**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Tri-State Council of Figure Skating Clubs**

**Saturday – June 6th, 2015, Holiday Inn French Quarter, Perrysburg, Ohio**

The Annual Meeting opened at 10:05 a.m.

President Jeff Marshall gave a welcome & introductions were made around the room by the Delegates.

The President expressed his appreciation for the Coliseum club for the FS competition, and to ND for the Synchro competition.

The Secretary provided a brief verbal report.

The Treasurer circulated the Form 990 and verified our continuing 501(c)(3) status. The budget is in the Meeting Booklet at 14. There were a few minutes to review the budget. Various questions were asked and answered. The President explained the lower medal cost, which resulted in more income to the competitions; four years of medals inventory were purchased.

Dorothy Tank, Treasurer, submitted a written budget for the upcoming year, which needs to be approved. NSM kits are rising in price from $25 to $35, so an additional $430 needs to be added to the budget. There was discussion about how the last two years, Tri-States has been in the black. Membership fees are still $75. There was discussion about how the medals are a pass-thru cost to competitions.

**MOTION by Chuck Cope, Second by Ann Dougherty**, to purchase NSM kits for members at the new $35 rate. **MOTION PASSED.**

**Approval of Treasurer’s Report & Budget – MOTION by Chuck Cope to approve the budget as modified for the increase NSM kits , Second by Lainie DeMore – MOTION PASSED.**

Cindy York, Secretary, requested approval of the minutes from the last 2014 Annual Meetig.

**Approval of June 7, 2014 Minutes – MOTION by Bill Goen, Second by Chuck Cope – MOTION PASSED.**

Steve Wolkin, VP of Ohio – There was discussion of Club Ed Plus by GCC; Cleveland was awarded National Showcase for 2016.

Amy Wood, VP of Michigan – There was a couple of great competitions.

Test Track Series – There’s a disconnect between information on Test Track and interest in the competitions. There was discussion about how to get more involvement of the skaters. The President mentioned there is a similar issue on the Synchro side, i.e. a lack of information on series awards. There was discussion about making the Series shorter, so it’s not so drawn out and can draw greater interest. Ann Dougherty mentioned that this was done in NSD, and it killed the competition. The President mentioned that we’re running out of medals for the Series, and there is a question about whether the cost justifies continuing the series. There was discussion about moving from a medal to a certificate, and placing the burden on the clubs to award the certificate at club banquets. There was discussion about getting a medal on the podium is more enticing than a medal at a banquet. The President inquired about moving away from the medals, and go to the certificates, and have the clubs do the presentation. There was general discussion about how to increase knowledge and participation. Steve Wolkin suggested using certificates, and follow up with a questionnaire about what can be done to improve the Series. The President mentioned using a Survey Monkey. Amy Wood mentioned that we’re already into the new season, that we have enough medals for this season only, that the change from medals to certificates would change starting Tri-States. There will also be a survey to follow, for input on how to tweak the Series. There was discussion about moving to counting only the top five point totals from the Series competitions. Cathy Brinkman indicated that this method would encourage her club to become involved in the Series. Karen Boswell indicated that a limiting factor may provide opportunity to skaters who are unable to attend each competition. There was discussion about the typical number of starts for Test Track skaters; Shirley Rego indicated approximately 200 starts, 9-10 test track skaters. There’s a limit to how many Series competitions each coach can take their kids to.

**MOTION by Cathy Brinkman** that we leave medals after they run out, and that we move to certificates and do both this year, for awarding by clubs. **Second by Kathy MacMillan.** There was general discussion on the motion. **MOTION PASSED.**

**MOTION by Steve Wolkin**, to top 5 point totals for competitions competed in, and then to move to a tie-breaker, **Second by Amy Wood. MOTION PASSED.**

**MOTION by Steve Wolkin to start this change take place for 2016 and thereafter, Second by Chuck Cope. MOTION PASSED.**

Bill Goen, Music Chairman, provided a verbal report: everything went well. We replaced a couple of CD players. The music kits are quite simple – a mixer, a couple of CD players – it’s not a big kit like we used to have. We can now buy a CD player for about $200, a mixer for about $150. The cost of music equipment has decreased.

