



MINUTES of 59th ANNUAL MEETING
OF NIHOA DIRECTORS
Holiday Inn – Bridgeport, CT
Saturday - March 29, 2014

CHAPTERS

Berkshire
Cape Cod
Central Mass.
Connecticut

Eastern NY
Eastern Mass.
Long Island NY
Maine
Metropolitan NY-NJ
New Hampshire
North Shore Mass.
Rhode Island
South Shore Mass.
Vermont
Westchester NY
Western NY

ATTENDEES

Bill Loehr
Tom Murray, Robert Tobin, John Alexander
Dan Mahoney, Jack Doherty, Michael Belhumeur
Lev Torgerson, Michael Barile, Robert Melanson, Mark Burns,
Rick Gentile, Bill Kamp
Nick J. DeMarte, Sr.
Brendan Kelleher
Michael Seltzer, Chris DeMaio
Michael S. Komich, Chris Parsons
Bill Sidun, Bob Triebe
Dana Lavoie, Michael Gould, Mike Bontatibus
Robert Melanson, Sr.
Frank Caparco, Matthew Berg
Eugene Binda, Jim McKenzie, Dennis Kirwan
Carol Weston
Anthony LoConte
Bob Baldwin

Totals 16

33

100% Annual Attendance: Connecticut, Eastern Massachusetts,
New Hampshire, South Shore Mass.

Meeting Called Order

President Lev Torgerson, Connecticut, called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m. welcoming all and thanking them for attending the annual meeting. A moment of silence was held in memory of NIHOA members who have died and the two Boston Firefighters who gave their lives recently in the saving of others during a nine-alarm fire in Boston's Back Bay.

President Called the Roll of NIHOA Chapters

Minutes of the 2013 Annual Meeting

The 2013 Annual Meeting minutes were distributed to those in attendance for their review. A motion by Bill Sidun, Metro NY-NJ, to accept the minutes as presented passed unanimously.

Secretary's Report

The 2013-14 Secretary's Report was distributed to those in attendance for their review. The Secretary-Treasurer provided an overview of the report which contains information concerning the ongoing implementation of NIHOA's website and database system. Also, an overview of the NCAA and NFHS rules committee meetings and the American Hockey Coaches Association convention attended by the Secretary-Treasurer. The Secretary-Treasurer announced he would not be a candidate for re-election at this year's annual meeting. The Secretary provided his thoughts about the past twenty-one years he has served as Secretary-Treasurer.

Motion by Jim McKenzie that the minutes of the 59th Annual Meeting of the National Ice Hockey Officials Association reflect the heartfelt thanks and appreciation of its Directors and members for the time, talent, effort, leadership and contributions of Jack Doherty its Secretary-Treasurer over the last 21 years. The motion was unanimously passed.

Report of the Audit Committee

The Audit Committee consists of Mike Komich, Maine, chairman, and Brian Collamore, Vermont. Mike provided an overview of the process the committee used in review of the detail of revenues and expenses, along with various statements and reports provided by the Secretary-Treasurer. He noted the association has a redundancy aspect to insure that business would continue should the Secretary-Treasurer be unable to perform his duties. The committee did have a few questions for the Secretary-Treasurer to which he responded. It was noted that no anomalies, requiring reporting to the annual meeting, were found. The committee reviewed its findings with the Executive Board prior to the annual meeting.

Treasurer's Report

The 2013-14 Treasurer's Report was distributed to those in attendance for their review. The Secretary-Treasurer provided an overview of the report.

Report of Officers

President Lev Torgerson, Connecticut

Lev thanked the members of the Executive Board for their work throughout the year. He thanked Jack Doherty for all he has done for NIHOA during his twenty-one years as Secretary-Treasurer. Lev also noted some of the issues all officials face every time they take the ice. Noting one, every official comes under review during most games, as most games today are videoed. This provides the opportunity for games to be reviewed frame-by-frame looking for that one error an official may have made.

1st Vice President Tom Murray, Cape Cod

Tom thanked Jack for getting him involved in running for 2nd Vice President. Tom encouraged all to continue their participation at the annual meeting, to encourage others to attend the meeting, and to become directly involve as an officer of the association.

2nd Vice President Nich DeMarte, Sr., Eastern NY

Nick reviewed the 2013-14 NIHOA test and the increase in membership taking the test online as compared to the previous year. He noted for the 2014-15 test the USA Hockey section would be eliminated. He provided an overview of the information that can be provided to chapter coordinators on the results of the tests. Nick asked that if an error is found in the test to notify him so a correction can be made immediately. He asked all present to encourage their chapter members to utilize the NIHOA/Arbiter website.

