

## 2013 Annual Meeting Minutes

April 24, 2013

The 118th Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association was held on Wednesday, April 24, 2013 commencing at 9:00 a.m. at the Holiday Inn in Stevens Point.

Board of Control President Terry Reynolds, District Administrator at Pittsville, presided. Mr. Reynolds welcomed everyone to the Annual Meeting. There were 403 delegates representing 344 schools in attendance.

Mr. Reynolds introduced the head table which included Executive Director Dave Anderson, Deputy Director Wade Labecki, Treasurer Mike Beighley of Whitehall, Parliamentarian Dr. Chris Sadler of the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and Administration Coordinator Julie Kage.

Minutes of 2012 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, 2012.

Treasurer Mike Beighley directed the meeting participants to the Treasurer's Report found in the 2012-13 Annual Meeting brochure. In it, he pointed out the change in the investment income was due to market timing and changes in investments. The primary driver is the change in net unrealized gain of the investments, which resulted in a decrease in investment income. A motion was made by Doug Domeracki, Cuba City and seconded by Tim Zachow, Appleton East 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, Brad Ayer, Clear Lake, was elected to a three-year term for District 1 expiring after the June 2016 meeting. Dean Sanders, Lake Mills, was reelected to a three-year term for District 6 expiring after the June 2016 meeting. Steve Knecht, Kenosha, was elected for District 7 expiring after the June 2016 meeting. Ted Knutson, Aquinas, was reelected to a three-year term for the Non Public School At-Large expiring after the June 2016 meeting. In the Advisory Council elections, Mike Gosz, Hamilton, was reelected to a three-year term for the Large Schools expiring after the June 2016 meeting. Scott Winch, Stratford, was reelected and Bernie Nikolay, Cambridge, was elected to a three-year term for the Medium Schools expiring after the June 2016 meeting. Reed Welsh, Abbotsford, was reelected and Jennifer Vogler, Greenwood, was elected to a three-year term for the Small Schools expiring after the June 2016 meeting. There will be a Special Election to fill Brad Ayer's small school position on the Advisory Council. Declarations will be accepted until May 10.

Other Board members were introduced. They included Corey Baumgartner, Kaukauna; Brian Busler, Oregon; Pam Foegen, La Crosse; Mark Gobler, Luck; Jack Klebesadel, Germantown; Ted Knutson, Aquinas; and Tim Sivertson, Elk Mound. Keith Posley, Milwaukee was excused. Brian Smith, WADA representative to the WIAA Board of Control was introduced. Advisory Council and Sports Advisory Committee members present were recognized as well. Media present included Nick Dettmann, West Bend Daily News; Dennis Semrau, The Capital Times, Mark Stewart, Milwaukee Journal/Sentinel, and PlayOn (When We Were Young) produced the live streaming of the meeting. Doug Chickering also attended 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 was 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

#### Amendment #1

Bylaws—Article III, Section 1, B. This change would allow protective equipment to be issued during the school year out of season for softball and baseball. A motion was made by Greg Lampe, Oak Creek and seconded by Ryan McGinnis, Kimberly to support the amendment. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a 325-9 vote.

The individuals who assisted with collecting the amendment ballots were thanked. They included Jim Dillin, Mauston; Casey Eckardt, New Richmond; Angie Litterick, Lomira; Jeremy Nichols, Milwaukee King; Linda Olson, Freedom; Chuck Raasch, Menomonie Indian and Scott Tolzan, Dodgeville.

#### Amendment #2

Rules of Eligibility—Article II, Section 2, 4. This change would allow athletes who have established eligibility within a nonpublic school system prior to Grade 9 to be eligible by matriculation in that same school system. A motion was made by Sandy Freres, The Prairie School and seconded by Jay Hammes, Racine Horlick to support the amendment. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a 312-17 vote.

#### Amendment #3

Rules of Eligibility—Article IV, Section 1, 4 (note). This change would clarify violations when student images are used in advertisements. A motion was made by Mel Dow, Stoughton and seconded by Dan Karius, Slinger to support the amendment.

Gene Strusz, Fox Valley Lutheran asked if a picture is taken without the permission or knowledge, is the athlete unable to pitch a baseball game until the billboard is taken down. Wade Labecki answered yes, extenuating circumstances are considered. Amateur status as a whole may need some scrutiny. Mr. Strusz stated we should rewrite number 4 of Section 1, Article IV. We need to be careful with student athletes when they have no knowledge of something being done and we should not put students' eligibility in question. There has to be permission of the student and the parents. He then asked how this could be changed. Dr. Labecki answered at this point, there is a motion on the floor and amateur status can be addressed at the Area Meetings along with the dollar value and a comparison made to other states.

