

Annual Meeting Minutes  
April 27, 2011

The 116th Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association was held on Wednesday, April 27, 2011 commencing at 9:00 a.m. at the Holiday Inn in Stevens Point.

Board of Control President James Smasal, Principal at Winneconne, presided. Mr. Smasal welcomed everyone to the Annual Meeting, thanked them for their dedication to high school athletics, and encouraged participation in the meeting. There were 386 delegates representing 313 schools in attendance. Mr. Smasal asked all delegates to silence their cell phones, reviewed the materials in the meeting packet, and introduced the head table which included Executive Director Dave Anderson, Deputy Director Wade Labecki, President-Elect Mark Gobler of Luck, Treasurer Terry Reynolds of Pittsville, Parliamentarian Dr. Chris Sadler of the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and Administration Coordinator Julie Kage.

Minutes of 2010 meeting stand as previously published. The meeting minutes were published in the WIAA Yearbook and on the website.

Treasurer Terry Reynolds reviewed the financial report included in the meeting materials. The total revenue was \$7,795,339 and total operating expenses were \$8,091,220 resulting in a decrease in unrestricted net assets from operations of \$295,881. The unrestricted net assets at the end of the year were \$2,603,009. Fall tournament results were favorable by \$65,874.99 and preliminary reports indicate the winter tournaments will be down. The projections for 2010-11 anticipate a projected amount of income of \$125,000 less than budgeted. Tournament attendance has been depressed for three consecutive years but the staff continues to be hopeful that the budget will be balanced. A motion was made by Paul Rozak, Stratford and seconded by Mike Devine, Stevens Point to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried by a voice vote with no dissents noted.

Joan Gralla presented the Election Report. In the Board of Control election, Mike Beighley, Whitehall, was elected to a three-year term for District 3 expiring after the June 2014 meeting. Corey Baumgartner, Kaukauna, was elected for a three-year term for District 4 expiring after the June 2014 meeting. Keith Posley, Milwaukee was reelected for a three-year term for the Ethnic at-large seat expiring after the June 2014 meeting. In the Advisory Council elections, Todd Sobrilsky, Brookfield Central and Dave Steavpack, Ashwaubenon were elected to a three-year term for the Large Schools expiring after the June 2014 meeting. Kimbert Kaukl, River Valley and Barry Rose, Cumberland, were elected to a three-year term for the Medium Schools expiring after the June 2014 meeting. Brian Henning, New Auburn, was reelected to a three-year term for the Small Schools expiring after the June 2014 meeting. Eric Coleman, Milwaukee was reelected for a three-year term for the Ethnic at-large seat expiring after the June 2014 meeting.

Other Board members were introduced. They included Roger Foegen, Bangor; Jack Klebesadel, Germantown; Mary Pfeiffer, Neenah; Dean Sanders, Lake Mills and Tim Sivertson, Elk Mound. Board of Control members Jim Dyer, Pacelli; Ted Evans, Mineral Point; and Keith Posley, Milwaukee Public Schools were excused. Board of Control liaison Luke Francois, President-Elect of the Wisconsin Athletic Directors Association was introduced. John Ashley, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Association of School Boards and Michael Thompson, Deputy State Superintendent of the Department of Public Instruction were excused. Guests in attendance included John Roberts, Matt Otte, and Doug Chickering. This was Mr. Roberts 55th Annual Meeting, Mr. Otte's 54th Annual Meeting and Mr. Chickering's 33rd Annual Meeting. Advisory Council and Sports Advisory Committee members present were recognized as well. Media present included Rob Hernandez, Wisconsin State Journal; Mark Stewart, Milwaukee Journal/Sentinel; and Nick Dettmann, West Bend Daily News. Tim Eichorst of When We Were Young produced the live web streaming of the meeting.

