



PNAHA Annual Fall Meeting
September 8, 2007
Coast Wenatchee Center Hotel & Wenatchee Convention Center
201 North Wenatchee
Wenatchee, Washington 98801

The meeting was called to order by President, Dru Hammond at 11:16 a.m.

1. Sign-In

- Sign-in sheets distributed and on official record with these minutes. Voting delegate sign-in sheet completed with the following delegates present: PNAHA President – Dru Hammond; PNAHA Vice President – Dave Bittenbender; PNAHA Secretary/Treasurer – Katie Kusske.
- Member Organizations; EYH – Christopher Raub; IEAHA – David Nieuwenhuis; KVHA – Mark Bryan; KCAH – Jeremy McCann; PSAHA – Kristin Videto, SJR – Jack Chaney; SKAHA – Steve Cole; TCAHA – Dustin Beck; WCAHA – Randy Bryson; WAHA – Mike Lesky; WWFHA – Shirley Williamson, YAHA – Diane Craig.
- Member Teams – WCHC – RL Stephenson 92/94.
- Member Organizations not represented – MVIA, SAYHA and WWHA.

2. Introductions

- Personal introductions made by the PNAHA Board of Directors and guests.

3. Minutes of Last Meeting

- Reading of the June 23, 2007 minutes. David Bittenbender (PNAHA 1st VP) motion [*to approve minutes*], seconded by Shirley Williamson (WWFHA). Note correction under #12 Women's Hockey: Correct Shirley's last name to read Williamson not Williams. Motion passed.

4. PNAHA Officers/Appointees 07-08 updates – Dru Hammond

- Dru Hammond (PNAHA President) took a moment to talk about 2nd Vice President, Mark Preston's son Kyle and how his condition is continuing to improve.
- Dru (PNAHA President) announced that Brenda Fundak (PNAHA Secretary/Treasurer) has chosen to take an opportunity that came her way. Therefore; she has submitted her resignation to PNAHA.
- Dru (PNAHA President) explained that she has the responsibility to appoint someone to fill the vacancy until the next June 2008 elections are held. She announced that Katie Kusske had expressed interest in the position in the past and that Katie will now fill the PNAHA Secretary/Treasurer position for the remainder of the 2007-2008 year. David Bittenbender (PNAHA 1st VP) welcomed Katie to the PNAHA Board at 11:25 a.m. and handed over the minutes that he had been taking for Katie to take over and continue throughout the meeting.

5. Treasurer Report and 2007-2008 Proposed Budget – Dru Hammond

A. September Treasurer Report

- Due to the fact that Brenda Fundak (PNAHA Secretary/Treasurer) had resigned, Dru Hammond (PNAHA President) presented the report. The balance as of June 23, 2007 is \$47,355.49. Motion [*to approve the Treasurer's Report*] by Dave Bittenbender (PNAHA 1st VP), seconded by Shirley Williamson (WWFHA). Discussion. Explanation that out of the \$8.00 player fees received \$1.00 goes to the Referee fees for PNAHA. Motion passed.

B. 2007-2008 Proposed Budget – Dru Hammond

- Total projected expenses for the 2007-2008 season are \$31,800.00. Motion [*to approve the 2007-2008 Proposed Budget*] by David Bittenbender (PNAHA 1st VP), seconded by Diane Craig (YAHA). Discussion. Dru Hammond (PNAHA President) stated that discussions to collect \$1.00 per player for contribution to the Bobby Freeland Memorial fund to help grow our programs is still under discussion at the Pacific District level. The Pacific District program is being constructed in a similar fashion as the existing program that has been extremely successful in Ohio. A presentation on this program was delivered at the June 2007 Annual Congress in Colorado Springs. Donna Kaufman (Pacific District Director) gave her input from District on that subject. If we raise the player fee to go up from \$8.00 to \$10.00 that would be a start as PNAHA has one of the lowest player fees across the nation. It was recommended during the previous USA Hockey audit that PNAHA consider increasing their player fees to \$10-12. The last increase was

September 8, 2001. This subject will be discussed further during the January or June meetings. Motion [to approve the 2007-2008 Proposed Budget], Dave Bittenbender (PNAHA 1st VP). Seconded by Steve Cole (SNO). Motion approved.