The motion was approved by a 316-17 vote.

#### Amendment #4

Rules of Eligibility—Article VI, Section 1, 2. This change would allow cross country athletes to delay reporting for nonschool training or competition until the first school competition. A motion was made by Joe Brandl, Berlin and seconded by Stephanie Hauser, Stevens Point to support the amendment. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a 319-15 vote.

#### Amendment #5

Rules of Eligibility—Article VI, Section 2, C, 2) b. This change would allow basketball and volleyball coaches to have unlimited nonschool contact in the summertime. Dr. Labecki explained that the key to this is nonschool and no school resources may be used. Hockey may consider adding next year and Football does not want any additional contact. A motion was made by Jim McClowry, Sun Prairie and seconded by Bryan Yager, Reedsburg to support the amendment.

Chris Zwettler, Edgewood, asked for the rationale on why these two sports were put together. Wade Labecki answered the basketball coaches have asked for contact for some time. He reiterated this is nonschool and unlimited was included for uniformity reasons. Once the basketball coaches asked for it, the volleyball coaches wanted to be included as well. Mr. Zwettler felt we should be careful for what we ask for. Volleyball may have some merit and that's why it should be separated. As a member of the WBCA, he has heard from multiple coaches that it would not be a good thing to come forward in basketball and expectations would rise tremendously. We look at doing skill work in the summer so Athletic Directors are not policing coaches in the summer. He would like to see this denied with thought of freedom to work with student athletes on skills as an alternative in the future.

Stephanie Hauser felt there was some confusion on unlimited and unrestricted. A volleyball coach could become a club coach since they play when State Volleyball ends. There is the misconception that if this is approved, high school coaches could be club coaches. Wade Labecki pointed out this rule is for the summertime only and they cannot coach the athletes they coach next year. This would not allow the coach to work with athletes for winter leagues. This is nonschool, would be open to any and all, and is voluntary and no school resources are used. This is unlimited, nonschool contact in summertime.

Joe Brandl, Berlin asked if we send a basketball team to Ripon, they go there and my coach goes there on his own, is that allowed? Wade Labecki answered you cannot send your student athletes anywhere out of season, but they could voluntarily go there. Coaches may only observe, but not coach their own athletes.

Wayne Fell, Onalaska asked for clarification of the use of resources. Wade Labecki referred Mr. Fell to the WIAA's website under the Eligibility section and how booster clubs may be used and to use school facilities, someone would have to go through the district's board of education policies to rent the facility. Schools control facilities and equipment.

Len Collyard, Kettle Moraine Lutheran said the rule causes him trouble. If a basketball player is doing weights and he wants to work on his shot and basketball coach is there. Wade Labecki answered that is not ok, you have to have the booster club check out the gym and the coach work under the booster club. Don't mix up open gyms with nonschool programs and contests.

The motion failed by a 94-242 vote.

Editorial changes to WIAA 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 DePere and seconded by Shawn Groshek, Adams-Friendship to approve the editorial change.

Janet Bahr, Lake Country Lutheran, asked about transfers after the 10<sup>th</sup> grade and how she thought they would get nonvarsity eligibility. She said this is difficult for smaller schools. Wade Labecki informed all that nothing has changed to the transfer rule since the membership voted on it and approved it.

Amanda Griggs, Green Bay West, asked for clarification on the amateur status rule. Mr. Labecki indicated the entry fee part is currently in the Rules at a Glance and this additional would match the Bylaws with the Rules at a Glance.

The motion was approved by a vote of 328-7.

At this time, Dave Anderson presented his Director's Report.

### Opening Remarks

We began this year with discussions at Area Meetings that included conversations, which centered around Membership—Leadership and Loyalty. We recognize that all of those qualities are once again demonstrated by your presence here today. Thank you for participating in this important business meeting of our Association.

This is the WIAA's 118<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the membership and it will be noted that it is one of the very few times over the last—nearly 60 years, that neither John Roberts or Matt Otte are able to join us. Their regular attendance at these meetings since 1957 represents a love and commitment to the WIAA's Membership; and Leadership and Loyalty that spans almost half of our Association's 118-year history. Though they are sincerely missed, we exist today as a better Association as a result of their dedication and contributions.

### 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 is an important, open conversation. In a way, it actually begins the new year for the WIAA by identifying some of the topics and issues that may become the agenda for next fall's Area Meetings, or may be brought through our committee review process in the months ahead.