Voting procedures for the amendments were explained by Wade Labecki, Deputy Director. He explained Robert's Rules of Order govern if not inconsistent with the WIAA Constitution. The authority of the Board of Control to designate a time and place for the meeting was reviewed. Written notice of the Annual Meeting shall be provided 30 days prior to the date of the Annual Meeting. The Constitution states the President of the Board of Control shall chair the meeting. A delegate may speak by going to the microphone, being recognized by the chair, give his/her full name and the name of the school represented. The Constitution of the WIAA states "a proposed amendment to the Constitution, Bylaws or Rules of Eligibility of this Association may originate (1) at the Annual Meeting of this Association, (2) in the Board of Control, (3) in the Advisory Council or (4) by petition in writing by the district administrator or high school principal of at least 10 percent of the member high schools." He also explained if a proposed amendment develops at the Annual Meeting by a majority vote of schools represented, action to add it to the Constitution, Bylaws and Rules of Eligibility cannot be taken until the next Annual Meeting or, if the membership decrees, at a special emergency Annual Meeting.

Proposal #1--Enrollment

CONSTITUTION--Article III, Membership, Section 3, A, 4)

This change clarifies enrollment adjustments where a charter school exists in multiple-high school districts. A motion was made by Steve Knecht, Kenosha Bradford and seconded by Greg Lampe, Oak Creek to support the amendment. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a vote of 271-18.

Proposal #2--Transfer Restrictions

RULES OF ELIGIBILITY--Article II--Residence and Transfer, Section 3

This change would remove the practice restriction from post-4<sup>th</sup> consecutive semester transfer students. A motion was made Jay Hammes, Racine Horlick and seconded by Jim Langkamp, Portage to support the amendment.

Nic Been, St. Croix Central asked about the negatives and the reason for the 5-6 vote by the Board of Control. Wade Labecki explained the Board supported getting students involved in the positive aspects of athletics. The negatives relate to concerns for "gray shirting" i.e. having students transfer to a school, learning its system with a potential advantage to transfer students.

Jay Hammes, Racine Horlick spoke in support of getting students involved with school coaches, getting students off the street and couch and becoming active. He hoped everyone would support this amendment.

Jim Smasal shared how the Board looks for the best in everything. Some felt if a student sits out a year, they probably aren't going to be involved and the Board wants to keep students engaged.

Dave Cohen, Oakfield asked if that practice would include interschool scrimmages and Wade Labecki answered yes.

Bill Vickroy, Wisconsin Rapids asked about the 10-1 and 5-6 votes and Jim Smasal answered the Board felt it was an amendment that should be advanced to the membership and the Board wanted to hear the sentiment of the membership but was right down the middle on its support/opposition of the amendment.

John Frizzell, Chippewa Falls asked about students sitting out this year and was advised that this would be in effect, if approved, once the minutes of the meeting were published.

The motion was approved by a vote of 211-88.

#### Proposal #3--Summer Contact

RULES OF ELIGIBILITY--Article VI--Nonschool Participation, Section 2, C, b.

This change provides increased summer coaching contact opportunities to soccer coaches. (Note: this would allow unlimited nonschool coach contact to July 31.) A motion was made by Jim McClowry, Sun Prairie and seconded by Monte Phillips, Janesville Craig to support the amendment.

Barb Chiszar, Hayward asked for clarification of unlimited nonschool contact. Wade Labecki explained every school has five unrestricted contact days prior to July 31 while nonschool contact involves no school involvement but school facilities may be utilized when secured through normal procedures, as available to the general public.

The motion was approved by a vote of 183-117.

#### Proposal #4--Summer Contact

RULES OF ELIGIBILITY--Article VI--Nonschool Participation, Section 2, C

This change clarifies when summer coaching contact opportunities must be completed for all fall sports. A motion was made by Vickie Dahl, Mineral Point and seconded by Mike Gosz, Hamilton to support the amendment.

Don Aanonsen, Marion, asked why the week in between. Wade Labecki said most of the discussion revolved around the fact that some members feel kids in the summer should have at least one week off and they don't want the summer contact to extend right up to the start of the fall season.

Scott Stier, West Bend West asked about summer baseball and how this may correct itself automatically. Wade Labecki indicated he had a discussion with summer baseball coaches about moving the State Summer Baseball Tournament up five days to the third week in July. The 2011 and 2012 start dates for football are set.

The motion was approved by a vote of 259-43.

