



Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Tri-State Council of Figure Skating Clubs
Saturday, June 1, 2019, Bowling Green Ohio

Website Post – See Tri-State Delegate/Officer for Complete Minutes

Meeting called to order by Jeff Marshall at 10:20am.

President Jeff Marshall gave a welcome statement and introductions were made around the room by delegates, officers and guests.

No additional bids for the Tri-State Synch or Free Skate competitions were received from the floor. Chuck Cope motioned to close the bid for competitions. Second JoAnn Eastman. Passed.

2018 Meeting minutes were reviewed. Amendment of name correction made. Motion to accept amended meeting minutes made by Bill Goen. Second Steve Wolkin. Passed.

Secretary's report- 17 delegates in attendance at the meeting. Work to improve Facebook updates/communication in 2019/2020.

Treasurer's report- Treasurer's report given and discussion held. Chuck Cope motion to accept treasurer's report. Bill Goen second. Passed.

President's report- SnowPlow Sam traveled this year: Ohio, Indiana, Michigan. Previous years, he was not used with the \$75 rental fee. Tri-State member clubs need to contact Jeff Marshall to reserve SnowPlow Sam. To keep with the current strategy of no fee, clubs need to coordinate how to get the costume to/from Ann Arbor, Cleveland, or Bowling Green. Officials traveling to the competitions have been used for transportations. Procedure is to use Febreze and allow Sam to air dry. If used at an outdoor event, the costume will need to be cleaned before coming back.

Report of Vice Presidents-

Michigan – Bill Ziegler– Thank you to the Michigan clubs for participation and volunteering in the many events held in Michigan this past year. Thank you to Artie and Dearborn for hosting successful Tri-State Free Skate and Synch competitions. Highlights for Michigan include the USFS Championships. Many worked and enjoyed the competition. Those volunteering were able to see many areas in the Little Caesars Arena. Detroit Metro Council hosted synchro nationals at USA Hockey Arena. The arena has had many improvements since the last synch nationals held in 2013. Thank you for all the help. Both events were successful. For the synchro competition, USFS was more involved in planning. The

competition was well attended from USFS leadership. Other events in Michigan this past season were synchro sectionals in Kalamazoo and regionals in Ann Arbor. It is important to keep club volunteers excited about events in the area and keep the support.

Calvin Carson thanked Bill Ziegler and Bill Goen for running the show for synchro nationals.

Ohio -Steve Wolkin- Ohio is bidding this year for a tri-state competition. Steve is very active in USFS governance having served on the Grievance Committee and currently on the Board of Directors. Steve is involved with safesport and invited clubs to contact him when they have questions. He understands that clubs want to comply and there are many questions. Questions include: what needs to be posted at competitions and who need background checks. Steve is conducting safesport training around country. Championships will be changing this year. Committee realignment at USFS has changed who is doing what. There is now a program committee for Theater on Ice. Showcase nationals at Wenatchee, Washington, July 31-Aug 4, 2019. Steve is the Chief Referee. USFS will have new website. Should see it soon and user friendly. USFS is a volunteer organization. Being a volunteer organization, we have trouble tracking things. We rely upon memories for many things. A database is being developed for safesport and grievances. We have a good staff at USFS headquarters. They try to stay out of club politics. If you have questions concerning your club you can contact the following: Alan Wolfe, membership; Steve Wolkin, grievance/safesport; Patrick O'Neal is another source. Bill Goen commented that the committee handbook is now available and is good source for what committees are responsible for.

Tri-State Competition Bids - Synchro

Synch Nationals is last week of February in 2020

Ann Arbor – Feb 15 – Erin Donovan presented Ann Arbor bid. To invigorate collegiate teams, she presented a concept of a trophy for tri-state college synchro teams: collegiate and open-collegiate. Erin reached out to collegiate teams and received favorable response. Ann Arbor has two rinks on hold for the competition.

Dearborn – Feb 8 - Withdrawn– JoAnn Eastman – have hosted 3 Tri-State Synchro Competitions, most recent in 2019. Each event has seen increased profit for the Tri-State council. Dearborn has great volunteers and 20-25 hotels in the area. A budget needs to be submitted. The financials submitted for the 2019 Tri-State Synchro will be considered as budget for 2020. Dearborn withdrew its bid prior to the vote by delegates.

Fraser – Feb 15 - Chris Wojno presented bid. Fraser hosts Mid-America every year. This year sectionals are the same weekend as mid America. Fraser has received agreement from the rink that if they win the competition there will be no hockey tournaments in the arena at the same time. Two rinks are on hold.

Mentor – Feb 8 - Malia Harwood presented – Discussion if February 8th or 15th is the better day for the competition. The benefit of the Feb 15th is that will give two weeks between Synchro Illinois competition and Tri-States. Question was raised on how many teams go to Synchro Illinois. It would be expensive for a non-qualifying team. After lunch Mentor informed the delegates, they are able to host the competition on Feb 15th.