Let's begin:

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

Jim McClowry, Sun Prairie asked for an update on the sport of lacrosse. Mr. Anderson explained that he will talk about it in New Business but shared the call he had received from representatives of the Division III Midwest and Great Lake Conferences regarding their hopes of introducing lacrosse in the next few years. At this time there is no committee discussion on adding the sport and if it were, there needs to be determined what season and if boys or girls or both would compete. There are presently about 80-85 schools involved with lacrosse in some way. This may be discussed at the Area Meetings.

Kathy Bates, Xavier asked if there was any progress on the requirement for seasonal collection of concussion forms? Mr. Anderson indicated Wade Labecki would discuss this in a few moments. As it stands now there is no change in the law. At each and every opportunity, we attempt to make it known that it is an unnecessary administrative burden. Just recently heard might be some conversations on that. The legislated requirement for seasonal record keeping is not what the WIAA proposed.

Blane Senn, Birchwood said the Board needs to look at providing 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders eligibility at the junior varsity and varsity level. Trying to run varsity and junior varsity teams is rare in small schools so allowing 8<sup>th</sup> graders to play at that level may keep junior varsity teams. Dave Anderson asked at what grade level should it cut out? Mr. Senn felt at Grade 7 and 8. Minnesota allows this. Dave Anderson indicated the topic has come forward many times with no interest. Two years ago the Sports Medical Advisory Committee was not supportive of it for maturity reasons.

Jim Rufsholm, Black River Falls asked what's process for creating two divisions in girls and boys hockey. He was advised it requires committee review with the ultimate decision being made by the Board of Control. Consideration will be given to the numbers of school sponsoring the sport.

Nathan Delany, Marshfield felt there should be discussions about seed meetings and a uniform process. He asked that the Board of Control look at developing an online seed meeting process and if that means that we have to use resources to do that, it should be done. Dave Anderson indicated to Mr. Delany it is an ongoing topic of discussion. That sentiment of maximizing technology or distance seeding vs. efficiencies of face-to-face meeting, despite travel, result in less manipulation. Seed meetings go quicker when done face-to-face. Maybe this is a topic for the Area Meetings. This is talked about almost every season.

Andy Trudell, Mukwonago indicated his school plays summer baseball. He asked for an update on summer baseball and consideration for a later start to spring baseball. Dave Anderson answered there have been no discussions on a later start to the baseball season and we haven't heard a cry for that yet. As far as summer baseball, 57 schools play it and no others have officially declared that they are leaving it yet. Summer baseball has not been a topic since relocation/reshaping of the state summer tournament.

Ray Kosey, Superior felt they had a very good winter season, he knows their location has travel implications but asks that the WIAA look at seeding and who hosts. Mr. Kosey struggled telling his community why a #1 seed (Superior) had to go to #2 seed. Maybe the #1 seed should host all the way through or move to a neutral site. We should look at seeding so higher seed hosts throughout or move a game so there is no home field advantage.

Barry Schmitt, Independence understands the rationale of reduced player football and feels there should be discussion on reduced weight class wrestling for smaller schools based on competitive quality of dual meets at those levels. We have a good state tournament but dual meets in small schools are not working due to too many forfeits. Dave Anderson indicated there is agreement on many levels with this sentiment. The WIAA has consistently not been supportive of adding weight classes, shared this with the NFHS and feels we would be better served by reducing number of weight classes. You may change the number of classes you wrestle as a conference. Wade Labecki has spoken to the wrestling coaches about the number of forfeits. It is ok to reduce the number of weight classes, but you must use NFHS weight classes. You can reduce the number of minutes for JV wrestling. A recommendation was made as a conference you go to 11 or 12 weight classes for dual meets and determine which weight classes you eliminate.

Mark McQuade, Appleton West asked about dual participation at middle level. Dave Anderson responded those middle schools who are our members told us they like the present rules. Looking at this at the district level. If you want the Middle Level Advisory Committee to look at this, bring it to the WIAA's staff attention. While dual participation at middle level is acceptable, it is not ok at freshman levels. There is some concern that would open the door to dual participation at the high school level.

Renee Chapek, Amery felt with the northwest part of the Wisconsin getting lots of snow if there would be any consideration to moving seeding meetings as we may have five games if we are lucky. Dave Anderson encouraged her to continue to work with and talk to sports executives. If there is any room for flexibility, it is on the date and opportunity for seed meetings, it is not as easy to move regionals and sectionals.

