

2012 Annual Meeting Minutes

April 25, 2012

The 117th Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association was held on Wednesday, April 25, 2012 commencing at 9:00 a.m. at the Holiday Inn in Stevens Point.

Board of Control President Mark Gobler, Principal at Luck, presided. Mr. Gobler welcomed everyone to the Annual Meeting. There were 405 delegates representing 342 schools in attendance.

Mr. Gobler introduced the head table which included Executive Director Dave Anderson, Deputy Director Wade Labecki, President-Elect Terry Reynolds of Pittsville, Treasurer Dean Sanders of Lake Mills, Parliamentarian Dr. Chris Sadler of the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and Administration Coordinator Julie Kage.

Minutes of 2011 meeting stand as previously published. The meeting minutes were published in the WIAA Yearbook, on the Web site and approved by the Board of Control in May, 2011.

Treasurer Dean Sanders directed the meeting participants to the information found in the 2011-12 Annual Meeting brochure. In it, he pointed out Tournament Revenue, Expense and Operating Revenue and Expense charts. He encouraged the participants to use this information to educate about the WIAA financial makeup. Revenue is up due to an increase in membership dues attributed to the rising number of charter school members. Operating expenses were down due to a decrease in legal expenses that had increased in the past few years due to the WNA/Gannett suit. Attendance at state tournaments is down and containing costs is Mr. Anderson's #1 financial objective. A motion was made by Mike Devine, Stevens Point and seconded by Paul Rozak, Stratford 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, Terry Reynolds, was reelected to a three-year term for District 2 expiring after the June 2015 meeting. Brian Busler was reelected to a three-year term for District 5 expiring after the June 2015 meeting. Pam Foegen, La Crosse was elected for a three-year term for the Gender At-Large seat expiring after the June 2015 meeting. There will be a Special Election to fill the seat vacated by Jim Dyer for the Non-Public At Large seat. In the Advisory Council elections, Eric Burling, Burlington was reelected and Kurt Gundlach, Marinette was elected to a three-year term for the Large Schools expiring after the June 2015 meeting. Scott Bleck, Weyauwega-Fremont was reelected to a three-year term for the Medium Schools expiring after the June 2015 meeting. Brad Ayer, Clear Lake was reelected and Patrick Olson, Prairie Farm was elected to a three-year term for the Small Schools expiring after the June 2015 meeting. Lisa Albrecht, Westosha Central was elected for a three-year term for the Gender At-Large seat expiring after the June 2015 meeting. Ted Knutson, Aquinas was reelected for a three-year term for the Non-Public At Large seat expiring after the June 2015 meeting.

A Special Election will take place for the Non-Public At Large seat on the Board of Control. This will be for a one-year term beginning with the August 10, 2012 Board of Control Meeting. The timeline for this Special Election is as follows:

May 8, 2012 – Deadline for filing declarations of intent to run

May 9, 2012 – If more than twice as many candidates file, a primary election will be held and the primary ballot mailed to schools on this date. If a primary is not needed, the general election ballot will be sent on this date

May 21, 2012 – Deadline for returning primary election ballot or general election ballot, if primary not needed.

May 23, 2012 – If primary is needed, general elections will be sent.

June 4, 2012 – If primary is needed, deadline for returning general election ballots.

August 10, 2012 – Successful candidate will be seated for the Board of Control Meeting.

Other Board members were introduced. They included Corey Baumgartner, Kaukauna; Mike Beighley, Whitehall; Brian Busler, Oregon; Jack Klebesadel, Germantown; Mary Pfeiffer, Neenah and Tim Sivertson, Elk Mound. Board of Control member Keith Posley, Milwaukee was excused. Greg Smith, West De Pere, Executive Director of WADA and Board of Control liaison Bryan Yager, President-Elect of the Wisconsin Athletic Directors Association were 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. 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 When We Were Young produced the live streaming of the meeting.

Deputy Director Wade Labecki referred the attendees to the organizational grid and explained the procedure by which rules are established, including the NFHS role in sports rules, how Season Regulations are brought through the committee process beginning with the coaches advisory committees, Sports Advisory Committee, Advisory Council and Board of Control. Amendments to the Constitution, Bylaws and Rules of Eligibility are scrutinized by the Sports Advisory, Advisory Council and Board of Control and, if approved, advanced for consideration at the Annual Meeting. Membership voting procedures for the amendments were explained and motions are made to the affirmative. Dr. Labecki 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—Withdrawing from a Conference

CONSTITUTION—Article VI, Powers and Duties of the Board of Control, Section 10, D. This change would remove a member school from the WIAA tournament in a sport when the school voluntarily withdraws from a conference in that sport. A motion was made by Jim McClowry, Sun Prairie and seconded by Stephanie Hauser, Stevens Point to support the amendment. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a 295-35 vote.

