

**Tri State Council of Figure Skating Clubs**

Annual Meeting

Saturday, June 7, 2003

Sam B's Restaurant

Bowling Green, Ohio

The Meeting was called to order at 10:30 AM, by President Steve Wolkin.

Steve introduced Holly Jinks, Treasurer and Maureen Dalton, Secretary.

As minutes of the last Annual Meeting had been mailed previously, and also included in the booklets handed out at this meeting, there being no additions or corrections, the motion was made by Bill Wall and seconded by Holly Jinks that they be approved as written.

Steve mentioned the following reports handed out separately:

President's Report

Agenda for the Meeting

The Tri States Freeskating Competition Report

Minutes from the Mid Year Meeting

Mentor Financial Report

President's Report:

There were certain issues that Steve believed should be discussed at the Annual Meeting:

1. The determination of the various splits in profit between the Clubs and Tri States.

Tri States Synchronized Competition: 50/50 split

Tri States Freeskating Competition: 60/40 split

2. What constitutes the gross receipts?
3. What constitutes reportable expenses?
4. Should we adopt a form financial report?
5. Competition Dates

All of the above issues brought about stimulating exchanges of ideas and much discussion, especially with regards to what constitutes the gross receipts and reportable expenses? An initial suggestion was to use the USFSA Form. It was concluded that we will adopt a "form" financial report (similar to the one included in the booklet with some changes). We will also note on this form some of the details that should be identical and consistent to running competitions on this form. We should also note on this form the following:

Number of Starts

Hours of Competition Ice

Hours of Practice Ice

Number of Officials

Contact Person

With regards to the Competition Dates: Historically the Freeskating Competition and Synchronized Competition were to take place at certain times of the year. Due to the extensive competition schedule that now exists should we give further thought to when the competitions should take place in order to maximize the number of skaters who will enter the competitions? It was suggested that we apply to be one of the Future Champion Series Competitions, as that might increase numbers. A suggestion was made that possibly we could move our bids 2 years out - and after someone mentioned that for some clubs it would be difficult to secure ice that far out on the calendar, a follow up suggestion was made that we should send the bid forms out earlier - and if a club is interested in bidding at the Annual Meeting - we could send out notices, note on the website, emails - who is interested in bidding.

P.S. It was noted at this meeting - there was only one bid for the Freeskating Competition and if two of the clubs had known this - they would have bid on the Freeskating Competition as well as the Synchronized Competition.

Also - over the last few years, Indiana's participation in this Tri States Council and competitions has dwindled. Is there anything that we can do to reverse this trend? After much discussion it was concluded that the competitions should remain where they are and we should consider trying to increase the numbers some other way. We should try to mandate in some fashion - more club participation. - two or three people to put a report together to submit to this Tri States body. (Steve Wolkin, Bill Estey.)

At the meeting held at the Mentor Synchronized Skating Competition there was a discussion by the Chief Referee John Chrien relating to whether or not the competition announcement should be reviewed and approved prior to submission to competitors? It was agreed by all – and substantiated by referring to the USFSA Rulebook – that ALL competition announcements MUST go to the Chief Referee, and approved, before they are printed and mailed to competitors. (This rule will be placed on the Tri States Bid Form) It was agreed also that there should be an appropriate time deadline. Spring Competition Announcements should be worked on in the Fall. No later than six months prior to competition – the announcement must go to the Chief Referee. Final approval should be expected within 21 days after that.

Two other issues from that meeting: Although we don't want to exclude "On Ice Presentation of Medals", we are reminded that this can be a costly additional expense –and certainly not required. The issue of mandating that the competitors book their lodging through the host club was also mentioned, causing some problems this past year. It was noted that the host club cannot and should not mandate this type of arrangement.

The subject of funding skaters, and distribution of checks, and the participation in Tri States brought about the formation of a committee to be chaired by Maureen Dalton, and members Gene Simoni, Susan McKendrick, Marti Drabing. (Michigan and Ohio Vice Presidents will be informed and included as well). We have a distribution / participation issue, and this committee should meet during the next calendar year and come up with some ideas and suggestions and present them to the Tri States Membership at next year's meeting.

