

AWSA Western Region
Mid-winter council meeting
January 10, 2009
Reno, Nevada

Call to order: 8:10 am

1. Introductions and comments
 - Recognition of recent Western Region athletes featured in Water Skier magazine: Storm Selsor, Makayla Haw and Bill Von Zabern.
2. Assignment of parliamentarian: John Goodman, with Andrea Plough as assistant.
3. Review & approval of [previous minutes](#)
 - Tad Scharpf motioned to change “summer” to “winter” under major expense for region. Jay Fitzpatrick seconded. Approved.
4. Treasurer’s Report: Tad Scharpf
 - [Treasurer’s Report](#) | [Western Region Checkbook](#)
 - Last year’s winter meeting expense was lower due to attendance level.
 - Money is not sent out unless it is requested. Please notify Tad of expense and your mailing address for reimbursement.
 - We spent most of contingency fund in 2007; this past year we spent about half of it.
 - AWSA \$1800 scholarship program: Western region junior skiers may apply for scholarship. AWSEF website has details and applicable forms. Discussion to make scholarships information more easily accessible because the funds have not been utilized. The Western region deposits this money into the AWSEF account each year. If the funds are not utilized in the year, the funds carry over to the next year and are not resubmitted in the following year.
 - John Goodman would like to commend Tad on doing an excellent job.
 - Laura Johnson raised question of increasing travel stipend for officials. Additional reimbursement may help to encourage other officials to become involved in the future by offsetting their travel costs. Issue will be discussed under budget in new business.
 - Stacy Holbert seconded motion. All in favor.
5. Regional Committee Reports
 - Executive Vice President: Barry Young
 - i. Regionals Cut-Off Date: Summer meeting we discussed moving cut-off date for qualifying for Regionals to an earlier date. Council voted to leave it where it is. Summer EVP meeting discussion to move Nationals cut-off date earlier, to the first of July. As it stands now, the Nationals cut-off date will be earlier than the Regionals date.

- ii. Online Registration: There is a strong push to move to online registration for tournaments. One of the main reasons is to ensure that all competitors are signing the liability release. This is a tremendous concern of HQ right now. The online process makes the paperwork considerably easier for the LOC.
 - iii. Consistency in qualifying for Regionals: Every Region has its own standards for qualifying. Programming has to be done for five separate regions. The West does not have State tournaments, or last chance type qualifiers. Something to consider.
 - iv. West Palm Beach will be holding the 2009 Nationals. So far there are no bids for 2010. Charlotte Melchers, the tournament organizer, is requesting assistance for various duties at the Nationals, such as dock starting, trick video, etc. Discussion followed regarding possible Nationals sites in the Western Region. Council people should look into their local areas for potential bidders and supporting clubs. Jay Fitzpatrick is proposing that he will approach the Arvin area about their willingness to host a future Nationals. Tad Scharpf seconded. All in favor.
- [Regional Records](#): Connie Morris
 - i. Dual Records: Only problem in Records department is the Masters Men who want records in their age division as well as Masters. National level records allow for the record in both divisions; the Western Region only allows the record in the event that you ski in. The Council's position has been that if you choose to ski in a division such as Masters Men, you're your record stands in Masters Men, not your respective age division. If you want to set a record in your age division, ski in it. Skiers in Owen's area questioned this policy, why is the Western policy different from the National policy. Pros & Cons discussed. Barry is asking that we define the intent of our records: Best Skier in the Division they competed in or Best Performance for a particular aged skier. No one has made a motion for change. Connie will revise the records form to better explain the policy.
 - ii. Gaile has seconded the motion to approve the records. All in favor.
- [Regional Guide](#): Barry Young/Laura Johnson
 - i. Discussion to go away from a printed regional guide. We looked into printing the guide on our own and found that we could not save any money by doing so. Only the South Central region went to an all electronic guide for 2009.
 - ii. We'll check into the possibility of making an electronic version available on our web site.
 - iii. Discussion about whether or not Collegiate and Under 25 members receive a guide. This is an important group that should be receiving a guide so we can encourage their continued participation in the sport. As an alternative, the EVP can send out our extra guides to the collegiate teams.
 - iv. Laura raised the question about continuing the ranking list in the guide. The council would like to continue this.
- Regional Awards: Gaile Heieck
 - i. Gaile needs to do the tournament committee appreciation plaque for the 2008 Regionals; this was not done this past year and was an oversight.
- [Webmasters](#): Phil Yastrow/Laura Johnson/Larry Goodwin