Proposal #2—Conference Realignment

CONSTITUTION—Article VI, Powers and Duties of the Board of Control, Section 10, A and Conference Alignment. This change would clarify realignment actions. A motion was made by Linzi Gronning, Holmen and seconded by Nic Been, Saint Croix Central to support the amendment. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a 311-19 vote.

Proposal #3—School Withdrawal During the Tournament

BYLAWS—Article I, Sports Program, Section 5, C and Article II, School Competition and Practice Requirements, Section 6, A, 2) and corresponding changes in Rules of Eligibility, Article I-General, Section 5-Penalties for Violation of any and all Eligibility Requirements, A, 3). This change would

provide a forfeit to the opponent of any school withdrawing from a tournament for any reason other than a violation. A motion was made by Brian Smith, Waunakee and seconded by Mike Chapes, Oregon.

Shawn Groshek, Adams-Friendship asked if a wrestler cannot make it to state because of H1N1, will that individual's opponent get a forfeit? Wade Labecki answered the most recently defeated will advance and in wrestling they are automatically replaced up into sectionals. Forfeits apply in other sports unless otherwise addressed by sports specific committees.

The motion was approved by a 314-18 vote.

Proposal #4—Penalties for Coaches Meeting and Exam

BYLAWS—Article VIII, Coaches Qualifications, Section 4, A and B. This change would impose a penalty on a coach who misses the sport meeting or does not complete a sport exam. Back in 1982, the Board of Control removed penalties and placed this in local control. This proposal was advanced because with the ability to track video reviews and exam results, WIAA staff see the failure of coaches to fulfill this requirement. It was noted 13 out of 20 coaches who had teams advancing to state for Girls Basketball did not meet this requirement. Prohibiting the head coach from coaching in that season's WIAA tournament serves as an incentive to meet this requirement. A motion was made by Greg Lampe, Oak Creek and seconded by Dan Hein, Wausau West to support the amendment.

Stephanie Hauser, Stevens Point felt since there were considerable Web site issues this year, suggested we hold off for a year to see how new Web site goes. She asked if reminders are sent and was advised they have been and will continue to be sent.

Others echoed the sentiment that one year was too early, we need to get Web site corrected and coaches need material in timely manner. Wade Labecki reassured all that the Web site will be updated and exams will be out there. He pointed out the baseball exam was available on January 13, so coaches had January, February and March to complete the exam and reminders will be sent at the beginning of the season. The suggested deadline will be the Friday prior to first tournament game.

Mike Lipp, Madison West felt the remedy seems odd when there is a removal of a coach and then to replace the coach with a district person who still has to take the exam. He felt the need to have the window open more and that this change was too soon.

Ken Clinton, Brookwood felt this was ultimately punishing the kids. Dave Anderson encouraged the membership to reflect on the fact that the Constitution requires coaches view sports meetings and take exams, that is not to be negotiated and it outlines sanctions to be applied. This is encouraging greater compliance and allows kids to play. The WIAA executive staff acknowledges all opinions and perspectives but the membership must understand the broader picture that coaches shall take the test. The Constitution outlines sanctions for noncompliance.

Len Collyard, Kettle Moraine Lutheran, felt there needed to be an improved Web site and an improved test itself. The test is unrealistic, picky and too long. Coaches are busy people so the tests should be modified.

Paul Rozak, Stratford, agreed we need to find out for sure the Web site is going to work. He shared his experience with the track test and the need to redo it numerous times. He felt it would be wonderful to bring this back next year. If the Web site is doing what it should be doing, coaches could be flagged for those who did complete the test and reminded via email. Wade Labecki reassured all that the new Web site will address all of those issues and this amendment is meant to encourage coaches to be in compliance.

Gene Strusz, Fox Valley Lutheran, stated the deadline should be before competition and not during tournament time. Coaches should be suspended early in the season and make them comply so they can coach in the tournament.

Dave Cohen, Oakfield, shared how his Board of Education encouraged him to vote in opposition so this could be managed and penalized at the local level. He raised a question about paragraph B and how he was not sure which coach was being penalized if head coach does not take exam. Wade Labecki explained this only applies to head coach. Mr. Cohen asked if head coach did not take the exam, if nonvarsity coaches have to sit out. Wade Labecki reiterated nonvarsity and assistant coaches are under local control.

