



January Meeting Minutes January 9, 2023 Midwest Curling Association

The meeting was called to order by President Gaum at 7:34.

Board members in attendance

Sara Gaum	Jeff Warner
Kerry Dickson	Shannon Brown
Lon Peper	Adam Miller
Matt Sherry	Steve Wright
Steve Young	Larry and Jane Vahle
Eric Reithel	

Review of November Meeting Minutes

- Motion to approve – Warner, Second – Reithel. Passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report – Jeff Warner

- Finances will improve as income is received in March.
- Membership is self-reported by each club. Dues to be paid by January 31st.
- Discuss rock rental line item later in the agenda.
- State of Illinois Attorney General is not recognizing the Midwest Curling Association. Trying to get records aligned between Secretary of State and Attorney General.

USCA Report – Bret Jackson

- Sara talked to Bret last week. Bret is on the Scot's Tour.
- Bret echoed that Dean Gemmell's email from earlier in the week is the report.
- Sara asked about the governance and arena committees being formed. Both committees have members, but there are vacancies on the arena committees (and maybe the governance committee).
- Bret mentioned that USCA is working to schedule next year's national events this summer to allow for better planning for possible participants.

USWCA Report – Kirsten Higashikawa (written report)

- At the USWCA 2022 Fall Meeting in Chicago, the Board of Directors approved a Code of Conduct Statement with its affiliated Problem Resolution Process, which created a new position within the organization — USWCA Facilitator. [Click here to view job description.](#)

The published criterion for this position is "Professional experience in managing and facilitating effective problem resolution process between individuals and groups."

- Applicants must submit before Feb 1.

MCA Calendar Report

- Dar Curtis Bonspiel – canceled in December (low subscription)
 - Would like to restructure the format of the Dar Curtis to increase participation.
- MCA Arena Playdowns Bonspiel – Scheduled for May 13 – 15, 2023 in Cedar Rapids
- Club Playdowns are scheduled for February 3 – 5, 2023.
 - Registration closed last week. Six men's and two women's teams registered.
- 5 Year & Under – March 18 – 19, 2023 at Exmoor CC (registration opens in Jan)
 - Does not qualify the team for the National 5 Year & Under event.

Club Reports

- Cedar Rapids – Lon Peper
 - L2C tomorrow night with 50 participants. League starting next week.
 - Farm-to-table winery near Cedar Rapids wants to establish a partnership.
 - Friendly this weekend in Portage against the Rochester Arena Club.
- Chicago – Adam Miller and Matt Sherry
 - Gloamin' Gaels bonspiel this past weekend.
 - Men's Bonspiel is in two weeks.
 - Next session of leagues starting this week.
- Des Moines – Christa Lautner (No report)
- Exmoor – Steve Wright
 - Continental last month. 36 teams participated. CCC provided some ice.
 - 67th Cherry Tree will be February 20th at Exmoor. Registration form is available.
- Northwestern – Alexandra Berl (No Report)
- St. Louis – Steve Young
 - Winterspiel is January 28th and 29th this month at Waltham.
 - Just started a 10-week league, every other week, until April.
 - Corporate events typically on Friday afternoons. Six in the last 2 ½ months.
- Waltham – Larry and Jane Vahle
 - Ice equipment repaired on January 10th.
 - Men's Bonspiel Feb 17 – 19, 2023.
 - Mixed Bonspiel is March 3 – 6, 2023.
 - Hosting several L2C for \$100. Registration fee becomes part of dues.
- Wilmette – Walter Burns (No Report)
 - Walter has not participate in a long time. Shannon to send Walter an email, copying Kerry and Sara, asking about participation and a new representative. Wilmette had 8 curlers last year. Need 10 to have a voting member of board.

- Windy City – Eric Reithel
 - “Exciting time at Windy City!” Rookies exploding. Conversion from L2C to Membership is great. Changing to six-week sessions. Up to 170 members.
 - Drag Effect Bonspiel is February 17 – 19, 2023
 - Working to expand wheelchair curling. Hold leagues on Wednesday nights.
 - Next league session is starting this week. All leagues are filled.

