



March Meeting Minutes March 13, 2023 Midwest Curling Association

The meeting was called into order by President Gaum at 7:38 pm.

Board Members in Attendance:

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

Review of November Meeting Minutes

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

Treasurer's Report – Jeff Warner

- Revenue received in the last month in the form of Glenview Park District Club rentals and the MCA Club regional dues
- All clubs who submitted their receipts (Cedar Rapids, Exmoor, St Louis, and Waltham) have had their MCA Grant dues processed; still waiting on remaining club receipts
- Several filing items due in the next month – including Executive Board insurance
- Speaking with interested MCA Treasurer candidate and will pass on nomination to MCA Board if it is solidified that the candidate can effectively handle the position

USA Curling – Bret Jackson

- Dues collected in January 2023 – 20,000+ confirmed members
- Number of committees formed (governance, arena, Safesport)
- Surveys distributed: (1) from the individual perspective and (2) from club perspective
 - 1500 ppl have responded to survey; requested clubs remind curlers to complete
 - One response is expected for each club for the second survey
- Championship season is in full swing with College, Mixed Doubles, and Seniors Championships all occurring recently. Clubs, Mixed, and U21s still to come.
- Call for clubs interested in hosting 2023-2024 season events; want to finalize calendar by mid-summer – reach out to competitions@usacurling.org
- MCA Board members requested a brief on what is involved with hosting an event, what are the revenue potentials, and are there any advertisement restrictions
 - On USA Curling's priority list, but event's coordinator is on paternity leave
 - Sponsorship answer: As long as the local sponsors don't directly compete with USA Curling sponsorship (e.g., Nike vs Columbia) then all good.

USWCA Report – No Update

MCA Calendar Report

- MCA Mixed Playdown – hosted this past week; SafeSport representative attended in preparation for upcoming regional audit of USA Curling
- 5 Year & Under – March 18-19, 2023 at Exmoor
 - 16 full teams from at least six different regional clubs; draw distributed
 - Using the event to shuffle officiating gear from Chicago to Cedar Rapids
- MCA Officiating Courses (Level I & Level II) – March 25-26, 2023 at Exmoor
 - Each course has 10+ participants which means we officially reached the minimum and can hold these courses. Sign-up open until day before.
 - MCA will reimburse fees for one participant from each club; interested parties asked to reach out to their MCA Club Representative for more information
- MCA Arena Playdowns Bonspiel – May 13-14, 2023 in Cedar Rapids
 - Two men's team registered for playdowns, but subscription low on bonspiel-side

Club Report

Cedar Rapids – Lon Peper

- 3-4 people are traveling to the USA Curling Officiating Courses in March
- Learn2Curl scheduled in 3 weeks
- Working with the arena to level the ice prior to the MCA Arena Bonspiel/Playdowns

Chicago – Adam Miller and Matt Sherry

- Successful MCA Mixed Playdowns hosted this past weekend
- Several people interested in the USA Curling Officiating Courses; working to resolve registration errors as membership for Chicago isn't up-to-date in Sports80
- Mixed Bonspiel scheduled for April 21-23, 2023

Exmoor – Steve Wright

- Expect to have ice until the end of March
- Hosting the MCA 5 Year & Under and the USA Curling Officiating Courses in March

Waltham – Larry and Jane Vahle

- Men's and Mixed Bonspiels hosted in the last month went well; season winding down
- New addition to building provided much improved space – walk-in cooler was a great addition and they are waiting on a few additional lockers

Windy City – Eric Reithel

- Membership continues to grow; 2-3 new people join leagues after each rookie session
- Draft Effect Bonspiel had 24 teams and only 7 were Windy City teams – great success
- Pick-Up Sticks Bonspiel for paralyzed veterans of America (all sticks, no sweeping)
 - Hosted March 24-26, 2023; currently low on registration
 - Looking for individual sign-up for regional clubs
- Open Bonspiel scheduled for late April 27-30, 2023
- Keeping ice until July; finalizing summer leagues (keep an eye out on website)
- Aiming to host 2-day summer camp with some recognizable Canadian curlers

Old Business

- MCA Grant – see treasurer’s report section for update
- Upcoming Board Vacancies – candidates email midwestcurlingassociation@gmail.com
 - President – seeking candidate with previous MCA board experience
 - Vice President
 - Media and Communications Director
 - Treasurer - Ryan Koralik
 - Club Representatives
- Kankakee Arena Club – now called Ice Valley Curling ([click here to view Facebook page](#))
 - Group of MCA representatives and arena club members have been providing support over email (i.e., answering questions, providing advice); been greatly appreciated
 - Hosted several learn2curls and is scheduled to host two, 4-week leagues (\$80)
 - Expressed interest in eventually joining the MCA but are just starting up
 - Motion to allow these club curlers to participate in the 2023 Arena Bonspiel as long as all participants pay their \$14 MCA dues – Sherry, Second – Reithel. Passed unanimously.
 - Drafted Addendum for MCA Events: tabled until clarification received from USAC

New Business

- MCA Officials Reimbursement
 - Officials incur expenses related to coordinating playdowns. We want to ensure that all are reimbursed even if that value exceeds our standard \$50 reimbursement amount which is set for all other MCA Bonspiels.
 - Motion to approve the reimbursement of official expenses related to MCA Playdowns within reason (e.g., hotels, food) – Reithel, Second – Sherry. Passed unanimously.
- Chicago Blackhawks Foundation Fundraising Event
 - Tentative event to take place during 2023-2024 season
 - 5-hour event for essentially high rollers (e.g., players, box seat holders)
 - Interested in “exhibition”, safety-first instructors with good socialization skills
 - Need 24 stones delivered to the United Center – they’d pay for stones/transport
 - Gaum asked Windy City and Chicago reps to inquire about Wrigley event and get information about how this was handled in the past – cost, shipment, etc.
 - Believe that cubs paid for transport, got stones for free, but then purchased equipment that was eventually donated to Second City Curling
- MCA Calendar Report – 2023-2024 Season Planning
 - Club assignments are based on rotations and representatives are encouraged to bring said list to the board and determine what is feasible
 - Windy City cannot host U18 Playdowns in Nov or Dec due to facility commitments and playdowns cannot be moved due to a January Nationals
 - Windy City could host 5 Year & Under if shifted to January
 - Dar Curtis pins technically say 2023, but might need to hand out in 2024.
 - Sherry mentioned the idea of an MCA Junior Event; however, due to low subscription, Brown suggested a single-day event be coordinated between Chicago and Exmoor.

- MCA Dar Curtis – discussion regarding format
 - For the last few years, event has been geared at leads, twos, and newer vices. Attendance has been low due to: (1) confusion regarding eligibility as most clubs don't rank, (2) overlap with 5&U, and (3) unwillingness of leads and twos to skip.
 - Two potential options – Over/Under or 25 Combined Years of Experience
 - Over/Under less welcoming to newer arena clubs who may have issues finding curlers over 6 years. Sherry suggested allowing individuals to sign up as pairs, but Brown mentioned this would be more work for organizer.
 - Change in the event would encouraged more participation and offer an event that acted as an in-between the Prairie State Challenge and 5&U
 - While the Dar Curtis has been offered since 1947, the format has changed many times, so updating the format to fit the region wouldn't be breaking tradition.
 - Motion to change the Dar Curtis format to Under/Over format (i.e., two players with 5 years or less of experience and two players with 6 or more years) – Sherry, Second – Reithel. Passed unanimously.

Motion to adjourn at 9:02 pm by the MCA Board.

Our next MCA Meeting is scheduled for May 8, 2023 at 7:30 PM via Zoom.