Rick Sherman, Oconto asked from a standpoint of conference realignment, what is the procedure to be followed if a school is displeased with a conference realignment proposal? Dave Anderson reminded all that if there is some displeasure, the school representative should stand up at the Area Meeting and share it. Deb Hauser asked if Oconto was part of the plan that was presented. Mr. Sherman spoke of the Packerland Meeting and the displeasure with it. Deb Hauser indicated she is attempting to schedule all conferences involved with a 70-school plan. Hopefully that will occur in May and June and by fall a more specific plan will be presented at the Area Meetings.

### Director's Report on Old Business

The past year's efforts, focus and attention were intensely centered upon our state championships—we believe and feel that attention and effort provided positive outcomes.

1. The relocation and re-design of our State Summer Baseball tournament appears to have brought a favorable response and outcome. Obviously, with just one year's experience, broad proclamations are premature. But at least in this first year—and perhaps for the first time ever, the Summer Baseball tournament was financially self-sustaining and provided the membership one less subsidized state championship. With a more proximate location to our summer baseball schools and a positive start at Kapco Field, with the Chinook's organization, Concordia University and the supporting efforts of Homestead High School, we were provided an encouraging start to this tournament and relationship.

2. Another state tournament seeing significant change was Boys Volleyball. Where, after several years of petitioning and debate, seeding the state finals was approved by the Board of Control. There are a few elements of this decision that should be noted. First, those coaches involved in this first-time seeding did an exemplary, professional job of conducting their business in a manner that did not result in the process overshadowing the student-athletes and the tournament itself.

The next perspective, which needs to be acknowledged, is the fact that seeding state tournaments still has its proponents and its detractors. There is not yet a universal embrace of seeding across the membership.

Perhaps most importantly, especially as coaches in other sports come to believe their sports' state tournaments should be seeded, is to understand the key factors the Board identified in reaching their decision to approve this request. Guided by what I would describe as a sense that if seeding is to be undertaken, it should be accurate and valid and that it must be guided by informed and first-hand insights. To that end, the Board recognized that Boys Volleyball is unique in several key respects. With its relatively small number of participating teams, its small geographic footprint and abundance of regular season tournaments and supportive, historical tournament participation data, the Board observed that the goals and objectives of seeding might be achieved.

It's normal that over time, perspectives, opinions, arguments and rationale evolve and that may be the case with seeding. But for now at least, this Board has identified the significant elements desired for expanding seeding to state championship play.

3. Last year at this meeting you were updated on the status of negotiations with the UW, the city of Madison, the Green Bay area communities, The Resch Center and PMI Entertainment Group. At that time, I informed you that the Board had approved a proposal that secured our UW based tournaments through 2020. At the same time, the Board also approved a two-year agreement with PMI and The Resch Center to host the Girls State Basketball Championships in 2013 and 2014.

While the conversations that preceded these announcements also addressed the concerns and interests of hockey, wrestling and all Madison based tournaments, as well as the fan base that supports them, basketball and wrestling were perhaps the most directly impacted. I'm pleased that as a result of those discussions, this year's State Individual Wrestling Tournament was able to be held on its traditional Thursday, Friday, Saturday schedule---which had been in question. We were able to keep the Boys State Basketball Tournament in the Kohl Center . . . and the Girls State Basketball Tournament in Green Bay was embraced by that community and enjoyed its best attendance in recent memory.

Our discussions also generated a number of other changes and outcomes. A new on-line ticketing opportunity was developed and while we acknowledge some first-year frustrations, improvements have been identified and most feedback has been favorable. This winter's tournaments enjoyed a strong embrace and support of the local media, the Convention and Visitors' Bureaus and the support of campus and city governance. Reduced parking was made available. Many hotels and restaurants offered discounts. I believe these many and diverse efforts contributed in part to improved attendance at all of our winter tournaments.

Obviously, the single biggest and most noticeable change to our winter tournament lineup came to Girls Basketball. Even though we have had a relationship with The Resch Center for volleyball, relocating any state tournament holds many unknowns and uncertainties. But post event feedback and evaluation has been overwhelmingly positive. Let's ask Deb Hauser to share her comments and observations on this year's basketball tournaments in general and some specific thoughts on the girls' event.

Deb Hauser reported there was better attendance at both the Boys and Girls State Basketball Tournaments. The attendance at State Boys Basketball was 86,000 which is the highest since it has gone to five divisions and was the perfect storm for the boys with great athletes and teams. There was increased promotion from the City of Madison and the Greater Madison Convention & Visitors Bureau added to the hype. Ms Hauser did talk to the basketball coaches about the tournament date and they would like to get it back to the boys being on St. Patrick's weekend and the girls prior to them and that is the projected schedule for future.

