

SMOA GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, December 5, 2007

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by President Larry Brewer. Those in attendance were Jim Foster (VP), Denny Ostyn (Treasurer), John Ignacio (Secretary), and members Randy Bicard, Richard Cox, Dan Covey, Randy Gross, Roger Hostetler, Todd Judd, Terry Kauffman, Randy Melvin, Jim Nate, Dave Negron, Jerry Nitz, Steve Petlick, Tom Russom, Rick Ryno, Marty Smallbone, David Sprague, Tom Underwood, Bryan Wild and Terry Myers (invited guest) .

Larry Brewer began his opening remarks by asking if we were listening to W I I F M. What's In It For Me. We should all ask ourselves that question about WHY we officiate and be honest about the reasons and use that information to improve ourselves as officials.

John Ignacio handed out the minutes from the last meeting and there was a motion from Bryan Wild to accept the minutes with a correction of a typographical error to the spelling of Marty Smallbone's first name (evidently he doesn't go by MARY too often). Rick Ryno seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Denny Ostyn presented the treasurer's report. SMOA has an account balance of \$2,454.52 (including the \$120 in dues received at the meeting) with no outstanding bills dues. Steve Petlick moved to accept the report and the motion was seconded by Randy Bicard. The motion carried.

Two new members were presented for membership, John Lee from Niles and John Long from South Haven. Each member told a little about himself and Rick Ryno moved that they both be accepted as SMOA members. Dick Cox seconded the motion and both were voted into SMOA by the members present.

Randy Gross talked about the website and the fact that he STILL had not received information from most of the members as previously requested to make the website what we would like it to be. Bryan Wild said he had his camera with him and would take pictures of those that needed one for the website after the meeting and send them to Randy. Randy stated he would wait a while and then just LIST those that have not sent in pictures or biographical information.

Bryan Wild (football), Rick Ryno (volleyball), Jerry Nitz (girl's basketball) and Terry Myers (baseball) talked about their duties as assignors and stressed the importance for ALL members to keep their availability calendars updated and to check the website OFTEN. Bryan stated the he is taking over the Southwest Athletic Conference as assignor and urged members to let him know of any games they had been given by the previous assignor. A rather lengthy discussion ensued when Bryan said he received a list of "approved crews" from each school in the conference. His intention was to become familiar with who the crews were that were working the conference, but it was interpreted by most of the members that this was like the Ads choosing their officials. Bryan stated that this was just a guideline and by no means used as a final decision as to which crews would work those games. Rick Ryno talked about the troubles the new volleyball season presented as far as officials went, and he stated that too many times officials would drop from a volleyball game after the assignment was accepted and then find a replacement that might not have the experience that the original official assigned to the contest has. Jerry reported that TOO MANY officials are turning back games once accepted and that should STOP. He also said that too many officials are NOT checking the website and accepting games in a timely manner. Larry Brewer brought up the point that he would like to see the assignors post a PROCEDURE for turning back a game if the official HAS TO TURN BACK THE GAME. After some discussion it was decided that the assignors would send the info to Randy Gross and he would post it on the association website. Jerry also stated that some officials are finding someone to work for them without telling the Athletic Director of the host school. This is NOT GOOD. We all know this will lead to MORE schools not having checks for us come game day. Terry Myers began by stressing the importance of being at clinics and meetings so he can "see" how officials work. He admitted he was preaching to the choir, but really stressed the importance of attending the clinics and meetings. Terry also indicated the in the Lakeland Conference pay rates have increased to \$85 for a varsity double header (7 innings per game) and \$75 for a

junior varsity double header (5 innings per game). Tom Russom brought up a situation where the coaches wanted to continue playing after the “mercy rule” had been reached and asked what do we as officials do. Terry stated the game is OVER and officials should not work in ANY capacity (including calling it a “scrimmage”) after the mercy rules has been reached. This just opens us up to too much liability.

Marty Smallbone talked about football training and mentioned the crews and individuals who had been selected for the playoffs. It was a good year for our association. Randy Gross, Bryan Henry and Larry Monsma had worked the finals and Randy Bicard and Erik Parker the semi-finals. Marty’s crew had first and third round games, Bryan Wild’s crew had two playoff games and Rick Ryno’s crew had a first round game. Bryan Wild brought up the fact that the SMOA Football Clinics held last summer were very successful and after some discussion it was decided to have these clines again as well as a meeting or two BEFORE the season starts. Ken Baratta and Marty Smallbone will put together the meeting schedule.

A five-member committee was formed to nominate officials for both Boy’s and Girl’s Basketball post-season assignments. Those on the committee are Jerry Nitz, Randy Melvin, David Sprague, Dan Covey and John Ignacio. This committee will meet and make the nominations and turn them in to the MHSAA before the December 17, 2007 deadline.

John Ignacio spoke about the death of fellow official Tom Hewitt and suggested that SMOA have a scholarship awarded in Tom’s name. After some discussion it was decided that a committee would be formed to put together this scholarship and discuss with it with Tom’s wife. It was also decided that the recipient should be a Dowagiac Union High School student since Tom taught there for so many years. John Ignacio, Denny Ostyn and Rick Ryno will serve on the committee. The Fruitbelt Association, at their last meeting, agreed to match whatever SMOA came up with for the scholarship. It was decided that SMOA would donate \$500. The motion was made by Randy Gross and seconded by Richard Cox. The motion carried.

The next SMOA General Meeting will be Monday, April 7th, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. at Dowagiac Union High School.

The motion to adjourn was made by Dan Covey and seconded by Randy Bicard. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 8:25.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.