6. Special Guests

- Dru (PNAHA Pres) noted a number of new faces present at this meeting and asked for introductions. Whatcom County Amateur Hockey has a new President, Randy Bryson. Kitsap County Amateur Hockey touched base on their 2006-2007 Vice President Wes Travis who is in the Navy and is being transferred to Rhode Island. Wes had agreed to be one of the PNAHA Screening Coordinators and was presented with the 2007 USA Hockey Young Leader Award this season. He will be missed by many, and PNAHA wishes him well in the future. Katie Kusske (PNAHA Secretary/Treasurer) gave a brief history of how she became involved with the sport of hockey these past 16 years in the Pacific District.

7. Coaching Director Report – Rob Kaufman

A. Ace Coordinator Update

- Rob (PNAHA Coaching Director) thanked all that were present at his round table meeting earlier and that they had a great meeting. First they spoke about the Ace Coordinators job description and how they work closely with the Coaching Director. He updated all the association Ace Coordinators about the new “Ace Focus Newsletter” from USA Hockey. Rob (PNAHA Coaching Director) went over the importance of information that all the hockey associations can gain from the articles and suggestions. Useful references on articles are listed, working with first-time players, practice formats, brief center ice talks, discussions on year end hockey and the Icing Pilot study. Rob (PNAHA Coaching Director) spoke in length about Massachusetts and the National Select Camps have been piloting a change in the current icing rule. The pilot icing rule does not allow a team to ice the puck when shorthanded. In the pilot, when a short handed team ices the puck a whistle is blown and the face off occurs in the offending teams defensive zone. This rule change was proposed at the recent Annual Congress. It is expected it will be discussed at the 2008 winter meeting and submitted as a rule change in 2009. They have created a game study form which was to be provided to all in our District and returned to Rob (PNAHA Coaching Director) so that he may send them all off to Al Boomer.

B. State Development Camp Update (Tri-Cities) 2008 Camp Info.

- 2008 Select Camp date: January 26-27, 2008. This is the official PNAHA State Development Camp date. California, Oregon and Nevada affiliates are also going to host their Development Camps on this weekend. The location is set for the Tri-Cities, and will be an open camp this year. Associations are encouraged to not schedule their TI/T2 teams for League play or Tournaments that weekend if possible. Dru (PNAHA President) said all Districts are planning to have their camps on the same dates. Tier I and Tier II players can sign up on-line this year. Sixty (60) players and eight (8) goalies will be evaluated. Fifteen (15) players with two (2) goalies per team will make up four (4) teams. Rob (PNAHA Coaching Director) cannot stress enough how all the players must attend this camp to be able to go onto District Camp. Les Grauer (KVHA) inquired why players that are away at Boarding schools don't go to that State's camp. Rob (PNAHA Coaching Director) explained that they go by their original residence (parents address) in determining the boundaries. Everyone was reminded to make sure that all the associations send their player rankings when he sends out the deadlines.

C. Pacific District Select Camp Update

- Rob (PNAHA Coaching Director) announced that the Pacific District Select Camp will be held at Kent again in 2008. The dates are April 25, 2008 – April 27, 2008 and May 1, 2008 – May 4, 2008. The cost for the PNAHA State Development camp is \$125.00 per player, and he thought the District camp cost would be approximately \$450.00.
- Rob (PNAHA Coaching Director) said that the past two years that the Pacific District Select Camps have been held at Kent and thanked Kent and their staff for doing a great job in making sure that everything is ready and available to ensure that the event runs smoothly.

B. Coaching Clinics

- The Advanced clinic was held in August in Reno, Nevada.
- Rob (PNAHA Coaching Director) reminded everyone that Advanced certification is required at the Midget level. Rob (PNAHA Coaching Director) mentioned if any of your Tier I and Tier II coaches missed this clinic, they need to go on-line as soon as possible and find a clinic to go to or

file a \$500.00 bond along with a request waiver and get it to Rob (PNAHA Coaching Director) immediately. Rob (PNAHA Coaching Director) stated that a couple of years ago that a Tri-Cities coach had to travel all the way to New York to get their certification completed by the deadline.