The Resch Center had great excitement and emotion. For the many who felt that would not be a good venue, WIAA staff thinks we have won them over with the special atmosphere. WIAA sold all tickets on Saturday and then went to roll tickets. The atmosphere was like the old Field House with the court and seats close. Girls play off the emotion of fans. Parking being only a block away was a real plus and the cost friendly hotels were great. Everything in Green Bay was a great. There will be some changes for next year to make it bigger and better. We had 39,800 in attendance this year that is almost 9,000 more than a year ago and the highest since going to five divisions. Any additional feedback should be shared with Deb Hauser.

4. Last year as we were wrapping up discussions about starting and ending dates for the football season, two additional changes to WIAA football were being launched. Last fall saw the return of reduced player football for the first time in several decades and football coaches got together to seed the playoffs. I'd like to have Wade Labecki offer some perspectives on the first season of 8-player football and on the coaches seeding the football playoffs. And as long as Wade's at the podium, I'll ask him to provide an update on the first year of the new state concussion law.

Wade Labecki congratulated the football coaches on doing an awesome job on the football seeding. Those who hosted did so on short notice and went extremely smooth. Eight-player football had 16 teams and resulted in a Jamboree at D.C. Everest involving four schools from the north and four from the south. There will be five more schools going to eight-player football. Please advise your conference if your school is going to eight players.

The state's Concussion law mandated the collection of seasonal information. There may be a change for public and nonpublic schools to do this annually. When I get a call from a state legislator, Wade automatically ends the call reminding the legislator that the seasonal mandate involving the concussion law is a burden for schools. Schools also need to share that same sentiment with their representatives. If anything is to be changed, it has to be initiated by you in your schools. All need to have emergency medical plan and practice it with your staff! It is important that you understand the rule, know symptoms and make sure coaches are knowledgeable. With spring sports underway, all should also be aware of lightning and the precautions involved.

5. Another item of old business has to do with on-going efforts to uniformly reestablish the recognition of sport officials as independent contractors. As we continued our broad efforts to educate and create awareness, we were also able to recruit new members to our coalition. In recent months we have added the State Association of Convention and Visitors Bureaus and created broad awareness of the concern and its potential ramifications within the statewide sport tourism industry including private, sport based businesses in Wisconsin Dells. I have also had opportunity to meet with several more CESA groups and have gained some strong, added support from a number of superintendents. A number of whom in turn created awareness and expressed concern with their state representatives. These efforts culminated in an opportunity to provide testimony at a January meeting of the Workmen's Compensation Committee in Madison. Joining me in providing testimony were Mr. Keith Noll-Governor of Wisconsin AAU, Mr. Woody Wiedenhoeft-Executive Director of the Wisconsin Association of School Business Officials, Deb Archer and Linda John-Executive Directors of the Madison and Eau Claire Convention and Visitors Bureaus respectively and Mr. Kyle Gasser, a Madison area official also joined us.

A few days following that hearing we received an invitation from the Chair of the Workmen's Compensation Committee to form a work group to look at the present law in light of the many growing concerns. Our hope is that this group may be able to identify a new interpretation within the existing law that would once again clearly identify sport officials as independent contractors. If we are successful, this may prove more efficient than going through the process of changing or amending state law. We are waiting on a date for our first meeting, but as I stand here now, I'm pleased with the progress and hopeful for a positive outcome.

6. While speaking of changing interpretations, since we met last April, there have been conversations, which—with your input and support—have resulted in significant changes to the Rules of Eligibility. We have taken a new look and a new stance on students assembling outside the season—during the school year—an issue that's been problematic and talked about for years. The Board has also provided a new interpretation for administering amateur status and non-school competition



violations. These were substantial changes to long-held WIAA provisions that should result in less trauma to member schools. In upcoming committee meetings and fall Area Meetings, we want to continue discussion of the Amateur Status Rule and acceptable awards and hear from you. To this point no strong, clear alternatives to the status quo have emerged.

7. Last year at this meeting we discussed, then tabled, a proposed amendment that would have imposed restrictions on coaches who failed to view the on-line sport meeting and complete the required rules exam. There was strong sentiment that issue should be addressed at the local level. This past fall, Area Meeting comments were directed at school leaders identifying fundamental coaching responsibilities. My purpose in bringing this up is primarily as a reminder—Coaches fulfilling these fundamental responsibilities is a matter of compliance with membership requirements. But beyond that, coaches being current and knowledgeable also impacts upon athlete safety, upon sportsmanship, upon retention of officials, and potentially a school's exposure to liability. I ask that you keep these things in mind as you hire, meet with, mentor and evaluate your coaches. These are not unreasonable expectations for coaches to fulfill. I ask for your continued help in addressing this persisting concern. We are not yet where we need to be on this.