#### Proposal #5--Physical Exams

RULES OF ELIGIBILITY--Article VII--Health and Behavior/Compliance, Section 2, A

This change allows Physician's Assistants to conduct a sport physical and sign the athletic permit card. A motion was made by Dan Karius, Slinger and seconded by Paul Rozak, Stratford to support the amendment. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a vote of 300-2.

#### Proposal #6--In-Season Code of Conduct Violations

RULES OF ELIGIBILITY--Article VII--Health and Behavior/Compliance, Section 2, C

This change would increase the minimum suspension of one contest for a code of conduct violation to 20% of the maximum games. Note: the overall change would affect all minimums including honor reductions. A motion was made by Michael Chapes, Oregon and seconded by John Cleaver, Jr., Oshkosh Lourdes to support the amendment.

Wally Schoenherr, Waterloo felt the amendment should read 20% of the number of contests scheduled instead of 20% of the maximum games. Schools in the north have difficulty with the baseball season and he felt 20% of the actual games scheduled would be equitable. Wade Labecki responded the reason for the maximum number of games is that it would be uniform for the entire membership.

James Sekel, Cadott indicated his school revised its code and adding the honesty clause helped. If you penalize too much, you may not have students come forward and admit their mistake.

Paul Rozak, Stratford indicated Stratford effectively uses a student assistance program and would hate to see that lost. He would rather have students admit to a mistake and then determine what needs to be done, as that is the best use of his time and that of the student. Mr. Labecki indicated that is how the Board felt but this amendment originated from a school and now the members are considering the amendment.

Mike Chapes, Oregon reminded the membership that students are breaking the rule and while looking at this, you have to remember that young people's minds are not fully developed until the age of 24 so 10% is not bad. He mentioned John Underwood and training codes.

Ray Kosey, Superior reiterated that the honesty clause can still be utilized and applauds this amendment. He felt 20% of the scheduled games could be consistent throughout the state.

Gene Strusz, Fox Valley Lutheran stated that one competition is no deterrent and favored 20%. He was familiar with John Underwood and reiterated how 20% is very appropriate and students would support it.

Brian Miller, Ashland agreed with Ray Kosey with 20% of the maximum games scheduled. In rural areas, the school boards are pressuring to eliminate travel.

A motion was made and seconded Gary Rabach, Sturgeon Bay/Don Aansonsen, Marion to amend the proposal to change it to 20% of the number of scheduled contests.

Stephanie Hauser, Stevens Point asked what happens if some of the scheduled games get rained out. Wade Labecki answered it's what on your schedule at the beginning of the season. Concern was expressed about adding games to the schedule and it fluctuating.

Paul Rozak, Stratford hoped to vote on the original amendment and felt the change would prevent it from being consistent throughout the state. There are different results if there are only 20 games as compared to 26 games. Originally there were good wishes to do what is best and he felt this is moving in the opposite direction. He hoped the change would be voted down so a uniform state policy could be put in place.

A hand vote was taken on 20% of the scheduled contests took place and it failed on a 131-161 vote. A complaint was expressed that some schools could have more than one hand vote. Thus, a decision was made to use the extra ballot provided with the meeting material. The results of counting the extra ballot on the change to the amendment revealed a 130-174 vote so the change to the amendment failed.

The original motion then failed by a vote of 146-155 so status quo will remain.

#### Proposal #7--In-Season Code of Conduct Violations

RULES OF ELIGIBILITY--Article VII--Health and Behavior/Compliance, Section 2, D

This change would clarify the rule for suspension during any portion of a tournament series game. A motion was made by Scott Tolzman, Dodgeville and seconded by Tim Zachow, Appleton East to support the amendment. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a vote of 294-7.

Editorial changes to the Rules of Eligibility were presented by Wade Labecki. Editorial changes are attempts to clarify existing rules without making changes in the rules. The change may be merely a word(s) or the addition or deletion of a sentence, while in other cases, the change may reflect recent Board of Control interpretation of membership wishes. A motion was made Brian Skortz, Fond du Lac and seconded by Paul Rozak, Stratford to approve the editorial changes. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a vote of 279-24.