- i. Tournament sanctioning presentation: Phil Yastrow
 - Potential problems arise with officials that have been downgraded or not qualified for position they are listed for. Names must be spelled correctly to pull up the correct official's record.
 - The Western Region utilizes the Data Web program which is overlaid onto the HQ system. The main benefit of our site is that it gives us the ability to review and give final approval to a tournament; the HQ site does not currently do this. Also, we have a program that makes the Data Web output more manageable for publishing the guide.
 - [Regional Junior Development](#): Lisa Wilson
 - i. Discussion as to the intent of the Regional Junior Development camps – should they cater to the elite level juniors or be open to all ability levels and developing the sport among junior skiers.
 - ii. Finances: [Junior Development P&L](#)
 - iii. Many thanks to Lisa and Charlene both for their countless hours of preparation, planning and coordination of the junior camps.
 - iv. Eric Kosney discussed the need for recognition for the kids at local tournaments. Kids really appreciate and get excited about receiving trophies and recognition.
 - [Nominations](#): Dave Vogt
 - i. Motion to extend the nominating process to February 1 to open the slate to additional people that may be interested in running for an office and defer final approval to Barry. TC Seconded. All in favor.
 - Regional tournament site selection: Owen Letcher (Nothing to report)
 - Membership: TC Boice/Larry Goodwin (Nothing to report)
 - i. Membership is not a standing committee; it's comprised of people chosen by the EVP. Committee needs proactive members and be a standing committee or be removed as an ad-hoc committee.
6. Regional Tournaments:
- Regional tournament officials reimbursement/assistance
 - i. Handling the Regional tournament like the National tournament is unrealistic. Most Regions have some sort of stipulation for officials; the West leaves it up to the LOC. Discussion to increase the tournament entry fee to help offset the cost to the officials. It is difficult to make it fair and balanced for everyone. An official's stipend might help to encourage new officials to be involved. Frank discussed that it shouldn't come out of the LOC budget, that it should be shared across the region, possibly via an additional charge to sanction fees. This could be a burden to the local clubs. Many are not making money now with their local tournaments. Richelle discussed that there should be some consideration for the particular official's capacity, some have to stay on site the entire tournament, others can leave. Question now brought up, should it be a council decision/responsibility or the LOC?