Todd Schroeder, Winneconne, suggested suspending the coach at the start of season and keeping it in effect until he/she takes the test. The current test is designed for all coaches to take individually. In the past, he has encouraged coaches to take test as a group so there are an understanding of rules at all levels. With the current test, it makes it impossible to collaborate.

Brian Smith, Waunakee, asked if there is any consideration for any type of progressive discipline instead of the entire tournament series. Mr. Smith agrees with local control, but we don't want to tell another school how to handle employees as people will wonder why. He suggested a smaller penalty like the reduction of something like the coaching box, then local control kicks in and this would force administrations to answer questions. Are we seeing movement to sanctioning individuals and will this continue down the road? Dr. Labecki explained the reason the WIAA doesn't apply it to the regular season as the Association has domain over WIAA tournaments, not during the regular season. Schools can suspend during the regular season at local level. He went on to explain how 40 of the 51 state associations have some sort of penalty for not taking exam, 21 of those states have fines of some sort and 9 sit out game with 2 states for regular season games and 7 states for tournament series games. WIAA executive staff is not looking at sanctions for anything else at this time.

Tim Richie, Madison Memorial, agreed with the exam and would like to see the penalties earlier on. He would support some type of sanction but is concerned with no penalties for a coach not taking an exam and not advancing to state.

Dan Karius, Slinger, agree with exams, the ability to take them as a group, shorter exam as 100 questions is too long and getting the test simplified. He mentioned switching to 50 questions.

Karl Stoker, Westby, felt the Web site is guilty on this and he needs to see the Web site working. He reviewed what people said. All of this can be accomplished under local control and felt if this change is made, it diminishes the likelihood that local control will be asserted. We are quickly reaching the point of stark contrast. He would prefer to handle this locally rather than by the WIAA.

Kathy Bates, Xavier, recommended waiting a year, diminishing the number of questions and has never heard any talk about a certain passing grade or a certain percentage.

Rick Johns, University School Milwaukee, agreed with most said today but felt since there was not a deadline, it might be better to wait a year, evaluate this and determine a timeline.

Don Moreland, Mellen, confirmed once a coach takes a test, he/she could coach again.

A motion was made by Gary Rabach, Sturgeon Bay and seconded by Brian Matz, Menasha to return this to the committee level for consideration next year. Motion carried by a voice vote with no dissents noted.

Proposal #5—Team Assembly During School Year – Out of Season

RULES OF ELIGIBILITY—Article VI, Nonschool Participation, Section 2, A, B, C. This change removes the limitation on voluntary student assembly during the school year. A motion was made by Bryan Yager, Reedsburg and seconded by Steve Knecht, Kenosha to support the amendment.

John Frizzell, Chippewa Falls had a concern with the wording in A and asked if there is a voluntarily assembly, they cannot be coached by any one. Wade Labecki explained someone could coach as long as they are not affiliated with the school. Then Mr. Frizzell recommended striking the words “or coach”.

The motion was approved by a 258-72 vote.

Proposal #6—Injured Athlete Participation in Awards Ceremony

RULES OF ELIGIBILITY—Article VII, Health and Behavior/Compliance, Section 3, E. This change allows an injured athlete to participate in an awards ceremony if he/she is included on the roster. A motion was made by Eric Plitzuweit, Burlington and seconded by Sandy Freres, The Prairie School to support the amendment.

Mike Lipp, Madison West, shared how his school replaces injured athletes right away and asked if this is saying they cannot be replaced? Mr. Labecki explained how this applies to the athletes suited and allows for injured players if they are on the roster. Schools may buy additional medals.

Todd Sobrilsky, Brookfield Central, expressed how there are injured reserved lists in the NFL/NBA, etc., this penalizes the injured, and how substitutions are made and felt this is ridiculous.

The motion was approved by a 313-19 vote.

Editorial changes to WIAA Tournament Policies were presented. 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. The change to the WIAA Tournament Policies placing campaign items on the list of prohibited activities/materials focuses the attention on the event and the participants in it.

A motion was made by Greg Smith, West De Pere and seconded by Kathy Bates, Xavier to approve the editorial change. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a vote of 323-7.

The individuals who assisted with collecting the amendment ballots were thanked. They included Kris Allison, Westosha Central; Greg Harvey, Wausau East; Tim Treder, Shoreland Lutheran; Molly Hengst, Oostburg; Blane Senn, Birchwood and Nanette Murray, Plum City.