Jay Hammes, Racine Horlick announced that the NIAAA will be producing 15,000 poster signs that will be given to schools. They will state that attending high school sports is a privilege and will be provided free of charge.

Dave Anderson presented the Director's Report and informed the membership that the staff will blog after this morning's discussions.

Good morning and thank you for making time to travel and assemble here – as educational leaders – for this, the 116<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the WIAA Membership.

Since 1896, school leaders have annually come together to shape and affirm interscholastic athletics in the state of Wisconsin and to reaffirm this organization known as the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association.

Before beginning the review of Old Business, a reminder that WIAA Staff will once again be live blogging immediately following today's discussions. Simply go to [www.wiaawi.org](http://www.wiaawi.org) and follow the directions to join in this live blog. I'd also like to acknowledge Todd Clark's efforts in creating our slide presentation.

We began last fall's area meetings with handouts and discussion of the importance of advocating for High School Athletics. Little did any of us realize then the even more challenging and uncertain times we would be confronting now. I believe in times like these it is more important than ever to champion our programs – both with our words and with our actions. At typically less than 3% of a district's budget, interscholastic athletics – and all the extra curricular programs – continue to serve students, schools and communities in ways totally unique to this educational medium.

In light of present circumstances I have challenged our staff to continue to search for more stories, more news, more data that we can share with you in order to assist you in your efforts to sustain programs and opportunities. By the same token, if you come across information, stories, research or ideas that can be helpful in these efforts, please get them to us so that we can share them with others.

Over the course of this past year we have implemented ideas that allow the executive staff to more efficiently and effectively continue to provide service to you and the general public. Six administrative staff serving over 500 school communities – God Bless our support team. As a result you have seen an expanded use of electronic communication, a redesigned and up-to-date web site and an expanded use of social media. Even though each year the costs of awards, tournament venues, insurance, event security, legal fees, and all those things necessary to sustain a State Association's work go up, we have fought to preserve the level of service and support you have grown accustomed to. And our efforts in these areas are ongoing.

In this past year we have modestly grown WIAA sponsorship and royalties. We have re-structured the Board and Council's summer business meeting and retreat. We continue to scrutinize internal practices – which to this point in time have documented \$60,000 in savings this year. While these efforts alone are not yet able to sustain an increase in current revenue sharing and reimbursement formulas, they have allowed us to continue to avoid any increases in membership dues and fees and any across the board ticket price increases. WIAA membership dues and sport fees have not increased since 1988 and sport fees have not changed since 1991. And at a price of roughly \$4.00 per game we believe our events remain family friendly and affordable in these challenging times. In recent years the WIAA has returned \$3.5 million to members in tournament reimbursements. Beginning next year we will be able to issue a report to each member school that reflects the total annual reimbursements they have received as a result of hosting and participating in WIAA tournaments.

Another ongoing effort in our office has been to identify and cultivate potential revenue streams for you. A growing number of you have begun to join the ILC, and are protecting your name, mascots and logos, and by setting up your own web store, have seen revenue that to this point had not been realized.

Through our partnership with When We Were Young and Play On Sports, we've created an opportunity for you to develop a protected internet site on the WIAA.TV website – which, when you choose to take advantage will afford you the opportunity to produce, control, and locally market all of your school's programs, retaining 100% of your advertising profits. This same program has rapidly caught on in Michigan and I believe it holds great, great potential for you.

These are programs in most respects, identical to what universities and other sports leagues have developed to maximize their revenue potential. If you're reluctant to do this just for your school, let's explore the possibility for your conference. Look what the Big 10 network has achieved. Each week, as a staff we continue to search for ways and ideas that might help you. Though some of these ideas reflect a departure from "how we've always done it," I truly believe they are one of the pathways to preserve and promote your programs and their future.

On-line ticketing was a topic before us last year. Following discussions we approved its use – at your discretion – for WIAA tournament events, provided the convenience fee did not exceed \$1.00. To this point we are aware of at least three on-line providers, servicing different members. Ticket Leap, Ticket Tracker and Safe Sport Zone. We have received positive feedback on each of these providers from members who've used their service. Given these reports we see no reason to recommend a change at this time. I can also report that all of these providers have expressed interest in becoming the exclusive on-line provider for WIAA events. I anticipate that will become a potential agreement we will explore and consider in the not-too-distant future as a revenue source.

