

2023 USA Softball of CT Annual Meeting Summary 01110

Dec. 9, 2023 Middletown Sports Hall of Fame Building 58 Bernie O'Rourke Dr. Middletown, CT

Called to Order at 10 am by President Pat Patusky. A Moment of Silence was observed for absent members Pat Austin and Tony Roberto and Cliff Larose's Dad. We got a thank you note from the Middletown American Legion program. Attendance: Patusky, Koritkoski, Wilkison, Neuman, D. Fanera, M. Fanera, Uluski, Hynes, Cavataro, Phillips, Post, Kolitz, Rosini, Mohr, Capp, Faulkner, Pierson.

The 2022, Meeting minutes were accepted as emailed. Neuman/Kolitz

The 2023 Treasurer's report was accepted Kolitz/Capp

Hall of Fame Report: Bill Uluski reports that the events were successful a Whitney Farms and we plan to go back there in 2024 in October. Rich Wilkison reports that applications are available and can be found on our state website, usasoftballct.com. John Stratton and Sikorsky Aircraft, both of Stratford, were inducted into our National H of F. They presented themselves remarkably well while receiving the awards and visiting the National Hall of Fame complex in Oklahoma City. It has been requested that we get the induction speeches to the membership. The ceremony video is available on usasoftball.com.

President's Report: Pat Patusky remains as a resident of Stratford. She did have an issue with her computer that put her out of action for several months this year. Those issues have now been resolved. Pat and Stephanie Phillips have moved our Treasury and bank accounts into Quickbooks. The intent is to make our treasury more transparent and easier to use and monitor. They have also obtained a Constant Contact program. We plan to put this into use by early January 2024. Presently they ask all USA Softball of CT leaders to send her email addresses of our clients' contacts. We need to assist her in creating a database. She will also send requests for information that we will send to our clients and friends about quarterly at this time. Our treasury is strong at this time. Please contact Pat and/or Hank with ideas and recommendations as to what we could do with our "extra" funds. It is recommended that we pursue to become a 501 C3 organization.

Commissioner's Report: Hank Koritkoski informs the group that he has been out of commission for 2-3 months due to an injury. He thanks the group for carrying on in his absence and reminds the group that he needs and is thankful for the support he receives when needed. Hank Reports that the use of Tourney Machine and Sports Engine by the National Office is currently on hold due to delivery issues. Registerusasoftball.com and tournamentusasoftball.com have been improved and are currently being used for tournament items and registration purposes. Hank asks that CT leaders use and become familiar with our state website, usasoftballct.com that has links to everything our clients need to have. It is again stressed that we need adult team registrations. Our liability insurance benefit at no additional cost is an excellent benefit. We know that our leagues want to run their leagues as cost effectively as they can, but we also know that we have the best product to do that. You can also tell our clients that there will be no increases to registrations costs for Adult teams, JO teams or umpires for 2024 and we had no increases in 2023. Congratulations to Glenn Laudenslager, former district commissioner for receiving an award from CPRA for his excellent service to adult leagues in Monroe and neighboring

towns. Welcome to Jeff Davis, who will become district commissioner in North Haven area in place of Sis Cavieliere. Welcome also to Walt Faulkner who has volunteered to take on leadership responsibilities with us moving forward. Rule and score books have been ordered for 2024 and should arrive in CT during January. They do cost the state some money. Can we find sponsors to cover some of these costs? Other states find sponsors for scorebooks and put them in the scorebooks and do quite well with it. Dawn Fanera and Mary Cavaturo have volunteered to improve and/or start up communications in efforts to build our women's tournament programs. We do need to improve our women's and COED tournament programs. The 2024 new code and rule changes were addressed.

UIC report: Cliff Larose and Brad Sanchez did not attend this meeting. Cliff is still battling with his injuries and Brad had another commitment. Brad ran for Reg. 1 UIC and lost out to NJ umpire John Cambridge in a close election. Koritkoski believes that we should have structured game fees for JO umpires based on 2 umpire system for timed games in our sanctions tournaments. JO assigners present state that different parts of our state get higher fees than others and baseball gets more than softball. These are 2 items that add to our umpire shortages. After discussion, CT will inform our tournament directors and assigners that we will make our game fee for each of 2 umpires working timed games \$75, which is a \$5 increase from last year. Hank also reminds us that USA Umpires need to be registered yearly at \$45 to the state. Please have individual umpires contact an existing board to do so. They also need to go to registerusasoftball.com to get a yearly background check and Safe Sport updated certification. Let it be noted that we welcome Safe Sport certification, but also would like all other officials doing youth sports to be SS certified, and not just governing bodies. It would help if umpires needed to only have a scaled down version of Safe Sport as they are always in the presence of coaches and other adults. Hank has a form letter that can be sent to your legislators to support this requirement.

JO Commissioner report: Jessica Caro did not attend. Jessica also was suffering through an injury this year and was out of commission for multiple months. We are happy that we now are adding Rec. leagues to our registrations under Jessica's leadership. We have interest from North Haven, Branford and East Haven. Our National Office and Bolinger Insurance are encouraging all JO teams and players to Individually Register moving forward. Teams may still register as Standalone teams, but if they use or Bolinger insurance, they will not get additionally insured packages for non USA Softball events. It is actually more cost effective (less expensive) to individually register (\$15.75 pp) than to standalone register (\$40) and purchase insurance (\$240). Also, note that our Bollinger is the best coverage available anywhere for youth programs. FPN currently offers team insurance and requires additionally insured and their coverage is not close to what we offer.

Adult Tournament Director's Report: Dave Reno did not attend. We had an issue in our State Tournament this year. This issue has not gone away. This is causing Dave much stress, frustration and anxiety. He states that this has also become an umpire issue. Dave is not sure how or if he can continue as adult tournament director. We also know that we need to upgrade our women's and COED tournament programs. Dave does want to continue with registering our adult teams. Hank reports that we have had offers to take over as adult tournament directors from outside of our organization. I have not yet opened up this position. Dave has done a remarkably good job in this role up to now.

Player Rep report: Angelo Santomassimo has resigned from this position. It is currently vacant. We will move to fill this position early in 2024. A new position of Athlete Rep. has been created by 2024 Code. We will also look to fill this position early in 2024.

Adjourned at 12pm

Respectfully submitted,

Acting Secretary

Henry "Hank" Koritkoski