- ii. Brad Stevenson motioned that starting with 2009 Regionals the Western Region will pay \$150 travel stipend for all appointed officials. Starting with the 2010 Regionals, the Hosting LOC bid proposal includes the plan housing and food. Western Region sanction fee be increased by \$25 to offset this additional cost to the LOC. Motion died for lack of a second.
- iii. Barry would like to see a committee established to discuss this issue further and bring a proposal to the summer council meeting. Committee needs to have some sort of direction. Whose responsibility is it to fund this expenditure, the Region or the LOC? Mike Hayes recommended that the committee come back with an appointed official's compensation package.
- iv. TC Boice motioned that as a part of the bid package, the LOC take into account that they are going to have to take care of the officials and no later than the summer meeting prior to their Regionals, they state what their compensation package is going to be. Brad Jamison seconded.
 - TC amended his motion to expand that time frame to two winter meetings (18 months) prior. The intent is that the prospective official knows what their compensation will be prior to accepting their position. Nick called for the vote. 10 in favor. 2 against.
 - Barry would still like to see the committee formed to discuss further. Dave Vogt suggested that we query senior officials and find out why they choose not to volunteer and what would it take for them to do so. Barry asked Frank to chair the committee; Frank asked Dave Vogt, Tad Scharpf, Owen Lechter and Mike Hayes to be part of the committee. Frank is asking for direction for the committee – is it strictly housing that is a concern or is it travel or more that they're looking into. Is there a need, if so to what extent and what manner is appropriate?
- v. Randy Hocking asked if the Council wants Laku to do anything for this year, 2009. Barry stated he didn't feel that it was right for Laku have to deal with this issue because their bid was already accepted.
- vi. Nick motioned that we allocate funds to Laku so he can offer a compensation package for this summer's regionals. Gaile seconded. Gaile raised the issue of people who must stay on site for the duration of the tournament versus those who can leave. Perhaps do it by the day.
 - Nick amended his motion to be \$100 per official. Recommended that it be a flat amount to the LOC to distribute as they see fit.
 - Nick re-amended his motion to be \$2500 to be disbursed to Laku to be allocated back to the appointed officials. Gaile seconded. Frank is requesting that these suggestions be emailed to him. 8 in favor; 3 opposed. Motion carries.
- Qualifications for Regionals
 - i. Cut-off date: Randy Hocking suggested that we have the date the same date as the Nationals cut-off date.
 - Brad Jamison motioned that we move the cut-off date back by one month. No second, motion died.

- Stacy motioned that we match the National cut-off date for our Regionals, which currently is proposed to be July 2nd. Nick seconded. Stacy amended her motion to read “Or no closer than three weeks before the start of the Regional tournament.” If the Nationals cut-off is not July 2nd, leave it the same as it is now. Four in favor, six opposed, 1 abstention. Motion fails.
 - Brad Jamison would like to motion that we move the cut-off date to June 1st to allow people more time to plan for travel, etc. Brad Stevenson seconded. Two in favor; 9 opposed. Motion failed.
- 2009 Regionals: Stacy Holbert/Phil Yastrow
 - i. [Proposed Chief Officials and Schedule](#) submitted by Stacy.
 - Qualification all Level 6 for all events and divisions. Overall will be level 5.
 - Adjust Entry Fees – raise them by \$10 per item and then discount \$5 for online entries. \$105/\$110/\$115/Family \$255. Owen motioned to accept the revised fees as stated here, Tad seconded. All in favor.
 - Tournament event classes to match that of 2009 Nationals.
 - Monday will be Site Briefing and practice the rest of the week if time allows.
 - ii. Appointed drivers: Dave Vogt (Chief), Randy Hocking (Assistant Chief), Steve Mills (Assistant Chief), Bill Barrett, Brian Hockenbery, Mike Martens, John Goodman, Pat Rogers and Wayne Canfield. Alternates: Doug Premer, Dee Johnson
 - iii. Appointed judges: Phil Yastrow (Chief), Richelle Matli, Mike Hayes, Linda Hockenbery, Barry Young, Andrea Plough
 - iv. ACJ: Janie Fausold, Laura Johnson, Scott Milewski, Heather Heieck
 - v. Assignments Judge: Gaile Heieck
 - vi. Appointed Scorers: Deb Brodzinski (Chief), Kristi Lee (Assistant Chief), Lucie Goodman (Assistant Chief), Sally Mecham, Gail Heinrich, Tad Scharpf,
 - vii. Safety Directors: Deb Gradick, Brian O’Keefe
 - viii. Technical Controllers: Rich Borga (Chief), John Roberts (Assistant Chief), JB Combs, (Assistant Chief)
 - ix. Registrar: Kim Connors
 - x. Announcer: Norm Wenzel (Chief)
 - xi. Tournament Chairman: Stacy Holbert
 - xii. Brad Stevenson motioned to approve the schedule and announcement with the changes noted; John Goodman seconded. All in favor. Motion passes.
- 2010 Regional tournament: Broadside Harbor, ID - Deb Parsons/Sam Lee/Barry Young
 - i. Site improvements include new grass, trees, sprinklers & power availability. Jump has been rebuilt; the surface will be redone this spring.