Over the past two years we've been keeping you informed of ongoing litigation with the Wisconsin Newspaper Association and Gannett. This was a suit initiated by the WIAA – seeking only summary judgment – to determine whether or not the WIAA could continue to enter into exclusive broadcast agreements with production companies like When We Were Young, Fox Sports and Quincy News – each of whom have played key roles in broadcasting our tournaments, some of them for decades. Since we last met, in June the WIAA received an affirming opinion from the Western District Court. In July, the Newspaper Association appealed that decision to the 7<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago. The 7<sup>th</sup> District heard the appeal in mid-January. We are still awaiting that decision.

I can tell you that joining us in this case through the filing of amicus briefs were the U.W. Board of Regents representing the UW-Madison and UW System, the National Federation of State High School Associations and in a joint brief, the State Associations of New York, Ohio, Georgia, Florida, Michigan,

Minnesota, Indiana, Missouri, Arizona and California. It's become clear that this is a case that has captured the interest and concern of many public Universities and every State High School Association. When we receive the opinion from the Court of Appeals, you will be among the first to know.

Last fall I shared with you the message we received from some state legislators. Since that time, we have made concerted efforts to demonstrate to legislators that we are an open and accessible organization. Last spring we provided concussion educational materials to members of the Assembly and Senate; Education and Health and Safety committees; and the Governor. This past fall each Board of Control member sent personal letters to each Representative and State Senator within the Board member's WIAA district. These were letters introducing the Board member to each legislator and an invitation to contact them on any WIAA matter. Through staff efforts we've developed a database from which we have been e-mailing legislators news of schools in their districts that have qualified to go to the State Tournaments, and notified them of the State Scholar Athlete recipients. We have received several appreciative responses – and will continue to find ways to be proactive in communicating with elected officials to keep them informed.

We've spent a considerable amount of time these past two years talking about concussion and football. With your permission, I will defer addressing those topics to New Business.

I do want to share with you that over the course of this past year, staff has engaged in discussion with virtually every committee, the Advisory Council and Board on the topics of school team assembly outside of the season, nonschool participation (fun runs, etc.) and exceptional athlete provisions. Though ideas and concerns were discussed, and potential amendments drawn up, none of the ideas survived the rigorous debate. I can tell you that the issues will likely continue to be addressed – but for the coming year the status quo in each of those areas remains unchanged.

Two final topics I'd like to address under Old Business are RefRanking and 5-Division Basketball. I'll ask Deb Hauser to provide comment and update on those topics.

Deb Hauser explained the WIAA entered into a formalized relationship with RefRanking which will help staff for assigning tournament officials. It was piloted successfully in wrestling. In basketball, we were pleased with number of rankings received over prior years along with higher rankings. It is a much easier system to use. It will be used in baseball and soccer this spring and in the fall, it will be introduced into all sports where we assign officials. Some enhancements will be asked for in May. There was support revealed in the WADA caucus meeting minutes.

Five division basketball was a result of several years of discussions. There were more competitive games within various divisions because of the 2:1 enrollment ratio. All members were treated the same. Many rural schools feel this leveled the playing field. There was a new excitement at the Kohl Center for these tournaments. Many schools played who have never been at state or had not been there for a long time. The Division 1 boys final game was described by some as one of best ever championship game. The Basketball Coaches Advisory Committee will be advancing many recommendations to enhance the sport. We experienced decreased attendance but state tournament attendance is down nationwide. We cannot compare attendance numbers this year with the past because of the different structure and timing. It was an interesting and fun experience for all member schools.

Before starting the discussion of New Business items, let's begin with the open forum. This is an opportunity to hear from each other and consider those topics and issues that you have on your mind.

Dave Haugen, Abundant Life Christian thanked the staff for advancing 8 player football and indicated growth of it is possible. He would welcome the opportunity to talk to any interested schools.

Kathy Bates, Xavier asked that the practice restriction for international students denied eligibility be advanced to next year's annual Meeting. Wade Labecki explained if a foreign student is not in a CSIET program, they are considered a transfer student and afforded that opportunity.