Vice President Report OHIO – John Chrien

Concern about getting delegates to the Tri States Meetings – getting skaters to the competitions, what our conduct is going to be as a result of 12/4 passing at Governing Council. Michigan and Ohio will be represented in two different regions – we need to be more proactive – there are more things to think about when the two regions present themselves. How do we participate and handle all these things. How do we get more interested individuals to come to us? And how can we help them? Mandatory attendance? Should clubs show up to receive their award checks?

We spoke about the Mid Year Meeting and getting it back on the calendar – at the Synchronized Competition in February. Possibly a Mid Year Mailing? A Quarterly Report of some kind?

Vice President Report MICHIGAN – Denise Simoni (Denise informed us she could not be present at this meeting.)

Vice President Report INDIANA – No Report

Vice President Report Western Pennsylvania – No Report

#### **Treasurer's Report – Holly Jinks**

Holly submitted several reports for this meeting.

Checking Account - Starting Balance: \$13672.18

Expenses (Music Repair/Equipment, Annual Meeting, Website, Awards) - \$6721.07

Income (Dues, Music Rental, Tri State Medals Repayment) - \$5621.20

Ending Balance: \$12,342.27

OCC Cash Reserves

Starting Balance: 26394.46

Earnings: 170.64

Ending Balance: \$26,565.10

Holly also presented the Financial Report from the 2003 Tri States Synchronized Skating Competition held at Mentor Figure Skating Club February 15, 2003

Reportable Income: \$15,817.00

Reportable Expenses: \$10,438.21

Net Gain: \$5,378.79

Profit to Tri State Council: \$2,689.40

There was also a very detailed report on the Awards given to the skaters in our Tri States area. Holly also mentioned that there are some clubs that have NOT cashed the awards checks – noting the difference in the award monies cleared through the bank and the monies noted on the awards report.

There being no additions and the correction of \$1850.00 for 2002 Dues Collected after 6-1-2002 (not 2001) for a total of 48 clubs. Motion was made by Sheryl Grim and seconded by Linda Brown to accept the Treasurer's Report as written. Motion approved.

Some suggestions

After Sectionals is over – the treasurer sends out emails to appropriate clubs that are eligible for awards – to please let us know names and appropriate addresses for the checks to go out to skaters. When we hear BACK from the clubs the checks will be mailed. Copy sent to the President of the Club. Follow up to be done by Vice Presidents. We have an address at the bottom of the membership form – possibly we need to send a copy there as well.

#### **Secretary's Report – Maureen Dalton**

Maureen mentioned several mailings this past year – as normal – as well as website reports and lots of emails. Everyone attending the Annual Meeting received a Booklet of the previous year's activities and reports from various committees. Maureen read correspondence from Barry Doren of the Summit Skating Club with regards to their situation. (Their club has been asked to leave (without any notice or warning) to vacate the rink.) The Summit Skating Club is asking clubs to not give sanctions to the Summit Rink. It was motioned by Joy Cunningham and seconded by Marti Drabing that we send a letter of support to them. Motion approved.

#### **Medals Report – Bill Estey**

Bill showed the large trophy for Tri States as well as the individual plaques that are handed out. These are displayed at competitions. Bill also brought the medals for freeskating and synchronized competitors as well as the "original" medal that was used at Tri States many years ago. Bill suggested that we give out only one "level" award in the future. It is getting too difficult separating the points between the high and low categories.

It was motioned by Ann Dougherty and seconded by John Chrien that we have only one grouping by points instead of high and low. Motion passed.

#### **Competitions Reports – Bill Wall**

Bill read his report out loud regarding the Synchronized Competition at Mentor and the Freeskating Competition at Kalamazoo.

#### **Music Report – Bill Goen**

Two reports were available for reading in the booklet – one from Bill Goen from Michigan and the other from Jim Cunningham from Ohio. Together all the music officials did about 32 competitions. JoAnn Eastman and Doreen Young are now both retired and available for more competition work. As the Indiana Music Equipment was sitting idle – it was moved to Western Michigan and Alan Davis is utilizing it. That particular equipment does NOT have a CD Player.

The Tape Decks are 20+ years old – showing signs of deterioration.

Motion made by Ann Dougherty and seconded by Linda Brown to purchase a new CD player for the equipment in Grand Rapids (Alan Davis) and a tape deck to replace John Toll's in Ohio –for up to \$500.00 each. Motion passed.

