

6/24/98BOD

Minutes of the USOF Board of Directors' Meeting

June 24, 1998

Miami University, Oxford, OH

Present: 17 Officers and Board Members. The meeting started about 2:30p.m.

Officers present: Gary Kraght, President; Mike Minium, VP Program Development; Robert Buraczynski, VP Competition; Michael Schneiderman, VP Administration; Betsy Hawes, Secretary; Robin Shannonhouse, Executive Director (non-voting)

Board members present: David Irving, SW; Bill Cusworth, NW, Tom Murphy, Midwest, Alan Petit, Mid-Atlantic, Dick Neuburger, Heartland; Bruce Wolfe, A/L Comp.; Frank Kuhn, A/L; Ian Tidswell, A/L; Paul Regan, A/L; Joanne Sankus, NE Alt.

Others present: Frank Campbell, Bruce McAllister, Ken Lappin, Rick Hood, Ardis Dull, Barb Sleight, Karl Kolva, Sara Mae Berman, Steve Shannonhouse, Nancy Koehler, Elizabeth Kotowski, Eric Bone, Karen Rogers

1. Approval of the BOD meeting minutes for February 14, 1998.

MOTION: made and carried to accept as corrected. 12 yes, 1 abstains (B. Hawes)

MOTION: made and carried to record all votes of the Board by name. 13 yes

1. Open Forum

Bruce Wolfe asked the Board to consider organizing a national Trail-O Championship so that the ParaOlympics and the International Trail-O Bodies can recognize us.

DVOA has agreed to do a championship next year in conjunction with the Convention.

The World Masters Games has lowered the entry fee for August but the amount is not set yet.

Rick Hood made a request to Gary and Robin and the Board to consider an award to those outside of USOF (such as sponsors, media, schools, etc.) who make a special contribution to our sport.

1. Approval of the Credentials Committee for the AGM

Frank Kuhn presented a credentials committee consisting of Paul Regan, Karen Dennis, and Caroline Ringo with J.J. Cote as a helper.

MOTION: made and carried to approve the Credentials committee. 14 yes

1. Proposal to make U.S. JROTC Championships an annual bid event

Mike Minium presented a proposal to make the US JROTC Championships a bid event. Considerable discussion, suggestions and rewording of the proposal followed.

Robert wondered if this should be an annual event.

Paul felt it was important to lay out the details of just what such a championship would be like and was concerned that the JROTC leaders be involved in the planning.

David noted that we have had 2 JROTC champs and have one more scheduled, so we have a format which can evolve as the Relay Champs format has. We need to act now to retain leadership of the event. Could this be combined with the HS Champs?

Frank Campbell, speaking as a representative of JROTC leadership, is receptive to combining JROTC, High School, and Intercollegiate. A combined event would help with travel expenses and each group champion (JROTC, High School, etc.) could be recognized in the awards.

Gary strongly supports having JROTC Championship now, but doesn't like a bid event that is not an A event.

David stated that this should be a policy question. We should have a JROTC champs that is not a classic A-meet because it needs different categories and classes. A group should be formed to work out the details.

Al Petit pointed out that it would be nice to have a format to include other high school military groups in the competition, such as Fork Union.

Eric Bone expressed concern that this meet not take away from the current junior championship classes at the US Classic Championships.

Liz Kotowski, on the other hand, would like to have this meet replace the current junior championships because it would give us a stronger marketing position.

More discussion followed on these ideas, and led to the idea presented by David that this becomes a US Junior Team Competition (to be held in addition to the US individual junior Championships). The sense of the board was to combine JROTC and High School and Middle School Team Championships in one meet with separate recognitions.

Mike Minium presented the motion: Resolved that the USOF Board establishes the United States Junior Team Championships as a national bid event to include JROTC, High School, and Middle School divisions and others that may be deemed appropriate in the future, to take

effect in 2000.

MOTION: carried. 12 yes, 2 no (Paul Regan, Robert Buraczynski) **MIKE MINIUM WILL FOLLOW UP and give a prompt report.**

1. Proposal for U.S. High School/Middle School Championships as an annual bid event.
This was combined with Item 4.

1. Proposals to be voted on at IOF Congress in July

Bruce Wolfe presented the broad outlines and "hot topics" for the upcoming IOF Congress:

1. A voting procedure will be cleared up: a majority will be considered the majority of those present and voting.
2. Four major disciplines in Orienteering will be recognized in IOF, resulting in one vote for each country.
3. IOF rules will be brought into line with Finnish laws as the headquarters is now there.
4. Some goals will be to modify O-World magazine to reach a larger audience, work to improve the profile of orienteering, increase the development of O in more countries (now 50, and Olympics needs 75), and strengthen development of O in existing member Federations.

Bruce has more details on all of the above for anyone who is interested.

O/NA would like more information from IOF Congress meetings.

USOF needs to be proactive by helping development in the Western Hemisphere and trying to build a closer relationship with the US Olympic Committee (get better known by the committee members.)

Council members are elected for two-year terms. Bruce is running for reelection.

Sara Mae suggested that efforts be made to have IOF cover travel expenses.

Frank Kuhn supports the idea that there be alternates to members of the Council.

1. Questions for USOF Officers

The first question was on the status of the USOF Rankings. This was deferred to Bill Cusworth who has had some technical and time problems, which delayed the rankings this year, but he hopes to have the rankings on line by July 6 and to O/NA for August 15.