Steve Knecht, Kenosha Bradford asked that Rules of Eligibility, Article VI--Nonschool Participation, Section 2, C, e. (clinicians) be addressed next year. It would be nice to use high school students in middle schools for instruction purposes. We need to consider that with the layoffs of coaches and he spoke of females working with females and generating interest in a sport. Mr. Knecht added this should be allowed during the school year and could be policed within the school system.

Joe Beran, La Crosse Central is impressed with trackwrestling. He would like the WIAA to explore a similar system with other sports. He spoke of there being more work to host a seeding meeting than an event. The time and travel cost for seeding meetings is high as well. Dave Anderson responded we would gladly and willingly do that as long as our members are interested.

Mike Gosz, Hamilton is skeptical of changing the football model. The format is efficient and football is a money producing sport that generates dollars for nonrevenue sports. He would like to address (in support of) the reduction of games. This proposal actually increases number of games with the consolation game.

Paul Rozak, Stratford would like to address State Basketball tournament dates. He wanted the Board to reexamine having girls start early and spoke of fall sports finishing the first weekend in November with the exception of football. He would like the girls state tournament the same as boys this year and the boys one week later. Dave Anderson relayed reluctance to push the boys tournament back later as it would conflict with spring sports.

John Frizzel, Chippewa Falls urged doing away with the Super Tuesdays for Division 1 basketball. No coaches in his area support it and it takes the excitement out of the weekend and lead up to state. He would also like to see the WIAA or WADA to secure sentiment by school size instead of by district. He added as budgets shrink, it might be more worthwhile to talk to schools by size. Dave Anderson indicated this winter season is being evaluated and there are no secrets being kept. It is a real challenge to get 506 members to see eye to eye on all issues. There is a democratic process in place.

Kathy Bates, Xavier asked if there was any consideration to ease the restriction of using a non-3 named golf course use due to the weather. Dave Anderson encouraged her to contact Tom Shafanski and provide him with background information for potential emergency relief.

John Cleaver, Oshkosh Lourdes liked the idea of electronic seeding, streamlining electronic signatures and physical forms being transmitted from hospitals to schools. He also mentioned eligibility documents being online. Dave Anderson agreed the more sharing we are able to do, the better and encouraged the membership to make the staff aware of good ideas so we may all benefit by the use of technology.

Scott Hayden, Altoona spoke of how an injured athlete and her family were devastated because she was not able to participate in an awards ceremony because of the change to Rules of Eligibility, Article VII, Health and Behavior/Compliance, Section 3, E. Dave Anderson responded the sentiments have been heard and are being discussed by our staff. We will bring that language back with what was revealed to us as a result of change in language.

John Hoch, Lancaster encouraged participation on the survey on the WFCAs website. Dave Anderson shared the makeup of the Football Ad Hoc Committee, its genuine concerns and how there is ample time to communicate, educate, and inform.

#### New Business

Before entering into discussion of more complex issues, there are several items that can be shared for your information and awareness. In response to an inquiry by a member school, the Board has approved forwarding a change in accounting for enrollment at Charter schools and the subsequent divisional placement of the program hosting school into WIAA tournaments. You have acted on that proposed here today.

When we first began providing an Associate membership option for charter schools, the total enrollment of each charter was added to each of the traditional high schools in the district. In a few instances, this method resulted in a school moving up a division in tournament competition as a result of inflated enrollment. Starting this year, schools will be asked to specifically identify and account for those students enrolled in district charters and report only the actual number of charter students within the given school's attendance boundaries. We've been told this can be done, both accurately and efficiently, and it will provide for a more accurate placement within the tournaments.

Also new, beginning this year will be the elimination of the asterisk person in our membership directory. We have heard repeated requests for more communication with building principals and district administrators. It is our intention to respond to those requests. As a result, WIAA staff will be communicating, on certain items, with all levels within member schools. Of course, the Athletic Director will continue to be the primary and "Go-To" contact for program maintenance information. But when issues arise that may result in a financial burden – like NF changes to uniforms and equipment, or matters like conference realignment, or emergency responses to something like H1N1 – information pertaining to those sorts of issues will be shared with ADs, Principals and District Administrators. Given the email directory we maintain, there's no good reason not to communicate more widely within the membership.

