

AMERICAN POLOCROSSE ASSOCIATION
BOARD TELECONFERENCE
May 10, 2006
8 PM Eastern Time

Present: Audrey Schmidt, Betsy Lovelace, Kara Fielder, Edmund Schenecker, Thea Cross, Wayne Cooper, Laura Humphreys, Ryan Murphy, John Jameson, Liz Gleeson

Not Present: Richard Pugh, David Brooks, Jeepers Ragsdale, Jessie Reed

February Minutes

The Secretary had questions in two areas of February's minutes. Corrections were discussed and made. Laura Humphreys made a motion to accept the minutes for February 11 and 12, 2006 as corrected. Betsy Lovelace seconded. All in favor.

Presidents Report

Audrey Schmidt brought up that the 501c3 is a whole different thing to deal with; she spent time with administrators of Camp Stewart's 501c3 and found out that the Board and members need to be fundraisers. Betsy Lovelace said that more word needs to get out. Audrey's Change for Change idea had no participation. Kara Fielder suggested that each Board member organize one fundraiser per year. Silent Auctions are good. She thought that if the Board cannot do theirs before Nationals, the Board member can bring 10 donated items to the silent auction at Nationals (at \$25 per item). Edmund Schenecker thought we had enough Board members committed to raising \$1,000.00 already. They would be exempt.

Audrey Schmidt said our biggest goal needs to be getting donations, and that we all needed to solicit. Laura Humphreys suggested that we have a coordinated effort for national companies so that we don't have different people duplicating; the APA would look less than professional. Audrey Schmidt suggested we go to the Business Development Committee. Richard Pugh may have ideas and can keep track of who is doing what.

Ryan Murphy wondered how we were set up; maybe clubs could have meetings and we could challenge clubs to raise money, saying more might happen locally if we said we are raising funds for APA Programs, and would they participate. Kara Fielder said there were things to raise money that we are not doing, like the idea of selling clothing online. *The big thing was that we have to differentiate between earned income and donated income.*

It was said that Richard Pugh was working on an idea to have gear sold by a company to get a portion of income. They set up websites for organizations (for free) and still had to talk to their accounting division. Kara Fielder was asked to follow up with Richard.

Other ideas brought up were: a can for Change for Change could be put out at tournaments, a hunter pace has the potential to bring in money like \$3,000 (in Washington and New York), possibly organize things like riding on the beach for \$10 each. Audrey Schmidt reminded everyone that we need thousands of dollars; we need the polocrosse community to turn to the outside world to raise funds; not from polocrosse people. Laura Humphreys added that in doing so, we need to promote polocrosse on a higher level.

Edmund Schenecker brought up that this was new business and we had a committee to deal with this. Audrey Schmidt said she was seeking all board members input at this time because Richard Pugh needed help on the Business Development Committee. We also need to help him find more committee members who have time to dedicate to this committee. Laura Humphreys said it should be a concerted organized effort.

Communications Report

Kara Fielder said she has heard statements that the Yahoo website is better than the APA website. Edmund Schenecker was asked if he had an idea when the work would be done to our website. He said there was no quote yet; and that the present company doesn't give others access to do things to the website. Or, we could move to another hosting company to do updates ourselves. There were some limitations on this one. Audrey Schmidt asked how long it would take to rebuild one; a lot of time. Kara also asked if the May issue of the OTR was on time. Laura Humphreys said it was at the printers and she was waiting on an OK from Audrey and Edmund.

Nationals

Audrey Schmidt said there is a Gene Autry Festival to be at Southfork at the same time; they are talking about 5,000 to 8,000 people to be there. We might work together (they have a concert planned Friday night and a kids play area), so we might offer more.

Player Development Program

John Jameson provided a new document that incorporates previous information with a Code of Conduct added. The rules in it are the same as what was submitted in February; he was asking for the Board to accept the new version.

Betsy Lovelace made a motion that the Board accept the PDP rules with the Code of Conduct as presented. Laura Humphreys seconded. All in favor.

John added that the program was working well. Joy Poole is still planning on being the Head Coach; Kellee Campbell has been asked to keep in touch with her. If Joy gets to a point where she cannot do this, she will tell us immediately. She will be here the last week in October to work with the World Cup Team. John Jameson will also coach, Edmund Schenecker is the business manager, Kiki Pantaze is the horse manager.

The Team will be announced shortly; there will be 8 women and 8 men. After Joy spends a week with them in October, all World Cup administrators will talk about the team. 4 women and 4 men and 1 alternate will be named the first week in November.

The Team has financial requirements and fundraising will be for the entire group of 16. Edmund Schenecker is taking payment plans and will have a meeting with Laura Humphreys, Kara Fielder, Audrey Schmidt and the Business Development Committee about how donation money will be handled. They haven't finalized a procedure yet. John Jameson said when members of the Team raise money, it goes in their name.