Old Business

- MCA Grant Program – Need to vote on applications (Deadline: January 7, 2023)
 - Shannon sent a packet (attached) prior to the meeting with applications.
 - If club receives a grant, the receipts need to be spent by May 2023.
 - Motion to approve all grants – Warner, Second - Sherry. Passed unanimously.
 - An email will be sent tomorrow to each person listed in the grant application. Each club rep should also communicate with club that grants were approved.
- Upcoming Board Vacancies –Communications/Media Director, President and VP
 - What are the best ways to find replacements for these positions?
 - Shannon is going to create and post a flyer with positions and job descriptions to be released in mid-January.
 - Each club representative needs to assist with recruiting for these positions.
- New Drafted Addendum for MCA Events
 - Shannon is going to write a brief with the various registration guidelines for USCA/MCA events. Table discussion for later date. In December, USAC had conflicting registration guidelines on website. MCA is asking for resolution. MCA issued guidelines last year for playdowns. Guidelines might need to be revisited.
- MCA and USA Curling Relationship – Any update from clubs?
 - Windy City has settled down. Recent Dean Gemmel email was helpful until the portion at the end regarding GNCC. No other comments.

New Business

- Combined MCA Arena Playdowns/Bonspiel Logistics – events run simultaneously
 - Cedar Rapids is to be the host. Event to be held in May.
 - Cost Breakdown of MCA Arena Bonspiel (same as previously proposed plan)
 - 4-event, 3-game guarantee bonspiel with 8-end games
 - (\$220 per hr x 5 draws x 2 hrs per draw) + \$100 (Pin Expense) is \$2,300 in expenses - (48 curlers x \$35 fee) is \$1,680 in revenue. Deficit is \$620.
 - Request to cover the deficit of \$620 with MCA funds.
 - Motion to cover the deficit with \$620 payment to Cedar Rapids – Sherry, Second – Reithel. Motion passed unanimously.
 - Cost Breakdown/Logistics for MCA Arena Playdowns

- Dean Gemmel agreed with Shannon to lower the USAC cost per participant for Arena Playdowns from \$150 to \$100.
 - Typical MCA fee for playdowns is \$12.50. Do we need to raise the MCA fee for an Arena Playdown?
 - Motion to raise the MCA fee to \$25 with any excess funds from the event to be held within MCA to support Arena Clubs – Sherry, Second – Reithel. Passed unanimously.
- New Arena Club looking to form in Kankakee, Illinois
 - Kankakee has equipment. Looking for volunteers to provide advice.
 - Lon Peper volunteered.
- Glenview Park District – wants to renew lease on rental stones
 - Motion to renew a yearly lease on stones to Glenview Park District for \$800 – Sherry, Second – Reithel. Motion passed unanimously.
 - Kerry Dickson looking for volunteers for GPD’s next event on Saturday, January 28th from 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM.
 - Suggestion to talk to Wes Mancoff for volunteers from Wrigley Field list.
 - Will also reach out to Exmoor and Windy City for volunteers and make an announcement in the CCC newsletter
- St. Louis Club Rental Stone Return – two sheets of rocks
 - St. Louis would like to return the stones to MCA via Waltham
 - Best suggestion is to have St. Louis return the stones the weekend that they are hosting their bonspiel at Waltham. Someone from St. Louis would need to drive the extra hour to Windy City to drop them off. Steve to take this information back to the St. Louis Board.
 - Jeff to confirm that the lease payment has been made for rental. Per his records, there has not been a payment this year. He will reach out to St. Louis Treasurer.
- MCA Officials Clinic (Level I and Level II) – tentatively planned for March 2023
 - Expected cost is \$50 for Level 1 and \$75 for Level 2.
 - MCA has a shortage of officials within the region, and we need to promote the Clinic to have participation in all clubs within the MCA.
 - Discussion was had regarding waiving fees for a certain number of participants. No motion was made. This item may need a decision before the next meeting. Discussion, motion ,and vote can be done outside of meeting per the bylaws.
- MCA Calendar Report – planning for the 2023-2024 season
 - Not discussed. Deferred to next meeting.

Motion to adjourn at 9:21 by the Board.

Our next MCA Meeting is scheduled for March 13, 2023 at 7:30 PM via Zoom.