Awards Chairman – We don’t have an awards chair at the moment. The President has an award for the Coliseum club for the FS competition. The President presented the award to Coliseum. The Memorial Trophy, with Joy Cunningham’s name now on it, is now in a new case and will passed on to the club that wins the FS bid. Bill at Mission Awards in Traverse City did the Tri-State medals this year. Dorothy pointed out Skaters Gifts to Club at 20 in the Meeting Booklet. If you don’t pay the membership by September 30, then your skaters will not obtain the Tri-State awards. There was discussion about how to get memberships in on time. Cathy Brinkman indicated that once Regionals starts, that should be a hard deadline. Lainie said mention the deadline on renewals and indicate how much money the skaters had earned. We have the problem every year.

**Synchro Bids:** Coliseum FSC by Megan Gueli at 44 – 2 rinks, 9 dressing rooms; there’s additional parking space; they feel they’re in a good location; they have 2 growing Synchro teams; we have dedicated volunteers and supportive rink management. There was discussion of seating capacity at Coliseum and expected capacity, in light of ND and Dearborn.

Dearborn FSC by Chuck Cope at 55 – we have had the competition in the past; Dearborn is in the running for Junior World Qualifiers; they have ample hotels, restaurants, close to the airport.

Fraser SC by Barb Bletch at 57 – we cannot do it on Feb. 14, amended bid; they have successfully hosted both FS and Synchro in the past, including MidAmerica; we would love to host; there is a budget attached.

Miami U – no delegate present to explain the bid, so the bid is rejected.

Midland FSC by Sue Bakke at 70 – they have hosted before, including Regionals, and the final for MI Basic Skills; they have recently hosted the MI HS Finals. They have a huge open lobby that works well; they have 2 rinks, they have Friday night ice available for practice; the seating capacity was 1200; they have 14 dressing rooms; they have a budget attached; they’ve had an adult Synchro team since the late 1970s and they are the volunteer force. There was discussion about whether Midland would be interested in bidding for Junior Qualifiers.

**Freeskating Bids:** FSC of Cincinnati by Cathy Brinkman at 44 – the Winter Hill rink is really lovely; they are confident that the rink will work well with the Club to host FS; there is a lovely lobby, big fireplace; they typically host the non-qual competition in March 2016; they anticipate a huge draw; there is a concern about having only one ice surface and having enough practice ice; Plan B is a two-sheet facility at Sports Plus; Jeff Privett submitted a bid, Cathy has a rough-draft budget; they want to try and work with a local video vendor. There’s a rough projection of $2,000 to Tri-States.

Dearborn FSC by Chuck Cope at 59 – same info as before.

Fraser SC by Barb Bletch at 59 -- has hosted the event before; projected budget shows about $2,000 to Tri-states.

Journey FSC by Louis Lombardo at 63 – this is a relatively new club; we have hotels within the vicinity; there’s a lot of history in the community.

**ADJOURNMENT FOR LUNCH at 11:58 p.m.; Meeting resumed at 1:00 p.m.**

**COMPETITION BIDS:**

Kendra Wright, Incoming Secretary, distributed papers to all delegates to vote on the Free Skating competition bids. And the winner is: Deaborn FSC on the first ballot.

Kendra Wright, Incoming Secretary, thereafter distributed papers to all delegates to vote on the Synchro Competition bids. And the winner is: Journey FSC on the first ballot.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Notre Dame Synchro Competition: Miranda Oltmann’s provided a verbal report on the success of the competition. They learned a lot. This was the first time they had hosted such a competition. It was a really great opportunity. The President presented a plaque for hosting the competition.

Coliseum FSC Freeskating Competition: Megan Gueli provided a verbal report on the success of the competition. They also learned a lot. This was also the first time they had hosted such a competition. The President presented a plaque for hosting the competition.