Director’s Report

Dave Anderson presented the Director’s Report and informed the membership that the staff will blog after this morning’s discussions. He commented on the contents of the Annual Meeting brochure and how it is another method to increase communication, will be placed on the Web site and another instrument to make the WIAA more transparent. Mr. Anderson shared how the WIAA has 117 years of existence and has a time honored tradition providing testimony to school leadership, to caring and always to hope.

Open Forum

Each year at this meeting we set aside time for the member's Open Forum. This is the time and opportunity for the Board, Executive Staff and our collective membership to hear what's on your mind. This important, open conversation, in many ways actually begins the new year for the WIAA by identifying some of the topics and issues that will be discussed, worked on, and brought forward through the democratic committee process in the months ahead.

Please give us your name and the name of your school when you step to the microphone.

Stephanie Hauser, Stevens Point, asked if the WIAA will issue a concussion information sheet and Mr. Anderson answered yes and Wade Labecki will address this later.

Bryan Yager, Reedsburg, asked when the amendments will take affect? They will be put in the spring Bulletin and when it is published, it will be effective. Todd Clark indicated it would come out in May.

Steve Masseth, Valley Christian, inquired about international students in middle school and seeking permission not to lose a year of eligibility. Dave Anderson shared how there have been internal conversations about matriculation of an international student that doesn't necessarily at this time confirm with our current rules for eligibility with respect to resident and transfer. Executive staff is aware of this concern.

Jim McClowry, Sun Prairie, stated how Sun Prairie had its first wheelchair athlete this year. The boy's wheelchair was donated to him so this would not be in compliance with WIAA rules. Can there be some consideration for relief in this situation for wheelchair bound athletes? Dave Anderson answered this runs into conflict with amateur status provisions but the wheelchair could be gifted to the school. Amateur status rules will be touched on later in the Director's Report. We will have conversation about it.

Jeff Byczek, De Pere, commented on when basketball went from 4 to 5 divisions, 4 schools advanced in Division 1, there used to be a random rotation of who played in quarterfinal games. He would ask that committee consideration be given to going back randomizing that. Dave Anderson stated that would be placed on the Sports Advisory Committee agenda.

Rick Johns, University school of Milwaukee, asked if amendment number 4 could look at a penalty for a school who has a coach which has not been certified advancing to state. Would there be suspension or coach not allowed to coach in that final game? Dave Anderson stated with the motion being referred back to committee, the present rules remain in place. Reminders are given and will continue until we find satisfactory resolution to concerns we all have. Mr. Johns asked that the conversation be broaden to have CNLT be part of it.

Mel Dow, Stoughton asked if schools could get results of the rankings along with the percentage completed. He felt this might help promote ranking of officials across the association. The RefRanking database affords us some capability to do that and we can look at this and talk about it was voiced by Mr. Anderson and he also shared a staff discussion on Monday about the disappointing performance of spring coaches in ranking officials. The most common complaint we get from officials is that they work contest and no one is ranking them.

Jay Hammes, Racine Horlick, welcomed all to take a Safe Sports Zone poster to share at their school.

Dave Anderson reminded all that members of the executive staff will be out in the fall at the Area Meetings. Our executive staff will stay following this meeting as long as anyone wants to visit.

Old Business

This portion of my report is to provide an update on some of the key topics and issues we've previously spoken with you about. It's been an incredibly busy year in our office . . . We began this year talking about a variety of topics at Area Meetings—under the heading of Revenue and Cost Containment. I can report that none of the cost containment ideas—like season length, maximum number of games, travel, scheduling or scrimmages seemed to gain traction on a membership-wide basis.

From that then, we presume it is being addressed individually at the local level. Each of us are saving and reallocating dollars in order to continue meeting the demands and expectations of those we serve.

Our discussion of increasing revenue resulted in a membership fee survey, which has been completed and provided to you.

We also surveyed and discussed quite extensively the idea of charging admission for spring tournaments in baseball, softball and track & field. Despite some considerable membership support (273 voted yes), the Board elected to not approve moving in that direction at this time. I can tell you that in rejecting the idea, the Board was extremely sensitive to the current economic state of school families. I can also tell you that the survey indicated approximately half of the membership (230) are already charging admission at spring events. There is no prohibition on it - I encourage you to consider it. The revenue is yours to keep.

Once again this fall—as we have repeatedly—these past few years, we reminded you about the **ILC**—and protecting your name and brand. When we last spoke only a handful of you had reached agreement with the **ILC**. In my most recent conversation with Ron Brent, about two months ago, he indicated that there were now about 50 schools signed on. We've talked enough about the ILC. We like the fact that you receive 60% return from those who would use your brand for their own gain.