Tri-State Competition Bids – Freeskate

Dearborn – April 4-5 – JoAnn Eastman presented the bid for Dearborn. Dearborn hasn't hosted the freeskate for over 10 years. Budget submitted after lunch for delegate review.

Committee Reports

Tri-State Medals Committee – Report by Jeff Marshall: Tri-State council purchased medals to cover three years. This bulk purchase lowered the medal cost to \$1.75. There are enough medals to cover the Tri-State competitions in 2020.

Music – Report by Bill Goen: This past year music had expenses with purchase of computers, cases and upgrades on kits. Expenses this upcoming year will be low with just repairs as necessary. More clubs are using EMS or EntryEeze which increases the use of computers. Dorothy Tank has received 12 checks from Michigan clubs who have used the music equipment and six checks from Ohio. Dorothy and Bill will review and confirm the list of clubs to ensure all has been accounted for.

There are six music coordinators in Michigan, two prospective music coordinators, one music coordinator will be getting their appointment in the fall. There are no music coordinators in Ohio or Indiana. There are four to five people that do music. These individuals do not want the appointment.

Issue where old music (previous CD) kept playing was discussed. Bill explained that the CD is buffered to prevent skipping from vibration. If hit play too quickly the machine will use the buffer. Bill can do another music training session in the Fall.

Bill has been interfacing with USFS on the EMS process which is much more cumbersome and time consuming than EntryEeze. The EMS system has to be user friendly so volunteers are willing to participate. Excel and qualifying competitions need to use EMS.

Bill was thanks for all of his work. It has been a big change over with the computers and coordinating between all the states. All music coordinators were thanked for their work.

Website – Report by Calvin Carson: The website is up and running. Send information for posting to Calvin. Website is tri-states.org. Website has a small user fee for security. The user fee is currently not in the Tri-State budget.

Jeff opened general discussion on obstacles in hosting a competition. Comments listed below:

- Too many competitions – two weeks/mile no longer in place (guideline). Getting officials is difficult.
- Some competitions have moved from their typical week in the year. The shift affects other competitions.
- Michigan Basic Skills Series – cannot add the series to another event
- Garden City competition – there was basic skills on same day
- Learn to skate can now go through axel
- Springtime – Ann Arbor is always the weekend before Memorial weekend. This year skaters were down 20%. Springtime is part of the National Solo Dance. The Excel Series ended the end of April so Ann Arbor could not be part of the series.

- IJS is good for feedback....it is discouraging for skaters to see they are 30 points lower. IJS is good and bad at the same time
- Tri-state Freeskate and Strongsville were on the same date in 2019. Tri-state is the perfect solo dance competition. Strongsville is a constant to host solo dance. So is Ann Arbor. Tri-State Freeskate competitions have been able to host solo dance twice. We need to keep the freeskate competition off the Strongsville weekend.
- USFS does not tell the clubs what to do. We have many clubs close together and clubs are basing survival on competitions
- Get people involved. We need young judges. Go to USFS.org and search for judges. There is information on how to be a judge. The Issue on the number of judges and accountants is under the committee re-alignment.

Delegate Vote on Tri-State Competition Bids

Majority of votes went to Mentor for the Synch Competition to be held Feb 15th.

Ann Dougherty motioned to vote in isolation for the freeskate event to be held at Dearborn, April 4-5. Second Chuck Cope. Passed.

Old Business

Tri-State Freeskate had a loss this past year. The freeskate competition profits have been low in recent years. This is the first year for a loss. What is the policy with a loss? Steve Wolkin stated we cannot have a policy for a loss; otherwise, clubs do not have due diligence. The Tri-State Freeskate was part of Excel. Excel programs add costs to competitions with the increase in IJS events. Tri-State Executive Board already approved \$769 – to bring in officials due to unexpected travel changes.

Issues leading to the loss include:

- Tri-State Council Officers recommended the Arctic to submit for the Excel Series to improve attendance for the freeskate.
- The Excel Series just started in September and the cost of running Excel was not accounted for. Arctic used the price structure from the 2018 freeskate. The Excel Series would require more ice and more officials.
- The Arctic Competitions Chair stepped down and left the club hanging. Officials were not invited until very late.
- Local officials were committed to Strongsville. Officials needed to be brought in from around the country
- With Excel needed to have 3 Technical controllers.
- One Technical Controller was unable to attend at the last minute due to an USFS seminar. Flight was expensive for new technical controller.
- Realized more officials were needed when registration was closed.

Steve Wolkin motioned for Tri-State Council to cover the stated loss of Arctic. Second by Bill Goen.