8. Supervisor of Officials – Jason Michelbook

- The Level 4 seminar was held on August 19, 2007 and had forty people in attendance. Tri-Cities held a seminar for Levels 1, 2 and 3 on August 18, 2007. Wenatchee held a clinic on September 8, 2007. For Spokane, Tacoma, Kent and Seattle see the website for seminar information. Tri-Cities is the only location holding the Level 4 seminar in the entire Northwest region.

9. USA Hockey Associate Registrar/Risk Manager – Ed Imes

- Ed (Assoc. Registrar/Risk Manager) thanked all the associations for sending their registrars to this morning's earlier round table meeting; his table was full so there was standing room only!
- Ed (Assoc. Registrar/Risk Manager) reminded all the associations and their registrars to get the USA Hockey Written Transfers Letter of Approval form for all non-citizen players in as soon as possible to avoid any delays from USA Hockey which might affect any playing times. This form is also required in each associations credential packet for youth Tier I and Tier II players and also for the Girls/Women.
- Be careful in playing associations/teams that aren't registered with USA Hockey. If teams happen to do that everyone on the ice can lose their insurance. The same can happen when anyone is on the ice that isn't registered as well.
- Dave Bittenbender (PNAHA 1st VP) asked if there are any teams in Washington that fall under that category. It was mentioned that Moses Lake and a skating school located in Walla Walla fit this criteria. The skating school in Walla Walla is registered with Ice Skating Institute (ISI).
- Dru (PNAHA President) mentioned to be on the look out for ISI teams versus USA hockey teams for there is a potential for suspensions. For teams, associations, rink owners and individuals the legal issues can be costly, so make sure you ask for proof on registrations and insurance.
- Dru (PNAHA President) stated she is still missing the contact lists for a number of associations. Katie will follow-up with these associations to collect the lists of current officers as required by the PNAHA Bylaws to be a member in good standing.

10. League Commissioner – Glen Triner

A. 2007-2008 League Report

- Glen (PNAHA League Commissioner) mentioned that all associations have been given the schedule template to review and most associations had already transmitted their information
- Reminder to submit your association contacts by September 15, 2007.
- A lengthy discussion was held at the round table earlier concerning the applicability of Rule 14. Dave Bittenbender (PNAHA 1st VP) stated how Rule 14 is interpreted by the Board. An email that was sent out by the PNAHA President was distributed for reading by those who had not seen the email.

B. Host Hotel

- Seattle Jr. and Sno-King associations requested during the committee round table meetings that the host hotel rate be increased to \$85.00. Hotels aren't so quick to lower their rates and that would help in being able to secure more than one or two as published hosts. It was determined during the League committee meeting that there was a need to increase the host hotel rate because other associations were having similar difficulties. Glen Triner motion *[to increase host hotel rate to \$85.00]*. No discussion. Motion passed.
- Glen (PNAHA League Commissioner) has only received from one association their host hotel lists. September 15 is the deadline. If you don't get in your host hotels, teams will not be required to stay at these hotels when visiting your associations and no fines can be handed down. By having host hotels hockey associations benefit financially. It was noted that there were a number of complaints from members that last year associations would list their host hotels and prices and when the visitor went to make reservations that the prices were not as listed. Investigations into the matter revealed that associations were not contacting the hotels in many cases each year to confirm the price commitments. It was recommended that association marketers ensure that the host hotel contact understand that they cannot change their rates once associations have confirmed that they will be listing them on the PNAHA website at the host hotel rate. Hotels that are found to participating in this practice will be removed from the host hotel list.