I can also tell you that some of you may begin hearing from another licensing organization called LRG. LRG is a group that's been around in other states for about the same length of time as the ILC. Based in Michigan, the LRG is an official partner with the NFHS.

The WIAA and all of our neighboring states at first chose to not engage with the LRG—out of principle. The original business model for LRG provided that schools would only receive about 40% of the revenue generated through their licensing agreement, with both the NFHS and the state association each receiving about 10% of the generated revenue. We simply did not feel it appropriate for the WIAA to take revenue from you through this program. Thus, our endorsement of the ILC—where revenues are shared 60-40 between the school and the licensing partner.

Just the same, as we continue to look for ideas that may help a member generate additional revenue, recent changes to the LRG model now allow the State Association to “opt-out” of receiving a percentage of revenue. Directing that revenue instead back to the school. The net result is more near a 50/50 split between the school and LRG and the NFHS. As a result of this change in their operations model, the WIAA will no longer block LRG from doing business within our membership.

This is not an endorsement of LRG—though the reports of their first few years of business would suggest they are of quality and integrity. I look upon this as providing our members with choices and opportunities to consider. All in the vein of trying to help schools find a few more dollars to help you carry on your important work.

Regardless of whether you might consider the ILC or LRG or some other licensing group—we will, once again encourage you, as strongly as we possibly can—to begin looking into protecting your name and brand. Though our conversations of this topic have primarily focused on revenue for schools—keep in mind protecting your brand is not only about revenue.

This is also about your school's image, your identity and messaging.

Right now there are about 7-8 on-line retailers (and probably more) who pay nothing to your schools and think nothing of creating a box full of sweatshirts for East Mossy Rock High School Drinking Team—or Nude Beach Volleyball Team. I strongly believe you need to seriously consider having this conversation within your administrative team. Your brand, your image and your message speak to the quality of your people, your school and community. Protect it.

For the past 3 ½ years, we've been updating you on the on-going litigation between the WIAA and the **Wisconsin Newspapers Association and Gannett**. We were most pleased when late this past November the window for appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court of the WIAA's favorable determination by the 7th Circuit Court finally closed. This was a case that held not only the interest, resources and attention of the WIAA—but also the concerns of every State High School Association in the country. As recently as just last Thursday, along with WIAA legal counsel, I presented what we hope will be the closing summary of this case to the Executive Directors and legal counsel from approximately 40 other states, at the NFHS Legal Meeting in Indianapolis. We are, understandably, happy with the result. But we are also glad to move on.

Throughout the year, I've spoken to many of you about a **workman's comp claim paid to an injured sport official** by a member school that was in excess of \$40,000. Given that we have long believed officials are independent contractors, this is an enormous concern to us and as I reached out to others, found it was of equal concern to a substantial coalition of other concerned sports providers, including: WAHA, State Association of Park and Recreation Directors, Wisconsin Youth Soccer, Wisconsin AAU, and NASO. We were very encouraged when Rep. Jason Fields looked at the concern and drafted legislation. The bill was even scheduled for public hearing—when we learned that a bill to create a workman's comp exemption is typically vetted by a non-governmental, labor and compensation committee. Learning that this bill was rapidly moving forward and not having been vetted by the committee, we began hearing concerns from the insurance industry. As those concerns escalated, the Bill was pulled from the hearing agenda.

Though disappointed, the coalition of sport providers remains intact and committed to resurrecting this issue and going through the prescribed protocols in order to have our concerns heard in the next legislative cycle. I will continue to keep you informed and will call upon you for your help when it's needed.

The state's new **concealed carry law** is a topic that has many of us still weighing through the information, opinions and local policy and ordinance. I have written the State Attorney General and had exchanges with several member schools. Mr. Labecki and I attended a seminar on the topic and we've sat down with WIAA legal counsel to discuss whether we need a membership-wide policy for WIAA tournaments. To this point in time, I have not yet received a definitive "yes" or "no" from counsel. As a result, I can only share with you that our interest, learning, and conversations on this topic continue. For the present then, I can only advise you to adhere to your school's provisions, follow your local ordinances or a venue's own policy when hosting a WIAA tournament.

Before moving to New Business, there's one more item of Old Business to be shared. For almost three years the membership has been engaged in a conversation about **football**. A conversation that began

with the idea of football districts and a concern for our structural design for ending regular season play and launching our playoff series. Many other ideas came and went over the course of this conversation. The Board established an ad hoc committee to focus on the topic.

I want to invite WIAA Deputy Director, Wade Labecki, to reaffirm the outcomes of that committee's work as it relates to the season ahead.