8. Over our last several meetings we've been talking about technology and more specifically about the WIAA website. When these conversations began, we acknowledged limitations and deficiencies, and then we made you aware of intentions to overhaul and rebuild our site. We recognize the potential and the importance of our website as a tool and we hope—as a convenience to you. This past year we have also attempted to create more helpful forms on-line for you to use. These have been in many ways—first attempts and we will continue to try to improve them as well as identify more ways for our technology to assist you. To conclude our review of Old Business and bridge us into New Business items, I've asked Deb to provide an update on our website as well as what next steps might be considered.

Deb Hauser shared how the new landing pages now also contain tournament information. We are getting closer to rSchool integration where the coaches name will be entered and will populate the school directory and exam scores. She asked that the membership please hold off on updates for next year until the integration is complete. Wade Labecki is working on the development of an online foreign exchange form. Licensing for officials and payment of officials fees will also be online soon. There has been the creation of an auto-calculate financial form and this should be used for spring sports. Membership renewals will be sent out soon and could be paid by credit card or direct deposit. Online ticketing has been valuable and there will be some adjustments coming. Hopefully, we will be able to develop a scan for phones in the near future.

As we turn our attention to New Business

There are a number of topics to be identified; the list is not necessarily exhaustive or all encompassing. It contains those topics that, as a membership, we should be aware of, informed of, and think about as we move forward into the coming year. Some of these topics will persist through our future discussions with various committees and on into Area Meeting discussions next fall. Some of these may be replaced by other topics and issues that may suddenly emerge as more pressing and timely. But all of these topics are deserving of some amount of attention here today.

I'll begin with a few topics that are more for information and awareness at this time, but could become a bigger part of discussions going forward. First on the medical front.

1. The topic of supplements was the focus of a recent NBC RockCenter Report. Though this is not a new issue in many respects, it serves to remind and to renew our awareness. In this report, the

supplement Jack3d, a popular workout product, which contains dimethylamylamine or DMAA was featured. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration identifies DMAA as an illegal dietary supplement—which can have serious, serious side effects, including death.

In part, what made this report so powerfully timely was that this was the same product that resulted in several WIAA student athletes receiving code suspensions just this past fall. What's also important to note is that despite being identified as illegal, there are presently over 70 different nutritional supplements that identify DMAA on their labels. It is impossible to know how many supplements do not identify DMAA within their product ingredients. DMAA can be found in powdered or liquid (shot) forms. It can be found in products whose claims range from—weight loss to energy—to performance boost . . . The supplements containing DMAA go by many names, intended to appeal to a wide range of consumers. Names like 1,3D Bomb, Youth Addict Torched, White Lightening, Tiger Claw and of course, Jack3d.

While students are in our care, it remains our responsibility to be informed, to be observant and to continue to educate. With hundreds or perhaps thousands of new supplements being manufactured or rebranded each year, the topic of supplements and talking with parents and students—educating them, needs to be a part of our daily consciousness.

Our SMAC is a phenomenal resource to this membership. We have an abundance of information on our website and will be happy to assist you if you come across a product you're unsure of. Let us know. We're happy to try to help!

2. Another Sports Medicine related topic is SCA—Sudden Cardiac Arrest. While it is another familiar subject to our membership, we are refreshing the conversation now, as we are beginning to see legislation being drafted or approved in other states—legislation that is similar in form to the concussion legislation that has crossed the nation. But in some instances this new legislation is also considering requiring all student athletes to be stress tested and an ECG recorded. With the help and guidance of our SMAC team, we have provided information in the past. Medical-best practices have guided our regular review and update of our sport physical form—designed to help screen for SCA markers. As a membership you require emergency response plans for your teams and facilities. Cell phones and emergency phone numbers are now a part of your emergency preparedness. Some of you have on-site, licensed athletic trainers. Some of you have coaches who maintain CPR certification. AED's are more commonly present and accessible than ever before. We are not ill prepared. Just the same, in light of the emerging legislative trends, I've asked our SMAC to take a fresh look at SCA and SCA prevention and preparedness to be certain that as an Association we are current and providing you with as much up-to-date, best practices information as possible.

3. Another topic I've asked our Sports Medical team to provide guidance on is transgender students. Gender identification and eligibility is another topic we are seeing now, increasingly come to the forefront in other states—and while we have already successfully worked with several members individually to provide eligibility to transgender students, it is both timely and appropriate that as a membership we have written policy and/or guidelines in place to help you to help students.