Dana Lavoie, CIO, New Hampshire, Report

Dana reviewed the homepage of NIHOA.com. He discussed the operational issues Arbiter experienced during January and February noting that Arbiter has been updating various systems to correct the problems. Updates will continue into the spring and are expected to be completed mid-spring. He noted the issues appear to have been caused by rapid growth. Dana reviewed the new member and annual registration processes, both have been streamlined to be more efficient and to reduce the workload of the Secretary-Treasurer. The feature providing for the evaluating of assigned officials by coaches and fellow officials was discussed. Dana noted each chapter is provided with the ability to construct its own chapter specific website, at no additional cost. Chapters develop and input their own content. Dana discussed other available feature and answered questions from the floor.

Correspondence

None received.

Unfinished Business from Previous Meeting

None

NEW BUSINESS

NIHOA Excess Medical, Catastrophic, Liability and D&O Coverage

The Secretary-Treasurer provided an overview of the association's coverage. The coverage provided through NIHOA's excess medical, catastrophic, liability, and D&O remains unchanged. An overview of all coverage can be found on NIHOA's website. Several questions were asked and answered concerning insurance coverage. A question was asked concerning the bonding of the Secretary-Treasurer. It was noted that the Secretary-Treasurer is bonded.

Proposed 2014-15 Budget

The Secretary-Treasurer reviewed the 2013-14 budget and presented the proposed 2014-15 budget. The recommendation of the Secretary-Treasurer was to keep the dues at the 2013-14 level. A motion by Tom Murray, Cape Cod, to accept the budget as presented was made. Eugene Binda, South Shore, MA made a motion to amend the original motion raising the dues to \$48.00. After further discussion a vote of the annual meeting unanimously passed the motion as amended setting the 2014-15 dues at \$48.00.

Honorary Members

A motion by Bill Sidun, Metro NY-NJ, to accept the following individuals as NIHOA honorary members was passed unanimously.

Eastern PA-NJ	New Hampshire
Dennis Smith	Dick Theriault
Ted Gerry	Steven Choate*
	Eric Swenson
Central Mass	Duncan Matthews
John Bain	Wayne Scheyd
Eastern NY	Cape Cod
Alex Dell	John "Jack" Donahue
John Becker, Sr,	
Connecticut	
Frank "Whitie" Benson	

* Indicates deceased member

Election of Officers

The following individuals were presented as candidates for the positions of:

2nd Vice President (One Year Term)

Nick DeMarte, Sr., Eastern NY

Secretary-Treasurer (Three Year Term)

Michael Komich, Maine

As there were no other candidates for the above positions the Secretary-Treasurer cast one vote for each candidate.

Reports of Chapters

Chapters continue to volunteer their time and resources in support of various activities in their communities. Berkshire's officials have volunteered their officiating time in support of the Kip Kitchridge Tournament that has been around for more years than I care to remember. Westchester has established a scholarship in the memory of Horton Shaw, who was for many years the chapter's Secretary. Several other chapters also provide scholarships.

Many chapters are now utilizing the 2R+1L for high school tournament play, with several using the 2R+1L during the regular season. With the demands of the 2R+1L at the high school level and the 2R+2L at the NCAA Division III level

chapters are now pressed to increase their ranks. Chapters continue activities to market and recruit new members, both men and women. Several chapters noted in their reports that they are now increasing the chapters' efforts in the area of training, both on and off of the ice. Increasingly, the NIHOA/Arbiter website is being used to test new candidates for membership on-line. Also, officials are being evaluated on-line via the website. The South Shore chapter through the use of retired chapter members has established an observing program.

And, New Hampshire requires officials to contact their game partners prior to the game. Great idea. And, you had better not miss a contact or you will hear from Pierre (Belanger).

Chapter Milestones Noted

Bill Sidun, Metro NY-NJ, was inducted in to the NJ High School Ice Hockey Hall of Fame.

Laura Johnson, Western NY, officiated at the 2014 Winter Olympics.

Secretary-Treasurer's Note

Tom Lynch, South Shore, and I have joked a little (Tom has been the joker) as to how long ago we met. But since we first met, all those many years ago, until last year Tom has missed only one annual meeting. As much as Tom wanted to attend this year's meeting he was unable to do so. It was not for lack of desire for as has been noted by Mike Ross, Eastern PA-NJ, Tom has NIHOA in his veins. For me it would have been great to have him at my last meeting as Secretary-Treasurer. Hopefully, Tom will make the 2015 meeting which will be NIHOA's 60th annual meeting, along with his long time sidekick Bob Powers, South Shore. To both of these find gentlemen who have given so much to NIHOA a tip of the hockey helmet, 'Be safe & be well'.

2015 Annual Meeting

The 2015 Annual Meeting will be held in Providence, RI or Manchester, NH on March 28, 2015, both are sites of 2015 NCAA Regional Tournaments. The Executive Board to determine the location of the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John J. Doherty, Jr. Secretary-Treasurer