We will talk more in-depth about 8-man football and football seeding in New Business. Mr. Labecki shared how the Football ad hoc committee met three times. Their meeting minutes may be found on the football sports page along with their proposals. Eight-player football resulted. We are going to stay with 9 games, but in 2012 there will be 8 games. In 2013 and beyond, we are back to early start and 9 games. The Ad Hoc Football plan advanced but was defeated at the Sports Advisory Committee, Advisory Council and Board of Control levels.

New Business

As busy as this past year has been, early indications suggest 2012-13 will be no less challenging or rewarding. Included in the list of topics we look forward to engaging you on are:

- Your amateur status rule and its consequences.
- The non-school competition rule and consequences. Like the out-of-season assembly rule you addressed here, earlier today, these are rules that have been on the members' "books" for a long, long time and we feel are due for in-depth membership review and discussion.

A topic which thrust itself into our New Business discussion is the **State Basketball Tournament** venues. This is a topic that was not even on our radar as we began the current school year. But it's been a conversation we've needed to have—given initial indications that the Kohl Center would not be available on the traditional days and dates to host our State Individual Wrestling Tournament and Boys and Girls Basketball.

I am delighted to tell you that as a result of on-going efforts and discussions with the UW Athletic Department, the UW Chancellor's Office and many representatives from the City of Madison—and Dane County—including the Mayor and County Executive, most of the conflicts originally identified to us have been removed. For this, we are grateful to all those who committed to creating real and workable solutions.

There were many other positive outcomes from this now near-8 month long effort. One of them has been the opportunity to get to know our friends in the Green Bay community and the staff of PMI—that manage the Resch Center, much, much better. Friends who stood and stand—at the ready to help us run our winter state tournaments—on our traditional days and weeks, when it appeared the Kohl Center would not be available. The WIAA is grateful to our friends in both Madison and Green Bay—as we are for friends in all the communities that help us host our state championships.

As I said, through much dialogue and tremendous effort most of the obstacles at the Kohl Center have been removed. But for the near term, 2013 and 2014—the potential for conflicts with our traditional boys basketball weekend remain.

In 2013, the WCHA Hockey Tournament could compromise the boys tournament. The UW has also bid to host the women's frozen 4 hockey championships and indications are that they will host it in 2014. It has been these remaining conflicts which have nece

It has been these remaining conflicts which have necessitated taking alternative actions in order to preserve the Kohl Center for the boys tournament—the best venue we can identify for crowds in excess of 10,000—and still provide a premiere venue for our girls state finals.

I hope you might believe that Deb and I, along with the Board of Control have given due diligence to this challenge—and are looking forward to continuing these tournaments with both the best interests of basketball and the greater WIAA membership as our top priorities.

I'd like to ask Deb to provide some additional thoughts and details on the recommendation approved by the Board, yesterday that will see our Girls State basketball Tournament relocate to the Resch Center in Green Bay in 2013 and 2014 and preserve the Boys State Finals at the Kohl Center.

Deb Hauser explained how the date changes are necessary to have the boys go before the girls next year. The boys season will start November 5 and the girls November 12 with State for the boys on March 7-8-9 and girls on March 14-15-16. In 2013-14, the boys start November 11 with State being on March 13-15 while the girls start November 18 and conclude with State on March 20-22. Schools will need to slide everything earlier for 12-13 and 13-14 and have seven months to make adjustments. Ms Hauser recommended scrutinizing the end of the schedule and make adjustments as needed. There may be some overlap with the end of fall sports.

Green Bay is an awesome opportunity for the girls tournament as the size of facility works well with crowds and the enthusiasm is incredible from PMI. There are no commitments beyond 2014. We don't envision changing the format of the girls tournament. Dave Anderson and Deb Hauser have spent 8 months in conversation and it would be impossible to share everything that went into this decision. Think about this as you discuss this with coaches, athletes, and community members. We did not go looking to change venues but were forced to make decisions on the availability or non-availability of a venue. Given the size, the boys tournament does not fit into the Resch Center without 3,000-4,000 fans not being able to access it and we would have to turn people away on Friday and Saturday. To preserve the use of the Kohl Center for the boys tournament, we needed to shift dates and the best available venue for the girls was the Resch Center. The Resch Center is the most modern, technology-friendly venue for our girls to play basketball. Handicapped accessibility was not a major issue years ago. We were unable to find space at the Field House to accommodate fans in wheelchairs. We are used to electronic displays at the Kohl Center and something similar can be accomplished at the Resch Center. When we look at what is the best available facility, the Resch Center comes to the top of the list. Equity was considered and discussed at length; this is not about a city but how to grow the girls tournament. Specific questions should be directed to Deb. Let's attempt to bring back numbers for the girls' tournament and boost basketball in state. We appreciate your support.