We have collected and reviewed transgender policies from several other states and Mr. Labecki, who serves as our Sports Medicine liaison and I have discussed them. Those policies, along with our own thoughts will be discussed at the SMAC's meeting coming up in early May. The results of those discussions will be shared and reactions solicited as we move forward in developing a written tool.

4. On January 25, Seth Galanter, the Acting Head of the Office of Civil Rights—OCR presented a 13-page document, described as “Guidance” to the OCR's 2011 Publication: “Creating Equal Opportunities

for Children and Youth With Disabilities to Participate in Physical Education and Extracurricular Athletics.” This publication along with its more recent “Guidance” address our responsibilities for providing opportunities in compliance with Section 504 of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Information about the January 25 presentation along with the key points that were made were sent to each member school and remain available on our website. It is not my intention to go through all of that information at this time.

Just last Thursday I was able to take part in a teleconference with Mr. Galanter where we had opportunity to directly ask questions and interact with him. The key points he made in this conference call were consistent with the guidance offered in January. Mr. Galanter first spoke of the many benefits that were recognized as being potential outcomes of participation and inclusion and went on to say that every reasonable effort to provide those same opportunities for learning and growth should be provided to children with disabilities. He reiterated the key guidelines that he offered back in January.

- Do not make assumptions about what students with a given disability can do.
- An activity can be modified, accommodations can be provided—so long as the fundamental nature of the game is maintained.

Mr. Galanter made clear that the January guidance did not represent a change of the law or even necessarily a change in interpretation. But it was made clear that public schools and state associations should be open to finding more ways for including students with disabilities.

On that thought, I asked Tom Shafranski to attend a Unified Sports Symposium hosted by the Arizona Association back in February. Unified Sports is a relatively new, school based, sports opportunity that is being promoted by Special Olympics. And I’ll ask Tom to tell us more about it at this time.

Tom Shafranski asked how many attendees have heard of unified sports? There was a handful and no one had a unified sport program. There are 42 states and 2,000 schools are involved and there are federal funds available for these programs. Unified sports involve able-bodied students playing with students with special needs/disabilities. The roles of able bodied and special needs students were explained along with some possible alterations to rules. This would allow more students to be involved and also gives those with special needs a new opportunity. To this point in time, the activities have generally been exhibition events at half times. Many eligibility and legal requirements would have to be explored and there will be more discussions at the NFHS Convention this summer.

5. Another item for your awareness is a new opportunity being developed and promoted by the NFHS—National Federation of State High School Associations. In seeing the success of collegiate broadcast groups—like the Big 10 Network, the National Federation’s Board of Directors has just recently approved moving forward with an Internet based NFHS Network. The NF has partnered with Play On Sports—for us, we’ve known them as When We Were Young Productions—to attempt to form a new national high school network. A few quick facts about this network:

- Joining the network is voluntary for state associations.
- States that join and contribute content will receive compensation and perhaps eventually, profit shares.
- The network recognizes existing state broadcast agreements and is looking at state tournament series contests—like regional and sectional play—as well as state championships that may not be being broadcast.
- The network will seek national sponsors that are a good fit with the message and mission of high school.
- If enough State Associations agree to join, the hopes are for a launch of the network this fall.

The development of this idea and formation of this network is something that is happening right now. The Board was first informed of this—in its conceptual stage—just this past January and was updated again, yesterday. Though I am open to the idea—I have not made a recommendation to the Board—the Board has made no decision. While in many respects, at least initially, this will feel and appear as no different than our present WIAA.TV relationship with When We Were Young (now Play On Sports) this is in fact, far, far bigger and a bit more complex. There are still questions to be answered before a recommendation and decision can be made—But this is an idea that is developing rapidly and we'll do our best to keep you informed.

## 6. CFB

This past winter several WIAA hockey teams were denied participation in the State Hockey Tournament for receiving 3 or more game disqualification penalties. There has been some confusion about the 3 DQ rule and certainly some consternation about the change in the National Federation's Hockey rules which some believe precipitated a rash of game DQs.

Before I ask Tom Shafranski to provide an update on the recent Hockey Coaches Advisory Committee meeting and the just completed, National Federation's Hockey Rules Meeting—I will offer a few observations.

To begin, the WIAA's 3 game DQ rule has not changed—it is not new . . . It was a rule put in place following the very first season of WIAA hockey—when discussions were seriously focused on dropping hockey as a WIAA sport after only one year of sponsoring—The fights and hits were something school officials felt were not representative of schools, school culture and education based athletics.