Also for your awareness, as a result of the uncertainty surrounding school budgets, the Board has approved extending the winter co-op deadline to July 1 this year. This is emergency relief the Board has granted one other time in the past decade in response to budgetary uncertainties that hold the potential for adversely impacting programs and opportunities.

At this time, while we await the determination from the Court of Appeals, we have also recently been served notification that the WIAA is being sued by a student who was struck in the head by a shot put during warm-ups at a regular season track meet, hosted by a member school last spring. Because this is active litigation my comments are limited to making you aware, and to serve as a reminder to see that coaches are providing adequate instruction and direction to students and to be certain your events are appropriately supervised.

Some topics that are beginning to be discussed and may be brought forward to next fall's Area Meetings include: Charging admission to spring tournaments in baseball, softball and track and the prospects of identifying sectional sites that would allow for controlled and ticketed admission.

Officials licensing fees is another topic we will be discussing. The last license fee increase was in 2004-05. With a \$20 basic fee plus \$10 per sport fee the WIAA's officiating licenses have been the lowest among mid-west states for several years. Minnesota's fee is \$42 for one sport plus \$10 per additional sport; Illinois' fee is \$45 plus \$15 per sport; Iowa's is \$40 for one sport plus \$10 per additional sport; Indiana's fee is \$45 for up to 3 sports plus \$8 per additional sport or \$60 plus \$8 if renewing; Michigan's fee is \$25 online or \$30 mailed, plus \$12 per sport.

Another topic you may be hearing more about is the Girl's State Basketball Tournament. We've heard some persisting sentiment from coaches and others that the basketball season is too long. There is some interest being expressed in exploring the possibility of returning the girl's season back to its traditional, earlier starting and ending dates before the boys. Though there is much that needs to be explored and considered on this topic before it can be actively and seriously considered, it certainly could be a topic we visit again in the months ahead.

There are two final topics we want to include in this Annual Meeting before closing with an advisory and listening session for the Board on austerity – or – cost containment measures.

I'm going to ask Wade Labecki to first provide an update on Concussion Education and some possible legislation. Then I'll ask him to provide an update on the progress of the Football Ad Hoc Advisory Committee.

As some background to Wade's football remarks, this has not been the first time the Association has sought to change student exposure in the sport of football. In 1963-64, the Bylaws required a minimum of 5 days between games. In 1985, football got rid of the Tuesday playoff game – only to have it restored when the playoffs expanded from 48 to 96.

Mr. Labecki began by stating the Sports Medical Advisory Committee updated the WIAA's concussion rules way before the NFL came out with their version. The new procedures are on the website. We should all urge coaches and parents to take the course. A national, federal law is in the works and the NFL wants all to follow Washington's law. Dave Anderson, Wade Labecki and members of the WIAA's Sports Medical Advisory Committee met with Representative Jason Fields on concussions on April 7. His proposed law would require youth coaches to be educated and athletes to be removed from play with any signs of a concussion. They would not be allowed to return without a written note from an approved health care provider. Return to play and on how to return to the classroom guidelines are on our website. The law is going to be drafted this week. The membership will be informed.

The Football Ad Hoc committee makeup was shared and it was explained how input was sought from all levels. The district plan did not advance last year. Then the nine game season was implemented. The football coaches did not want to start early but wanted to go to the eight plus one, which is an eight game season with option to play an additional game. He outlined the 2011 season which has nine regular season games and the 2012 season which will have eight regular season games. The Football Ad Hoc Committee studied eight person football and reviewed various states and options. There will be a jamboree in 2012 with schools from the north vs. south. The Football Playoffs will end before Thanksgiving. The plan summary and specifics may be found on the website. Is change necessary and if so, what change should be made? We need information to make decisions thus the need for surveys, so please talk to your school boards, superintendents and football coaches. The ad hoc committee will meet again on May 19.