Summer Baseball, 8 player football and a change in seeding the Football Playoffs are all current topics that Mr. Labecki has been keeping busy with. To report on the status of those topics is Mr. Labecki.

Mr. Labecki explained how 8-player football is now a recognized football opportunity for schools. To date, 16 teams have signed up and the deadline is May 1. The Jamboree will place north against south. The coaches in 11-player football will seed with the same division splits and the divisions will be divided into eight teams. Once the four sections are determined, that will be posted and then 1-8 seeds established based on criteria. The NFHS has taken off restrictions on field advertising, but schools must still comply with membership advertising regulations.

The Dairyland Conference has dropped summer baseball so we are down to 56 teams. The Board approved the movement of the tournament to Kapko Park in Mequon with a reduced field of four sectionals the state tournament will be held on July 20.

Responding to a persisting request and compelling argument by the boys volleyball coaches, the Board of Control took a bold leap—in approving a plan that will now provide for **seeding at the Boys State Volleyball Tournament**. This marks a significant shift in Association philosophy. And marks the beginning of conversations that will undoubtedly take place in other WIAA sports in the months and years ahead.

I've asked Marcy Thurwachter to provide us a summary of this change in boys volleyball State Tournament procedures.

Marcy Thurwachter explained how twice in recent years, Boys Volleyball coaches have asked to seed the boys volleyball tournament. There are 50 boys volleyball teams and she shared their locations and how they play each other frequently. Under the leadership of Ben White of Middleton, a grid was developed which showed the number of times each of the teams played each other. Coaches will rank top four teams during their pre-state conference call and the other four teams will be randomly drawn. We are looking forward to this and she invited all to the Boys State Volleyball Tournament and felt seeding will enhance it.

Without question, one of the most important lessons available to students through the medium of sport is learning the broad meaning and value of sportsmanship. WIAA Communications Director, Todd Clark is again planning this year's **Sportsmanship Summit** and I've asked him to give us an update . . .

Todd Clark explained how exciting it is to provide another opportunity to hold the sixth Sportsmanship Summit. It will be held on December 5 at the Holiday Inn in Stevens Point. The cost per team of 6 individuals is \$125. The meeting format includes a keynote speaker at 9:00, five breakout sessions and afternoon keynote address with the day concluding by 2:30 p.m. Programming information will be emailed this summer.

Mr. Clark also reminded all that the deadline for student video presentation is May 18 with past winners displayed on website and on YouTube. All should check out the link "In the News".

As education and this membership evolve, adapt and forge into this still young and new century, we increasingly look to technology to enhance our efforts. In Association work—as in many other businesses and organizations our websites have become central to our efforts, to our identity and to communication. To this point in history, the WIAA has been able to maintain our **website** largely through on-staff determination—and a little help from friends. But in the past two years, as we have turned to on-line rule meetings, on-line testing demands instantaneous results and information. It has become painfully obvious that we needed "outside" expertise if we were to continue to meet the needs and expectations of our members and consumers.

With unanimous Board support, the staff searched across the country to find the right help to rebuild and redesign our website.

Deb Hauser has spearheaded that effort and is here to tell us more about it . . .

Ms. Hauser began by stating the WIAA staff recognize the defects in the current website and apologized for the inefficiencies of the current site. Our current site is incorrectly structured. We are well on the way to having a new website available. Staff is going to be trained on how to structure and design pages.

Enhancements are being made to make your jobs easier. The WIAA has formed a partnership with rSchool that will allow much of the information to migrate from the ADs rSchool page to our website. It will take some repetitiveness out of daily tasks in hope of making information more accurate and up to date. We will also have a new video and exam center and a new coaches' feature. Once the exam is completed and scored, it will populate back to the rSchool coaches page. The video and exam center will change and become more much functional. Todd Clark, Wade Labecki and Deb Hauser maintain our website, but have no formalized training. The website has become the main delivery and communications tool to the membership. Logins will all change and that will occur by the fall. We will reach out and help you. Rschool information will only need to be entered once and if a school is not using rSchool, there will be some double entry. Any questions, suggestions, please let the WIAA Executive staff know. Dave Anderson added we want to make this the most efficient and helpful tool for you.

There is one final item of New Business that is very current and definitely a topic we are going to be hearing more about in the coming year and likely, for years to come.