Though there have been improvements over the years, in some instances -- not in all programs -- there remains a philosophy of intimidation and retaliation that holds the potential for serious catastrophic injury as well as serious exposure for a school. As we move forward—we must recognize--first and foremost, the rules must protect the participants. Even the culture of contact within the NFL is beginning to change and as difficult as that may be for some to grasp, it cannot be any different for education based ice hockey. Tom, what else can you share on this topic?

Mr. Shafranski shared how checking from behind caused quite a bit of heartburn. All want to see checking from behind eliminated. The conversation has been very intense and thorough and all want to make high school hockey successful. The penalty structure was analyzed and the NFHS is in the process of reviewing it. We are also looking at players taking dives and bringing on penalties. Varsity programs are being addressed, but lower level programs need to be given more attention as well. Mr. Shafranski urged all to talk with your coaches and attend their practices and contests, both varsity and junior varsity. He hopes to make a presentation at WADA and provide direction on managing these programs. We all want to prevent catastrophic events from occurring.

Dave Anderson had a few quick items before concluding his remarks.

7. In a neighboring state this past winter tournament season, there were reported incidents of teams not accepting their runner-up medals and trophy. In at least one of those instances, there may have been some mitigating circumstances. Unfortunately, we had a similar disrespectful occurrence take place in our own winter tournaments. What an enormous failure to prepare for and capture one of those greatest teachable moments offered by school sports. What a disappointment that the lessons of graciousness and humility in victory and/or poise, dignity and class in defeat were an opportunity missed in this instance. I can tell you that our member quickly apologized and we are grateful for that. But we would all agree—best if it hadn't occurred in the first place.

Each season we will hear reports of a coach pulling their team and leaving the field; quitting the game and abandoning the opponents, officials and fans. Friends, thankfully these are not the most common of our experiences. But they are so distasteful that I wanted to mention it in this important meeting. And that we might continue to teach coaches and athletes our expectations and thereby capture some of the most powerful lessons available in the sport experience. The February 1991 WIAA Bulletin summed it up this way: “without sportsmanship, we really have nothing at all worth having in school sports.”

8. Following through on the recommendations of several committees, the Board authorized an increase in tournament officials’ fees. These increases will begin next fall at all regional, sectional and state tournament contests. To support these increased game fees, the Board also approved an increase in officials licensing dues and fees. This increase will take effect in the upcoming license renewal period for 2013-14 school year—

--This is the first license increase in nearly 10 years

--Even with this increase Wisconsin will still remain among the bottom of all Midwest states in its officials license fees.

--Much of this new revenue will be returned directly to officials in the form of increased tournament compensation.

--Any remaining revenue will be used to conduct criminal background checks on all licensed officials. Given the heightened awareness around school safety and protecting children, the Board agreed it was a measure whose time had come.

9. Two items that are going to be on our fall meeting agenda that I want to mention now so that we might be prepared for quality discussion in September. Those items are emerging sports and coaches education.

It’s been a while since we’ve talked about new and emerging sports. I can tell you upfront there is no preconceived motive or intention behind wanting to hear from members on this topic—except to be freshly updated on what you’re thinking.

Probably at least once a month, I will hear from someone, generally not a school administrator—asking when the WIAA is going to sponsor bass fishing, or weight lifting, or mountain biking or Nordic skiing or lacrosse and a whole litany of other sports—and it would be a good time to hear from you, our actual members.

We clearly recognize the status of school budgets and in some areas, declining enrollments. But we also recognize your many efforts to provide the opportunities that are of interest to your current students. So I look forward to hearing the thoughts of our collective membership on this topic. They will be instructive and helpful to the Board and Staff.

Regarding coaches education—we are beginning to see in some other states, Association requirements for coaches education—whether a coach is a teacher or not. In today’s sports environment some of the most fundamental requirements we see are for basic first aid, CPR, concussion education. In some instances, fundamental principles and philosophy of school-based sport are becoming required of coaches.

Again, this will be an instructive conversation to hear your thoughts and sentiments, the pros and cons and concerns.

This concluded the Director's Report.

Dave Anderson asked all the Conference Commissioners and Athletic Directors to stand. He had WIAA Executive staff and Board of Control members come to the front the room and thanked the Athletic Directors for their commitment, loyalty and leadership.

There were no announcements.

A motion was made by Bob Sanders, Sparta and seconded by Sandy Freres, The Prairie School to adjourn the meeting at 11:45 a.m. Motion carried unanimously.