Our last topic of the day is both timely and important. It has to do with providing guidance to the Board of Control at a time of fiscal uncertainty. Though this is advisory in nature, the Board recognizes that concerns and uncertainty exist around school programs, and that members may be affected differently in these times. Before inviting Mr. Smasal back to the podium to lead this portion of today's meeting, a little history:

In the late 1970's and early 80's, Board of Control meetings were filled with discussions of cost containment as a result of the energy crisis and double-digit inflation. At that time the Board determined austerity measures were in order and directed the executive staff to develop a plan. In that plan scrimmages were eliminated, travel was reduced by 10%, reducing and condensing the tournaments was proposed, freshmen and JV schedules were to be reduced. All varsity game maximums were reduced by 2 games except football. If scrimmages were held they were to be counted against game and meet maximums. Area meetings were suspended along with mandatory rule meetings. Out of state travel was restricted and scouting at school's expense was prohibited. In his book of the first 100 years of the WIAA, Mr. Otte wrote, "Not everybody was as concerned about the energy crisis as the Board and office." The editorial from the August Bulletin that year goes on: "The expression of discontent even rivals the intensity of the unhappiness expressed in conference realignment." Ultimately, schools filed their travel reduction plans. But the order for reducing games was withdrawn, and school's basically addressed their cost-control measures individually and locally.

We look to our past experiences to guide and direct our future decisions. While they are also confronting their own local concerns, the Board would like to hear from you on this matter. Should there be membership-wide, uniform constraints adopted? Should they be on number of games – on travel – on scrimmages – or other? What are you doing or considering at your school? What do you want the Board to be aware of regarding your programs and their future? Please use this opportunity to advise the Board.

Jim Smasal spoke as a Football Ad Hoc Committee member, we have to understand what is being proposed as this provides structure while being cost efficient and maintaining the local control. He encouraged all to take the football survey and see what's offered. This is an opportunity to be heard. You may ask why make a change if something is not broke, he then added the parameters have changed and we should determine what should be done. What we are putting forward is trying to be membership friendly.

Mr. Smasal asked what do you want and how to proceed in this financial uncertainty? Should we limit games, are there busing issues or is it under local control. We are trying to be sympathetic to the plight of schools. Please share your concerns. There was no discussion.

Mr. Anderson concluded, if I may, I'd like to offer these additional thoughts in closing: I learned a long time ago, from a very astute and sometimes philosophical school business manager who said; "Our priorities always get funded." Heeding that prophecy, I have always strived to inseparably entwine athletics with the greater fiber of the school, the community and the greater educational enterprise. I encourage you to keep conducting your programs – not as an end unto themselves. You don't need formal directive or mandate to recognize and actively promote them as being integral and complimentary to overall school and district interests in promoting achievement or for the at-risk or gifted and talented, as well as for the greater wealth and health of your community. Each of us, more than ever, must be vocal advocates and ambassadors for those "extra" programs which have made Wisconsin's and the nation's high schools stand out – and apart – from the rest of the world.

In just the past few weeks I was collaborating on a project with a UW Psychiatry professor, who also serves the State Medical Society. In one e-mail the Dr. wrote, "Sport is so symbolic of real life in so many ways. Teach kids how to win and lose gracefully in sport – and you've given them a huge chunk of life skills." When I jokingly referred to our work as "kids games" she wrote back, "If all kids were into 'kids games' and continued those activities throughout life, then we psychiatrists would be out of business (or at least would have WAY less business). Sport is all-around one of the healthiest (physically and mentally) things people can do." And she closed with, "But I'm preaching to the choir."

I recognize that I, too, am preaching to the choir. But in times like these, when all that we do is being put under the microscope – competing to be seen as "a priority" – there must be more than one voice preaching. Reach out to your coaches, your faculty and everyone in your community to help you preach the value of interscholastic athletics. And remember three things--Quality and excellence always attract, priorities always get funded, and we are here to help.

Thank you for participating in this important business meeting. Enjoy the spring season. We'll hope to see you at the tournaments or next fall.

A motion was made by Gordie Sisson, Marshfield and seconded by Scott Winch, Stratford to adjourn the meeting at 11:40 a.m. Motion carried unanimously.