The record will show that long before the NFL and others began talking about neuro-trauma – **concussion** - the WIAA and its members were already taking action to safeguard adolescent student athletes. Of course, we've continued to learn even more as worldwide symposiums have been held throughout the past decade. From these conversations in Prague and Zurich we have become more aware and informed of the nature of brain injury—and of particular interest, its affect on young athletes.

This past fall, the WIAA and members of our Sports Medical Advisory Committee were asked to provide input on a Bill being developed here in Wisconsin. The involvement of state legislators in this concern began in Washington State and continues to spread throughout the country. After testifying to both, Assembly and Senate subcommittees and the persisting efforts of virtually every health care profession and organization in the state, just weeks ago the Governor signed into law—Act 172—making Wisconsin the 35th state to pass concussion legislation.

We welcome this new law, as well as the responsibility it places upon our shoulders. After all, it's about protecting kids—and placing their well being first and foremost within our mission. As liaison to the WIAA's Sports Medical Advisory Committee Mr. Labecki has been "hands-on" and working with our MD's and coordinating efforts and ideas with DPI—our designated partner in this new law.

I've asked Mr. Labecki to give us a status report on this law and what it means to you.

Mr. Labecki explained once the law passed on April 2, guideline development began and now completed, are being reviewed by DPI legal counsel, after that, they will be shared with the WIAA's Sports Medical Advisory Committee. There will be an information sheet for coaches, for parents, and for athletes. Signs, symptoms, way to prevent and treatment will all be on our website and on the acknowledgement sheet. There will be one form for multiple sport coaches. Coaching education is not required but schools must inform coach of the law and the NFHS course is encouraged. Parents and athletes will need to acknowledge this each season. This is state law. If there is someone who coaches for your school and the American Legion, e.g., they must fill out forms for both the school and the American Legion. You may download and use WIAA forms. The law went into effect on April 16 so applies to summer baseball. Complete forms before beginning practice. This applies to athletes aged 0-19. Anticipate forms coming next week. This applies to organized athletic leagues and competition. Your responsibility by law is to make sure athletes in school program and their parents are educated.

Close

It is that time of year when you will soon be seeing your membership renewal forms. I want you to read it and think carefully about the membership commitment you are pledging to make. We are a voluntary, democratic, service organization—committing to a common goal and common good. Joining is a choice. By your membership you are asking to be a part of the greater organization. But with the benefits of membership come equal and proportionate responsibility and accountability.

As we renew our membership, each year we renew our commitment to each other and the challenging work we undertake. While there inevitably are frustrations each year of family life—our 117 year history of success must suggest there is benefit and value to being a part.

I told you—it's been a busy, busy year. As you can see from the topics covered in this report—our business—both old and new has not lessened or diminished. And I need to tell you—Frankly—I see no end in sight—for undoubtedly, over the course of the year ahead there will be additional and unexpected challenges placed before us.

There are growing conversations on the national landscape about pre-season conditioning and acclimatization—and not only for football. Conversations about home school, charter and virtual school eligibility and about bullying. About Emergency Action Plans that must not only address responding to injury—but now—also to weather and to weapons and terrorist acts.

We will be doing our work amidst an evolving culture of public expectations. There is no such thing as “accidents” any more—someone is at fault. Someone is to blame . . . A time of perhaps, unprecedented scrutiny and diminished patience or empathy . . .

I share these observations, first—because they are true—and committing to this work has never been for the faint of heart. Our future will not contain fewer challenges.

I share these observations because I firmly believe that within every challenge—there resides an opportunity for those willing to look for it. For those with the ideas to conquer it.

I share these observations because I believe they underscore the importance of this membership. And being fully committed to this family provides all of us the help and support—at times—the safety net we need to face our individual challenges. We are here for each other—united through common belief and purpose. And we know our work is worthwhile—If we but look we see our good and positive results and successes all around us—every day. And when we are engaged and committed as a membership, there is no challenge we can't overcome . . .

On behalf of the staff and myself, I want to thank you for your dedication to education based athletics, to student athletes and to the WIAA.

It remains our humble honor to serve this membership. This concludes my report. Thank you for participating.

Todd Sobrilsky announced as WADA's Leadership Training Coordinator shared at the registration table a form to sign up for the Summer Leadership Training Institute to be held July 10-12 at The Kalahari Convention Center in Wisconsin Dells. This information will be available on the WADA Web site sometime this week.

A motion was made by Bob Sanders, Sparta and seconded by Jeff Thomas, Laconia to adjourn the meeting at 11:45 a.m. Motion carried unanimously.