C. Tiering Process

- Glen (PNAHA League Commissioner) would like to continue the process as established for 2006-2007 season. The restructuring Committee has developed this proposal and addresses all identified issues/concerns. It is possible that fees need to be developed for the tiering event costs. Consider reverting to only Tier I (if applicable), Tier II and B divisions thus eliminating the Tier 2 A division. Non-league teams will be allowed to participate in the tiering event.
- The Tier II tiering process will be held in late September where Tier II shall be placed in an appropriate level of competition at the conclusion of the event.
- Due to the fact that the league has been restructured, the League Restructuring Committee will be renamed the League Competition Committee.
- The Tiering process will consist of each identified Tier I or Tier II team that has been identified as league participants at the PNAHA Annual Fall meeting playing each team in their respective classification once. The PNAHA League Competition Committee will place each team in one of the following three divisions based upon the results of the tiering games:
 - **PNAHA Tier I League** - Teams that qualify for this level of play compete in the PNAHA playoffs to determine who will advance onto the Tier I District Tournament. These would be National bound teams.
 - **PNAHA Tier II League** - Teams that qualify for this level of play compete in the PNAHA playoffs to determine who will advance on to the Tier II District Tournament. These would be National bound teams.
 - **PNAHA B League** - Teams compete with each other during the season providing a more equal skill level. The top team out of the regular season has the option to opt into the Tier II playoffs, provided the team declared itself a Tier II team at the PNAHA Annual Fall Meeting. This group would be comprised of those teams that traditionally have played in our B level of league play and Tier II teams that have been tiered to this division based on their level of competition during the tiering event. These teams participate in their own state tournament at the end of the season, which is held at a later date (March) as they are not eligible for District playoffs.
- The PNAHA League Competition Committee shall meet in mid-December and re-evaluate each Tier level and determine whether or not a team should be moved up or moved down based upon their level of performance during the first part of the season.
- Teams traveling across the mountains will play a 3 game minimum.
- The teams that opt out of PNAHA Midget, Bantam, and Pee Wee league and wish to participate in a Tier II National Bound Tournament must play each team in the Tier II division a minimum of two (2) games to determine which tournament they are eligible to participate in. The following must be followed:
 - It is the responsibility of the independent team to contact the PNAHA League teams and arrange for the games.
 - It is the responsibility of the PNAHA League team to be as accommodating as possible in arranging these games.
 - Should the games not occur, one or both teams may be disqualified from tournament participation.
 - The cost of these games will be evenly split between the two teams.
- Teams placing 1st and 2nd in the league will be seeded #1 in each bracket for the tournament. If a team has not met the above requirements, they are not eligible for entry into the State Tournament.
- **Tiering Event Dates/Locations** - There will be two Divisions (East and West). Non-League teams will be placed in the division that allows for the most efficient scheduling of the events. Dru (PNAHA President) asked Glen (PNAHA League Commissioner) to send a summary sheet to all the associations next week. Dru (PNAHA President) announced the league declarations. It was stated that Mountain View isn't fielding any house teams at the squirt, pee wee or bantam level this season due to Portland announcing that they would not be allowed to participate in the metro league administered by the Portland Junior Hawks.
- Mike Lesky (WAHA) mentioned that the Wenatchee Pee Wee Tier II team needs a Goalie and asked everyone to forward any interested players to the Wenatchee Hockey Association. Rob Kaufman (PNAHA Coaching Director) reminded all associations that when this happens one of

the ways to make due is by doing a rotation of the team players to suite up as the Goalie. Many players have been surprised when they play that position that their skill set is higher than anticipated and that they actually like playing that position. Dru (PNAHA President) asked for a formal approval to allow an extension for commitment to the PNAHA Squirt League for the Spokane Squirt team. They have not completed their tryout process and need a few more days to provide a declaration to Glen (PNAHA League Commissioner). It was approved by everyone present by a show of hands to extend their commitment deadline to September 14, 2007.

11. Senior Hockey – Andy Cole

- Andy Cole was unable to attend due to other commitments. Ed Imes (Assoc. Registrar/Risk Manager) announced that the Adult league is growing and showing the highest numbers showing a 50% increase. Ed (Assoc. Registrar/Risk Manager) has had a number of people requesting full check league along with hosting state type tournaments as well. Dave Bittenbender (PNAHA 1st VP) asked that the teams and the league try to work with the officials on incidents that are happening on the ice. It was stated that it is important that the league follows through with all the communications in regards to suspensions. Dru (PNAHA President) mentioned that the Adults currently don't pay player fees. She and Andy have discussed in the past that if it is the desire of the adults to structure a formal state tournament that perhaps a minor PNAHA fee will need to be established to cover expenditures associated with this type of event. Additionally, if the Bobby Freeland Grant is approved a minimum of \$1.40 fee will be established to cover the charges that PNAHA pays to the District for each adult participant. Currently the \$.40 fee for each adult player in the affiliate is covered by the fees collected by the youth players. If an additional \$1.00 fee is collected for the Bobby Freeland Grant PNAHA will no longer have a choice but to collect a fee from the adults because the youth programs can not absorb such an increase. Dru and Andy will discuss this further in the future.

