The US does not have a seat on the IHF. A lot of positive things happening in our District. Thank to each of you for all that you do. We are leaders.

Thomas Hancock motioned to adjourn; Wayne Sawchuk seconded. Meeting concluded.