Discussion:

- Financial report has errors. The entry fees include the revenue for practice ice. This needs to be corrected.
- Music rental is incorrect as there is no fee for music equipment for Tri-State competition.
- Scheduling officials and the accountant late is an issue.
- The cost of officials was double from previous years.
- Final numbers for the loss will need to updated.

The competition was successful with skaters enjoying a well-run competition.

Steve Wolkin modified motion to cover loss of the club to not exceed stated value. Bill Goen agreed to the modification. Passed.

New Business

Tri-States Event Bid Policy was submitted to the delegates. Policy is to clarify the Tri-State Competition bid process and to add more oversight and support to clubs hosting a Tri-State event. May 15th is the date that delegates will be informed what clubs has submitted bids.

Changes to the policy proposed:

- Post Bid a) - Chief referee, TC, TS, and judges' invitations to be issued in 30 days of being awarded the competition. (Steve Wolkin)
- Post Bid b) – submit sanction within 30 days of the annual meeting.
- Post Bid section- need correction as itemized list contains two c's
- Post Bid g) - remove loss from the financial statement (Profit/Loss)

Steve Wolkin proposed to adopt the policy with the 4 identified modifications. Second Bill Goen. Passed.

Bid for Competitions Two Years in Advance: Proposal was brought forward by Jeff Marshall. Advantage is to provide more time for clubs to prepare for the event. Concerns were raised with clubs being able to set a date two years in advance. Steve Wolkin moved to table the issue and have a proposal in writing. Bill Ziegler second. Passed.

Tri-State Competition Preferred Dates: General discussion on the preferred dates for the Tri-State competitions. Bill Goen motioned: In Bid Policy add provision that the Tri-State Officers will look at events scheduled for the competition season and will communicated preferred dates for the events. Steve Wolkin second. Passed.

45th Anniversary Synchro Pin: 2020 will be the 45th Anniversary of the stand-alone Tri-State Synchronized skating competition. Tri-State has celebrated every 5 years the anniversary of the competition starting with the 25th anniversary. Cost of the pin for competitors and officials is \$1.35. Ann Dougherty motioned to make a 2020 45th Commemorative Pin. Steve Wolkin second. Discussion: Bill Estey discussed concern with the date of the anniversary. The 50th anniversary of the very first synchro competition is near. Do we do a pin for the 45th or do we skip the pin and go with the 50th? Ann withdrew the original motion.

Tri-State Synchronized Skating Championships Medal- Bill Estey brought forward that he would like the Tri-State Council to re-institute the original Tri-State Synchronized skating medal. The medal was the first synchro medal. The synchronized and freeskate medal were combined to be the same medal to lower costs for clubs hosting the Tri-State competitions. Bill Estey made the motion to have the original synchro medal. Second Chuck Cope. Passed.

Synchronized Skating Collegiate and Open-Collegiate Trophy: Steve Wolkin motion to spend \$150 per trophy for two trophies for collegiate and open-collegiate. Executive board to determine if the trophy is to be named. Bill Ziegler second. Discussion: Is trophy rotating or given. Concern with traveling trophy is the return of the trophy. Today Tri-State Freeskate traveling trophy doesn't travel and is placed on display during the competition. Skater walk by and do not know what the trophy represents. Collegiate teams would likely have difficulty to display a traveling trophy. Steve Wolkin modified motion for single trophy each year with \$150 maximum. Bill Ziegler second. Amendment Passed. Steve Wolkin called question on proposal. Passed.

History of Synchronized Skating Video – Dorothy Estey discussed the video on synchronized skating. Video included interviews with Bill Estey and Eddie Patterson. In the video Bill mentioned the five members of Tri-States who met with Dr. Porter. The Tri-state story is important. The video will have a link on the USFS website.

Club Ed – Jeff contacted by Susi Werli... do we want to run club ed in the fall? Best education you can get for a new board member. If want to do in the fall could split with Cleveland Council if Cleveland council agrees. Steve will bring to Cleveland council.

Senior team with bye to go to Nationals- Doreen Young brought forward that teams that get a bye have to pay for midwesterns. Doreen Young motion: when teams receive an international bye for mids they will receive a check from tri-state. Second Ann Dougherty. Passed.

Music Equipment Fee due to computers- JoAnn Eastman discussed that Tri-State has not changed the music equipment fee accounting for the new use of computers. Do we want to change more when we use computers? Computers are part of the equipment now. JoAnn motion: Additional \$50 per rink per competition when computers are used. Second Chuck Cope. Passed.

Tri-State Officers for 2019-2020- Nominating committee proposal: Jeff Marshall, President; Dorothy Tank, Treasurer; Karen Boswell, Secretary; Bill Ziegler, Vice President Michigan; Steve Wolkin, Vice President Ohio; Tracey Mulherin, Vice President Indiana. Motion: Ann Dougherty to accept slate. Second Chuck Cope. Passed.

Motion to Adjourn. Passed. Meeting adjourned at 3:15 pm