



BOARD MEETING

February 1, 2005

The meeting was called to order by President Wayne Bouchard at 7:08 pm. Those in attendance were Wayne Bouchard, Bob Nixon, Patty & Tom Melton, Paul Sharman, Ted Hofmann, Howard Hoggins, John Doherty, Ron Swanson, Deann Shannon, Bonnie & Cheryl Ruston, Mike King, and Randy Jarrell.

SECRETARY

Bonnie Ruston made a motion to accept the minutes from the November meetings as written. Seconded by Bob Nixon and approved.

TREASURER

Gayle Vesely was unable to attend the meeting. No Report.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

Cheryl Ruston received a letter from Kyle Cummings to the Board. Kyle thanked the board for his nomination and subsequent election as 2004 Male Athlete of the Year. He felt honored to be chosen this year and in 1999 as well.

The Board was informed of the sad news of the passing away of Stephanie Chandler. The Board decided to honor the family's wishes of no phone calls at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Ron Swanson asked to be removed as Past President of the NWSRA Board. He is concerned about the liability. The IWSRA Board would cover him under their errors and omissions coverage, however the NWSRA Board doesn't. Cheryl Ruston will check with the NWSRA Board insurance carrier to verify if the Board has errors and omissions coverage and if it would cover the NWSRA Board. The Board agreed to remove Ron Swanson's name. The National Board will have one less vote.

Randy Jarrell expressed his concerns about how to handle situations in which individual board members are threatened with lawsuits, and asked the board how to respond to them. Unfortunately, the board cannot stop anyone from threatening to sue or actually suing the board. When speaking with USAWS about Ron Swanson, Cheryl Ruston will check into obtaining insurance coverage if our policy with USAWS doesn't cover it.

REGION I

John Doherty is waiting for a permit for the Pittsburg Marathons, April 2-3. Their region lost quite a few skiers for the year because there is no sanctioned circle races. They will be having a meeting next weekend to talk about having possibly 3 – 1 day special sanction circle races.

John also brought up the question of changing the recertification rules for the Lifeline Jackets. He has had several people ask if that could be changed. After much discussion about the rule and why it is there, the Board asked John to bring the matter up at the rules meeting in November for further consideration.

REGION II

Randy Jarrell reported that the Polar Bear Race, Jan. 29th, in conjunction with Long Beach Boat & Ski Club, was a success. This was the 1st race in a 3 race series. They had approximately 20 boats and smooth water. This was the first time for Pacific Dive & Rescue to patrol at a Region II race. They took over all the equipment from San Diego Water Rescue. Because they had some boat problems, which delayed the start of the race, they waived the usual fees. They are working with Eliminator and Liberty Marine to make the necessary repairs. Pacific Dive & Rescue are committed to be at the February 19-20 race at Lake Havasu, the 50/75 race at Lake Mead, Sept. 9-10th, and the U.S. Open in October.

Gary Heinbuch I working on 2 – 1 day circle races at Puddingstone as special sanctions. He is tentatively working on 1 race in April and 1 race in September.

Randy Jarrell will get the paperwork to Cheryl on the February Marathon.

Wayne Bouchard expressed concern that Region II name was on the Polar Bear Race flyer. It could have posed a liability problem because the race was not a sanctioned NWSRA race. The race was insured through Long Beach Boat & Ski Club. It was confirmed as an oversight and would not happen in the future.

INTERNATIONAL

Ron Swanson reported that IWSRA has \$57,000 in their bank account. He was asking for suggestions about using it as seed money for the World Team. It was brought up that in the past, \$1,000 was given to each skier to be applied to their airfare. Ron said that he would take all suggestions under advisement.

At the January IWSRA meeting, the following people were selected, with final NWSRA Board approval, for the World's team management; Randy Jarrell – team captain, Mike King – assistant team captain, and Justin Frank – team manager. Ron Swanson made a motion to approve these selections. Seconded by John Doherty and approved.