- 2011 bid – none at this time.
7. 2009 National Tournament
- Appointed Judges from Western Region: Mike Hayes, Richelle Matli
 - Assigned Judges: Laura Johnson, Deb Parsons, Sally Mecham, Connie Morris (alternate)
 - Appointed Drivers: Bill Barrett, Pat Rogers; Randy Hocking (alternate)
 - Appointed Scorers: Gail Heinrich and Tad Scharpf
 - Motion from Owen, Tad seconded to approve officials.
8. Local Tournament Sanction approvals
- Approved tournament by Council Area
 - Collect lists, Safety forms, AWSA & Regional sanction fees
 - i. Gaile motioned to approve tournaments, TC seconded. All in favor. Motion carries.
9. Other Sports Divisions, Etc.
- USA Water Ski: Andrea Plough
 - i. Time & Place: try not to have all meetings in Florida. BOD 2010 and 2011 in Polk City, FL
 - ii. Nominations: USAWS Chairman of the Board Don Bucher, President Jim Grew, Vice President Tom Galloneo, Secretary Sarah Chappel.
 - USA Wakeboard/American Wakeboard Association: Andrea Plough
 - i. TV coverage on CBS and NBC. Also CSTV – dedicated to collegiate wakeboarding.
 - ii. Grassroots membership starting this year.
 - iii. US Open in Miami
 - iv. Lost cable a few years ago, now signed back up and have a commitment for a nationals.
 - v. American Wake Surf Association under USA Wakeboard and will have a nationals.
 - [Collegiate/NCWSA](#): Jeff Rush
 - i. Collegiate wakeboard nationals in San Diego
 - ii. Collegiate Nationals in Arizona mostly supported by the Western Region and came off great. Thank you to all officials for your help. The West will host the Nationals again in 2009, to be held at Ironwood in Arvin and sponsored by Cal State San Luis Obispo.
 - iii. Regional expansion: Currently West is second to Midwest. Schools are trying to set up teams. Colorado is part of the Midwest because of distance to nearest tournaments. Trying to support upstart and revamp teams and encourage local club support for them.

- iv. Collegiate skiers have volunteered at Junior Development camps and clinics. If your club wants assistance, please contact local college team.
 - [Water Skiers with Disabilities Association](#): Steve Hornsey
 - i. Would like to touch base with local areas as to what is going on in each area.
 - ii. Certification training added to level 1 instructors for the disabled.
 - iii. Western Regionals held every year at Shortline Lake. A clinic is held prior to the event and then can participate in a fun tournament during the Regionals.
 - iv. Nationals held in DuQuoin, IL.
 - v. Three skiers made the US Team this year: Chad Guzman, Jessica Redmillivich, Steve Hornsey. They've lost the USOC funding. Each skier must raise about \$5000 per skier in order to attend the Worlds. Request for a motion to have a donation to support the team. Brad Jamison motioned to donate \$100 per skier from the Western Region. Brad withdrew his original motion and revised it to \$500 per skier. Gaile Heieck seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.
 - vi. Steve Hornsey is the contact for the Water Skiers with Disabilities. They are very appreciative of the support from the Western Region.
10. National Committee Reports:
- [AWSA Executive](#): TC Boice
 - [USAWS](#): Randy Hocking
 - i. [USAWS](#) final report
 - ii. Steve Locke is doing a great job. He is focused on balancing the budget for the organization. He has also been great with regular communication to the organization.
 - [USAWS Ethics](#): Larry Goodwin
 - i. Volunteers are bound by the Ethics Code of the organization. New code will be published after the Board meeting.
 - [Rules](#): Richelle Matli and Dave Vogt
 - i. Mike Hayes asked for clarification of “dock official” in Rule 7.07. Should be clarified.
 - ii. 8.02 is being removed.
 - iii. Tad moves to accept the report; TC seconded. All in favor. Motion carries.
 - Judges & Scorers: Carol Boice/Linda Hockenbery/Deb Parsons
 - i. [Regional Judges & Scorers](#) | [National Judges & Scorers](#)
 - ii. Deb Parsons taking over for Linda Hockenbery.
 - Laura Johnson raised the issue of the officials downgrade report. We feel that there are many tournament officials that have been erroneously been downgraded. We are working out the issue with HQ and will have it resolved.