12. Women's Hockey – Shirley Williamson

- Shirley (WWFHA) had to leave early so Diane Craig (YAHA) was asked to represent Women's Hockey. The girl's state camp will be the same weekend as the youth in the Tri-Cities January 26-27, 2008. We had a team move onto Nationals last season and will have another team do so this year. They are experiencing difficulty in finding female goalies to join. Diane (YAHA) said Shirley (WWFHA) thinks it has to do with equipment issues. There was a general discussion on female goalie equipment. Les Grauer (KVHA) asked what age groups are affected. They are 1990-1994.

13. 1st Vice President – Dave Bittenbender

- Dave (PNAHA 1st VP) discussed that he was the Chairperson for a meeting regarding the dispute between NPSHL (North Puget Sound Hockey League) and Kent Valley Hockey. Dave (PNAHA 1st VP) was pleased that a solution was reached with the involved parties/associations. Steve Cole (SKAHA) and Jack Chaney (SJR) thanked Dave for facilitating this process and thanked him for his valuable time in helping getting the matter settled. There was a round of applause from everyone at the meeting along with Kent's acknowledgment. Wayne Moore (TCAHA) asked to have some clarification on this type of problem and asked if this happens in the affiliate often. Further discussion on disputes between associations followed. Dave (PNAHA 1st VP) asked that if these types of situations start to please contact any of the PNAHA Board being Dru Hammond, Dave Bittenbender, Mark Preston or Katie Kusske. We will work with you in reaching a solution to the problem before a larger problem is created within the State that tends to involve outside parties.

14. 2nd Vice President – Mark Preston

- In Mark Preston's (PNAHA 2nd VP) absence Dave Bittenbender (PNAHA 1st Vice President) said that Kyle can now add weight to his lower extremities and continues to do well with visits from his close friends that cheer him on. Mark Preston (PNAHA 2nd VP) wants everyone to know how appreciative his family is of the positive thoughts and prayers they've received.

15. PNAHA President – Dru Hammond

- The Pacific District meeting is being held in Seattle on October 20, 2007. The Annual Pacific District Meeting will be held in Reno on January 18-19, 2008. Dru (PNAHA President) thanked Donna Kaufman (Pacific District Director) for coming to the meeting today. Dru (PNAHA President) reviewed the Squirt Division travel restriction that was approved by the PNAHA Board of Directors at the June 21, 2003 PNAHA Spring/Summer meeting. She stated that she had been contacted by two individuals over the summer requesting that she consider granting a waiver to the PNAHA travel restrictions for players 10 and under. She told them that as an administrator for PNAHA that she had an obligation to enforce Rules and Policies as established by PNAHA and that she would not grant