#### **Competition Bids**

Freeskating Competition:

The Skating Club of Novi being the only club bidding on the Freeskating Competition – they will host the competition April 15 – 18, 2004 at the Novi Ice Arena in Novi, Michigan.

Synchro Competition:

Three clubs bid on the Synchronized Competition:

Bowling Green FSC

Ice 175.00 per hour

Dates 2-20 and 2-21, 2004

4500 Seating Capacity

Twin Bays Skating Club, Traverse City Mi

Ice 160.00 per hour

Dates February 14-15, 2004

Two rinks – 469 and 833

Dearborn FSC

Ice 175.00 per hour

Dates 2-20 and 2-21, 2004

1250 and 500

**The Synchronized Competition was awarded to the Twin Bays Skating Club in Traverse City, Michigan.**

It was motioned by John Chrien and seconded by Bill Goen that Tony Todd's name be placed on the Tri States Memorial Trophy. Motion Passed.

Regarding On Ice Presentation of Awards. Cost has to be considered. Concern about teams requesting medals because they have to leave – and aren't available for the awards ceremony. The Chief Referee and Contact Person for the competition need to be very clear about how the event is scheduled for awards.

**Tri States Nomination of Officers:**

John Chrien (VP of Ohio after consultation with Denise Simoni VP of Michigan) presented the slate of officers for the 2003-2004 Tri States season:

Bill Coyle, President  
Maureen Dalton, Secretary  
Denise Simoni, Treasurer

Bill Wall nominated Steve Wolkin for President. Joy Cunningham moved to close the nominations.

Each office was taken separately. The results of the voting was as follows;

**President – Steve Wolkin**  
**Secretary – Maureen Dalton**  
**Treasurer – Denise Simoni**

Everyone split up into State Caucus groups for the following results:

**Michigan – Brian Peltz (Dearborn FSC)**  
**Ohio – John Chrien (Shaker Heights FSC)**  
Indiana – declared open for the next year  
Western Pennsylvania – declared open for the next year

**Report on Governing Council – Lainie DeMore**

The Club Management Seminar is going to be October 25, 2003 in the Detroit area – probably at the Crown Plaza Hotel at the airport. Clubs are strongly urged to participate. The clubs that have participated in the seminar so far are raving about it.

The charge is \$50.00 per person – for a 1-1/2 day Seminar.

Chuck Foster is the new President of the USFSA and by all indications doing a wonderful job trying to keep in touch with the grass roots. He was previously on the Olympic Committee and in the USFSA Hall of Fame. Terry Kollar from Ohio is the new USFSA Treasurer. Please see the USFSA website for more details. 12/4 passed – so Michigan is looking at being a Region of it's own. Next year's meeting is in San Diego, California May 4 – 8<sup>th</sup>. The Grievance process has to be included in club bylaws by 2004. If you file a grievance – after showing you have tried to work it out by yourself – it will cost you \$125.00. Coaches can not only be on club Boards – but they can be officers. They just can't be a majority on the board. Ed Mann is working on the "new and improved" rulebook which should be out NEXT year. Lainie strongly urges all members to be aware of those nomination forms that come in the mail the beginning of each year – to the clubs. Take a look at them – consider them – and offer names from your clubs for positions on these forms.

Tri States Mid Year Meeting: at the Synchronized Competition at Twin Bays Figure Skating Club in February. More details on the Tri States Website – and in the mail.

**Old Business:**

The Freeskating Competition that was held at Greenbrier FSC in 2002. The Greenbrier FSC is no longer a club. The rink is closed. The club has moved to Strongsville and they operate out of the Strongsville rink. The Financial report had been generated by Greenbrier and went to Westshore – they were the co-hosts. Someone needs to be in contact with them to provide more information. Two letters have been sent by the Tri States Treasurer (Holly Jinks) asking for resolution and answers and a check. When we receive final reconciliation we should email the results to the members. Steve Wolkin will affect a resolution.

**Accounting School**

September 28, 2003 at the Detroit Skating Club

**Judges School**

No mention of any scheduled at this time

**Annual Meeting for 2004 – First Saturday in June – the 5<sup>th</sup>.**

Motion to Close the Meeting by Bill Wall

Seconded by Linda Brown

Motion Passed