- The new windows-based scoring program is in the beta testing stages. We will continue to use WSTIMS for the 2009 season.
 - Hardship request due to lack of a clinic for the past several years. The council person recommended that this person be downgraded. Brad Jamison seconded the motion. None in favor. Hardship request is declined.
 - John Goodman will be bringing a hardship request to the council on behalf (Mark Evanger).
- [Drivers](#): Pat Rogers
 - i. Request for Driver Emeritus - Rich Pato. Seconded by Owen. All in favor. Motion passed.
- [International Activities](#): Frank Harrison/Barry Young/Mike Hayes
 - i. [Report](#) from Mike Hayes (replacing Frank Harrison)
 - Pat Rogers received tremendous accolades for his driving at the Senior World Games in Spain.
 - We're sending several of our Western region officials to numerous of the IAC events in 2009.
 - ii. [Farewell letter](#) from Frank. After 19 years, 20 consecutive team trials and 15 years as chairman, Frank is retiring from the IAC. Sherm Schraft will replace Frank as chair.
- Technical: Phil Yastrow
- [Safety](#): Larry Goodwin
 - i. Downgrade notices: refer to Judges and Scorers section.
 - ii. Only two tournaments in the West did not submit safety reports.
- [Towboat/ Speed Control](#): Will Bush
 - i. [Addendum](#)
 - ii. Owen motioned that the Regionals towboat draw will match that of the Nationals. Brad Jamison seconded.
- [National Seeding](#): Laura Johnson
 - i. Weighting issue still on the table for discussion. Laura Johnson and Jeff Surdej are proposing the double ELR method integrated with the existing framework. Laura would like support at the BOD meeting for this proposal.
 - ii. TC moves that we recommend increasing the official's credit for working tournaments. Owen seconded. All in favor. Motion approved.
- [Skiers Rating/Qualification](#): Jim Kinney/Erik Kosney
 - i. Erik is joining the committee.
 - ii. Nationals numbers new [methodology](#)
 - iii. Skier qualification [methodology](#)
- [National Ski League](#): Kay Goodfellow

- By-laws: Jim Lang (nothing to report)
 - Announcers: Tom Mecham
 - [National Junior Development](#): Charlene Brown
 - i. Banquet was not as financially successful this past year because there was a day in between completing the junior skiing and the banquet.
 - [National Nominating](#): Barry Young
 - [Awards](#): Randy Hocking
11. Old Business:
- None from the 2008 Summer meeting
12. New Business:
- Area 3/Owen Letcher:
 - i. We have an online listing of committees. It is requested that we include the beginning date of the person's tenure on the committee and the term of the position. John Goodman stated that committee appointments are for one year. Barry will take care of the Regional committee information.
 - ii. Request to change the policies and procedures, item 403.b2 for granting of exceptions for skiing in the Regionals for medical reasons. The list of skiers requesting medical exemptions shall be listed along with the Regional running order and also shared amongst EVP's. The intent is to prevent abuse of the medical exemption policy.
 - iii. Sacto would like to have a listing in the Regional Guide of their 2009 clinics.
 - 2009 Budget
 - i. Sam Lee seconded motion to approve budget. All in favor. Budget passed.
13. Recommendations to National Board of Directors
- Meetings for BOD should be moved around the country and not stuck in Florida every year. It's not fair to the regions always having to travel to Florida.
 - TC moves that we recommend increasing the official's credit for working tournaments. Owen seconded. All in favor. Motion approved.
 - Request for HQ to send extra Regional Guides to our EVP.
14. Gaile Heieck motioned to adjourn at 6:30 pm. Owen seconded. All most definitely in favor.