Club Education Seminar – Tentative Date: Saturday, Sept, 19, 2014 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Southgate Civic Arena, by Detroit Metro Skating Council. There was a question about whether DMSC will sponsor the reimbursement for its memberships. Lainie DeMore suggested that Clubs consider reimbursement for coaches and others. There was discussion about how the GCC did such a great job when they did it at Mentor last year. There was much discussion about how much you learn each year. Lainie as VP will promote attendance as much as possible. Steve Wolkin also highlighted some of the benefits for new Board members.

**MOTION by Steve Wolkin** to implement reimbursement for actual attendance up $75 per member, up to $250 per club, contingent on DMSC being primary reimburser. **Second by Lainie DeMore. MOTION PASSED.**

Synchro Judges/Referees’ School in November 2015:

**MOTION by Steve Wolkin** to have a coaches’ school in conjunction with Judges’/Referees School at Kick-Off Classic in November 2015. **Second by Chuck Cope.** **MOTION PASSED.**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Reimbursement Policy for Officials’ School – The President proposes a policy of reimbursement for judges’ school. There were questions about appointment awards for judges. The Treasurer expended $650 for the last year. There was general discussion about capping the award at the registration fee. Steve Wolkin indicated that you need to induce people to go; there is no need to replace stipends with registration fee reimbursement. There were questions about whether Club Ed would go into that line item.

**MOTION by Lainie DeMore** to modify the schools’ line item in the budget for education reimbursement up to a cap of $50 for prospective (and above) officials of not already reimbursed by another organization with the understanding that if the line item is not used completely, there may be some room to offer advancement awards as well. **Second by Ann Dougherty. MOTION PASSED**.

**MOTION by Steve Wolkin** to reimburse the registration fee of those Tri-State members who registered and attended the DMSC Dance School. **Second by Ann Dougherty. MOTION PASSED.**

Changing the Annual Meeting Date – There was discussion about whether the meeting date should be changed. There was consensus about not moving it.

**MOTION by Lainie DeMore** that a budget must be included with a Tri-State competition bid. **Second by Chuck Cope. MOTION PASSED.**

Lainie DeMore mentioned some additional items. There are USFS scholarships available. There have been e-mails about USFS renewals. The First Midwest VP call is June 17 on running your Club as a business. Please update your information on Members Only. E-mail Lainie to get on her “Other Interested Parties” list. The July call will be a “starting the year” Checklist call. Coaches need to register by July 1. STAR just had a meeting; please take advantage of their offerings for education about how best to run your rink. NARCE is again in Columbus this year. A certified ice tech is someone who can go a long way for your competition. Don’t forget to appoint your SafeSport Chairperson. Hockey associations can be good partners for USFS clubs; they have the same issues/challenges as USFS clubs. Midwesterns will be in Strongsville; Regionals will be in Fort Wayne; Synchro Nationals will be in Kalamazoo; NSD Finals will be in Lansing. Any topics for the Midwest calls should be sent to Lainie – she wants to make that hour relevant. Governing Council in 2016 will be in Columbus, Ohio.

Bill Goen said that this year at Regionals, skaters will be uploading their music onto the website. Lainie said there will be the “same look and feel” on LOC’s Regionals’ websites.

Nominations and Elections of New Officers – Dorothy Tank for President, Amy Wood for Treasurer, Kendra Wright for Secretary, Suzy Malloure for MI VP, Steve Wolkin for OH VP and Tracey Mulherin, IN VP. Donna Cerami as W. PA VP. There are no other nominations from the floor.

**MOTION by acclamation** to elect the slate. **MOTION PASSED**, and the slate is official.

There will be a Tri-State Mid-Year Meeting in Kalamazoo, after the Kick-Off Classic on November 22, 2015.

The next annual meeting will be Saturday, June 4, 2016 at the Holiday Inn French Quarter, Perrysburg, OH.

There was further discussion about NSD and how to address issues.

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 2:22 p.m.