The meeting for World Team Member selections will be Saturday, March 19th at 9 am at the Hacienda Hotel. Ron Swanson made a motion for Bob Nixon to be the facilitator at that meeting, unless he is chosen to represent Region II, at such time Ted Hofmann would be the facilitator. Seconded by John Doherty and passed. Randy Jarrell recommended that an outside observer attend the meeting as in the past. It is the duty of the facilitator to pick an objective observer. A short discussion was held about choosing representatives which have no conflicts of interests so as to keep the meeting as short as possible. The regions agreed to keep the conflicts of interest to a minimum as much as possible.

Ron reported that the parking for boats, cars, and RV's for the Parker Marathon would be the same as last year.

RACE

Wayne Bouchard reported that he called the proper authorities in San Diego about reserving the dates of October 7-9 for the US Open. He was informed that they would no longer hold dates over the phone. We must send in the packet of paperwork to hold the date. Wayne has the necessary forms. We need a chairperson to fill out and submit the forms. Dusty Schulz and Bob Nixon are interested in helping whoever is chairperson. The next step is to notify Australia of details as they are confirmed. Cheryl Ruston will get with Gary Heinbuch to find out how much progress the US Open rules committee has made.

BUSINESS MANAGER

Cheryl Ruston reported that currently she had received 90 membership registrations for Region II, and 10 registrations for Region I.

The next newsletter will be after the Parker Marathon. Cheryl has also sent in the full page ad to USAWS for the Western Region Guide. This is the same ad as in previous years. Cheryl is working on a new printing of the rulebook.

Cheryl has received all the sanction paperwork for the 1st two marathons.

SPECIAL SANCTIONS

Cheryl Ruston has not received any applications for special sanctions. Region I is hoping to have 3 races, and Region II is trying to plan 2 races. John Doherty reported that Mike Avila has no special sanction races in the works at this time.

SAFETY

Wayne Bouchard reported that USAWS has received all safety reports for 2004 races. Everything is in order. John Doherty reported that he has 3 safety directors that need to be recertified. Cheryl has contacted USAWS about their clinic schedule and was advised that they will put it on their website when dates are confirmed. Cheryl will contact USAWS and find out what it takes to put on a clinic so that we may possibly schedule one for our Regions. It was suggested that the board ask Jorge Mendoza to become a National Safety Director, so that he may run clinics. Jorge Mendoza will be safety director for Feb. 19-20th Marathons and Ron Ayala will be safety director for Parker Marathons.

MARATHON

Randy Jarrell reported that Liberty Performance Marine was willing to commit to a partial sponsorship of \$2500. Ron Swanson said that he would ask the IWSRA Board if they want to sponsor the balance. During discussion, Coral Reef made a commitment to co-sponsor the Marathon Series for \$2500. John Doherty made a motion to accept Liberty Performance Marine and Coral Reef Construction as co-sponsors for the Marathon Series for a total of \$5000. Seconded by Ted Hofmann and passed.

Deann Shannon offered her old trophies to be recycled for future use. She suggested that an email be sent out to all members so that those who don't want their trophies anymore could send in the figurine only. It was discussed that the figurine had to be in mint condition. The matter was tabled until next meeting.

USAWS

Wayne Bouchard attended the USAWS Winter Board meeting at the HQ offices in Florida the end of January. Wayne Bouchard, Deann Shannon, and Alice Craddick attended the awards banquet on Saturday evening. Wayne had the honor of presenting Alice with her Woman Athlete of the Year Award. Alice received a standing ovation from a packed house. It was the first time Wayne remembered anyone receiving a standing ovation. A great time was had by all.

Wayne attended the board meeting on Sunday. Ski Safe is the new insurance agency for USAWS. NWSRA was well received by Ski Safe. Their goal is to insure our boats while racing. A Ski Safe Insurance representative will be attending one of our races, possibly at Parker. With the change in insurance companies, USAWS insurance costs have been lowered.

Hydrofoil skiing has been approved as a new sports division this year.

Next year, there will be a change in dividing up the grants for each division. Instead of applying for grants, they will be divided among the divisions proportionately with a formula to be approved at their next executive board meeting.

PUBLICITY

No report.

SGT@ARMS

Bonnie Ruston received all the information from Ron Ayala about the boat numbers, driver physicals, and CPR information. Bonnie will be posting all this information on the NWSRA website so that members may verify their information.

CORRESPONDENCE

No report.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 1st.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patty Melton
NWSRA Secretary