such a waiver. This same individual then approached USA Hockey in an attempt to register with them to avoid this restriction. USA Hockey sent them back to PNAHA. They then approached the PNAHA Secretary/Treasurer (Brenda Fundak) to grant such a waiver. The Secretary/Treasurer forwarded the request to the PNAHA President who instructed Brenda to tell them that they have asked this question previously and they have received an answer. They were also told what to do if they wished to change this PNAHA Travel Restriction Policy. A question was asked about sanctions and what would happen if a Squirt team doesn't follow the rule. Rob Kaufman (PNAHA Coaching Director) discussed the low numbers in the squirt division and why the travel restrictions were done for the younger ages due to player/parental burn out and how we should ease the move to Pee Wees. Ed Imes (Assoc. Registrar/Risk Manager) reminded everyone that there also isn't a Squirt category for Tier I or Tier II. When it comes to titles it is mainly overzealous parents needing justification. There isn't even a state tournament played at the Squirt level. It was stated that at the last Annual Congress the Affiliate Presidents indicated that if USA Hockey are serious about eliminating state tournaments for 10 and under that it should be mandated and not recommended. Jason Michelbook (PNAHA East Side Supervisor of Officials) stated that he has heard people talking about their kid's teams playing 75 games. He believes that group moved to Kent to be able to do that, Spokane teams have done that before as well. Dave Bittenbender (PNAHA 1st VP) discussed suspensions and actions to squirt teams that do travel outside the 400 mile radius to answer the question. He further stated that this travel restriction has been challenged in the past and USA Hockey has upheld the policy. Rob Kaufman (PNAHA Coaching Director) discussed the cost and time for squirts in this state verses other states listing the pros and cons. Is the problem the players at that age wanting more play time or is it the parents, this is the root of the whole problem in that division. Donna Kaufman (Pacific District Director) stated that even California has implemented travel restrictions on certain age levels traveling out of their state. Discussion followed on development verses games and what does the younger age player benefit more from. Mark Bryan (KVHA) asked PNAHA to have some flexibility in our state on a case by case basis, which he then rephrased to demand that PNAHA have flexibility regarding the squirt teams wishing to travel over the 400 mile radius as a carrot to strive for. Dru Hammond (PNAHA President) explained that this ruling is mandated by PNAHA. It is PNAHA's responsibility is to enforce the policies as established by this board. PNAHA has done one waiver in the past, but that was in response to a team that had participated in the Portland Silver Sticks Tournament. They won their classification and it was not right to deny them the ability to advance on since this is a part of the Silver Stick process. Dave Bittenbender (PNAHA 1st VP) said it would be a serious mistake to allow flexibility as the rule again is mandated.

16. Tournaments – Dru Hammond

- PNAHA has only received one tournament application, Tri-Cities has applied to host the Tier II State tournament for Pee Wee, Bantam and Midgets. Still need a host for the Squirt Festival and the State B tournament. Dru (PNAHA President) will send out an e-mail looking for hosts. Motion [*to accept the host for the Tier II State tournament being held in Tri-Cities*] by Kristin Videto (PSAHA), seconded by Jack Chaney (Seattle Jr.). No Discussion. Motion approved. PSAHA would like to submit their formal bid for the Squirt Festival March 6-9, 2008. Motion [to have the Squirt Festival hosted by PSAHA] by Kristin Videto (PSAHA), seconded by Dave Bittenbender (PNAHA 1st VP). Motion passed. Les Grauer (KVHA) discussed the possibility of doing a different game format since the established format when three teams are in a division seems a bit unfair to one of the teams. Dru (PNAHA President) indicated that she would take it under advisement when approving the schedules but that Les needed to understand that there is an approved USA Hockey schedule for all teams and that it is published in the PNAHA Guide Book.

17. Old Business – Dru Hammond

- The Website situation for PNAHA and other associations using the new platform has been a struggle as it is not as user friendly as originally communicated. There are numerous bugs in the system that cause users a lot of frustration because when an error occurs the user doesn't know if they made a mistake or if a bug contributed to the difficulties. She understands why some web administrators have decided to go to other companies to help run their websites. She hopes that in time that users will come back to the USA Hockey site because once the bugs are worked out they will find that the system is very powerful. Dru Hammond (PNAHA President) mentioned that she is finding the USA Hockey website support staff are great. The IT department responds immediately and they are friendly and

very patient. She will be traveling back to Colorado Springs the first weekend of November for additional training. Hopefully in time the website issues will be a mere memory.

18. New Business

- Nothing to report.

19. Winter Meeting

- The PNAHA Annual Winter meeting will be held on January 5, 2008 at the Coast Wenatchee Center Hotel & Wenatchee Convention Center in Wenatchee, located at 201 N. Wenatchee Avenue. Room reservations can be made by calling (509) 662-4411. All members are reminded to make their room reservations prior to leaving the facility as availability changes during the hockey and skiing season.

20. Adjournment

- Kristen Videto (PSHA) [*motioned to adjourn*], seconded by Katie Kusske (PNAHA Secretary/Treasurer). Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.