Kara Fielder asked if the silent auction at Nationals is to raise money for the World Cup. Audrey Schmidt said it was for the APA.

John Jameson also said the U16 Team leaves June 20th with Al True; the Men's Team leaves for Ireland June 12th. Audrey brought up that there needs to be communication of

this to the rest of the APA; nobody is sending things to the OTR. John thought the web would be a logical place; the PDP names could be there too.

There was another discussion on finding people to get information to be printed; the kids have been encouraged to keep journals and be prepared to write an article, someone can do updates. John Jameson said that, as Chair, he can be contacted for this.

Audrey Schmidt is working on a document as a guide for inbound tours with details. The Irish were impressed with how serious we are about hosting tours. Kara Fielder would like the PDP committee to be recognized at Nationals. This can go into the program.

Chief Umpire

It was brought up that a player had offered to be an umpire, but had to push things to make it happen at a tournament. Ryan Murphy was asked why it was like that. He said that he would like to see the individual go straight to the tournament umpire in charge. If a person is qualified and ignored, he wants to know about it. Audrey Schmidt asked him to write for the OTR and tell people what the process is.

Ryan Murphy also wants associate umpires to know there is a mentoring program going. Amy Keith is writing a handout; we want more people involved. The Umpire Panel can facilitate getting more people seen.

There should also be more pre-tournament rules clinics; they are not well attended yet. Audrey Schmidt suggested making attendance mandatory. Ryan Murphy responded that people cannot be made to attend; but if people do not know the rules, it would be unsafe on the field. It is their responsibility to give back.

Edmund Schenecker asked how people are told about clinics; perhaps it should be in the OTR. Ryan said it is in the tournament invitations. The Central and Eastern Zone have organized some, and he'd like one in each zone. Amy Keith is working on a system she wants to do where people pay \$25. Edmund Schenecker asked who this would be paid to; if it was APA money to travel, the money should go to the APA. Ryan Murphy said it would go to tournaments, they are getting her there. Laura Humphreys said if it was a sanctioned tournament, the APA gets the umpire there. Audrey Schmidt said if the tournament can fund it, that's good; if the APA was funding it, the checks go to the APA.

NEW BUSINESS

Code of Conduct

Audrey Schmidt and Renee Samuelson worked on a Code of Conduct, it is a version of the PDP one, done for the whole membership in mind. The enforcement is from the Alcohol Policy. The need for this has risen as there was out of control behavior at some Texas tournaments. The idea is for members to sign it at tournaments.

Laura Humphreys asked if other organizations make members sign something like this frequently; all rules are in most organizations rulebooks. It was suggested that it could be on the application for the PDP and the Umpire Panel could put it in the rulebook. Members would see the APA was taking the issue seriously. While the tournament committee has the backing of the tournament umpire, some thought the code should be signed at all tournaments, some did not agree. We will update membership forms with it,

and it will be published in the OTR and on the web. Zone Representatives could put it out to members.

Kara Fielder made a motion to accept the Code of Conduct . Laura Humphreys amended the motion to set a date for approval, May 17th. Comments should be sent to Laura Humphreys and if there were no comments, it would be considered adopted. Betsy Lovelace seconded. All in favor.

501c3

Audrey Schmidt dissolved the committee and congratulated the members who got this done. Jeepers Ragsdale was the Chair, Edmund Schenecker and Greg Russell were on the committee.

Lifetime Membership

There was a question brought forward that we should consider the lifetime membership again. Richard Pugh was against the idea saying we need people to pay the nominal fee. Edmund Schenecker said the idea is to set it at a certain multiple of the annual amount and not use it as a fundraiser; such as a \$3,000 level. Kara Fielder said we still had to address the future; our dues may go up. After a short discussion, it was decided that the Membership Committee could explain benefits and make a recommendation.

Finance

As of March 31, 2006, there was \$16,128.61 in the account. Tax returns for 2002 – 2004 have been filed; there is an extension for 2005. The Finance Committee is made up of Kara Fielder, Arlene Strider (works on a 501c3) and Kristin Linson (a bookkeeper). They will both help on the 501c3. Data on the Peachtree financial records has not been converted to Quickbooks yet, a necessary thing so the IRS can be informed why we didn't file certain years (less than \$25,000 income each year). We need to be able to verify this.

Audrey Schmidt asked if we needed to have a bookkeeper for the 501c3. Kara thought that if we do, they should write the checks too; and it depends on how many donations we get. If it is a small amount, it may not be necessary but we should be ready to do it if necessary. Edmund Schenecker brought up that there might be a lot of money coming in for World Cup. We will need receipts made and correct clarification. Audrey suggested this be left for the Finance Committee to decide whether or not we need a bookkeeper for the 501c3.

Wayne Cooper motioned to adjourn the meeting. Kara Fielder seconded. All in favor. The next meeting will be August 16th.