The second question was on the status of the implementation of the new class/course structure. Robert reported that meets are including the new categories, so it seems to be a case of quiet acquiescence. Some individuals do not know about the changes as they are still requesting B categories, but there have not been many complaints. A particular question was addressed to the length of Green courses. Some have been longer, and some have not.

A change was suggested for the condensed structure so that F60 would remain on Brown, not go to F55Green.

1. Regional development reports from region Board members:

Al Petit gave a report for the mid-Atlantic region. Pocono OC has been reinstated in USOF. Quantico is helping with the development of a Pittsburgh club and possibly Richmond. Fork Union is using their map loan to produce an A-meet quality map. Mark Frank is working with a lead in the Pittsburgh area. Note: **David Irving has 3 maps for the Pittsburgh area.**

Frank Kuhn reported that the Southeast has 2 new Board members, Frank Campbell and John Farley. There is a possibility of an associated club at a junior college and of a club in the Tampa area. The Southeast has an energetic new president. Membership in Georgia is growing. Tennessee has not rechartered and there is no word from Meg. Walter Seigenthaler is an active leader in North Carolina.

Maybe there is a USOF opportunity in Tennessee. There is lots of JROTC interest there and there are individuals whose names Robin has. **Michael Schniderman will follow up.**

Joanne Sankus reported that two late clubs in the Northeast have rechartered. NEOC lost members when UNO formed, but it is stabilized. There is a good chance for a new club at Harvard as two HVO members will be attending as freshmen and a possibility for another section of NEOC in Connecticut. There is more JROTC activity in the HVO area.

Mike Minium reported that in the Midwest there has been growth with a new club forming and almost ready to break from Cincinnati/Dayton. Southern Michigan is doing a lot of local meets with good attendance. Louisville may be struggling. The area as a whole has the top growth record for the year.

NOTE: Clubs may have as long a name as they wish, but only 4 letters can be printed in O/NA to identify results.

Dick Neuburger presented a 2-page report from the Heartland Region. He has been in touch with all the clubs in the area. Special events in the area included the 1997Colorado 1000Day, the VWC, and the Heartland Championships in April 1998. Club membership has remained constant while USOF membership from the region has declined slightly. Meet attendance is up. Badger O Club has doubled attendance through use of a website, advanced scheduling, school O events, and some good volunteers. Minnesota has recovered from VWC and is building on its success. They have increased publicity and educational outreach. They are working with local JROTC units. RMOC is focusing on producing maps closer to metropolitan areas. CIOC is small but gets good coverage in their newspaper. SLOC has an active schedule with about 2 events per month. Their year's events included a rogaie, the 17-km Turkey O', a Scout Orienteering Festival, and the Heartland Champs. The club has an active outreach program and a mapping contract with the Missouri Dept. of Conservation. OK has had several training events lately. PTOC hosts about 10 events and 3 training clinics each year. They helped a professional corporate consulting firm with its team building event, will work with a middle school O program, and will begin a JROTC O League this fall.

In the Southwest, David Irving reported that Hill Country O in Austin rechartered. There is interest in a club in San Antonio. The Louisiana/Arkansas Club is mostly JROTC who help run meets. There have been inquiries from school groups there. Tulsa club is somewhat active. North Texas is healthy and active with about 200 people per local meet. JROTC champs there will probably be an A-Meet. Houston has been very busy putting their maps onto OCAD and revising them

Bill Cusworth reported that memberships are steady in the Northwest but the number of people attending meets has gone up. They have been doing lots of publicity. There is a state-level organization in Washington for scheduling and starting up new clubs. The High School league has doubled in the past year. JROTC helps run the meets. High school students are now beginning to come to regular club meets. The area will hold its first US Champs in August. There may be some interest in a club at Oregon State at Corvallis. Arctic is a large club, 11th largest in the country. It is important to stay in touch with them.

Gary reported for the Pacific Region. A new club is chartered at Monterey Bay. Some other area clubs are holding steady while BAOC and some others are declining in membership. BAOC is pumping some funds into publicity and outreach and getting more maps on OCAD. Gold Country O is growing and averaging 100 at events. It has JROTC participation. Las Vegas has some interest in a club and has put out a brochure. NOTE: **David Irving has an old UNLV map.**

Rick Hood has the national Search and Rescue Conference dates that are good for making contacts for orienteering.

1. A presentation was made to the Board on the Long-Range Plan. At this point the plan is a road map, not a detailed plan. It is a collection of ideas, mini-plans and information. The committee hopes to have lots of input and to have the plan ready for the Fall Board meeting. "The plan is not an end, but a starting point."

Discussion followed the presentation. Was the previous long-range plan reviewed? There were 2 previous plans that did not go far, but the last one led to regionalization. This plan wants to build on that one, much of which has been implemented.

We are in a different climate now because more people want to grow the sport and in the US there are opportunities for sports for women. The commercialization of sports has taken off and provides opportunities also.

Eric suggested that the goals are lofty but wondered if there are some reasonable processes to reach them. Do we have some way to measure our progress? Are the goals reasonable in the time frame?

Gary reported that we could reach daunting goals, but even if we don't, the process of trying to can be a wonderful one for the organization. He went on to say that by the year 2008 we would like to reach the levels of Britain, Denmark, or Switzerland. If we can get one person in a thousand to participate in orienteering, we can be one of the top 5 orienteering countries.

Karl wrapped up by pointing out that if we have the will to do it, we can accomplish it, just as we put a man on the moon or pushed to win WWII after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

The meeting was adjourned.

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