

**MINUTES OF THE
NATIONAL FASTPITCH COACHES ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

New Orleans, LA

Those present were:

Carrie Austgen, Deer Park High School (TX), High School Representative
Gary Bryce, Wayne State, University, Division II Representative
Pat Conlan, Georgetown University, Fifth Vice President
Boo De Oliveira, Purdue University, Second Vice
Kris Ganeff, University of Notre Dame, Third Vice President
Yvette Girouard, Coach Emeriti Representative
Joanna Lane, Central Michigan University, Fourth Vice President
Diane Miller, University of Nebraska, Assistant Coach Representative
Patrick Murphy, University of Alabama, Past President
Lisa Navas, University of South Carolina, First Vice President
Diana Pepin, Eastern Connecticut State University, Division III Representative
Natalie Poole, University of Memphis, Division I Representative
Rhonda Revelle, University of Nebraska, President
Kevin Shelton, Texas Glory, Travel Ball Representative
LeeAnn Taylor, San Diego City College, Cal JC Representative
Hal Wynn, Faulkner University, NAIA Representative
Joe Yegge, Kirkwood Community College, NJCAA Representative

Emily Allard, NFCA Manager of Marketing
Carol Bruggeman, NFCA Executive Director
Samantha Ekstrand, NFCA Legal Advisory Services
Kelley Fisher, NFCA Special Projects
Katelyn Funchess, NFCA Membership Services Coordinator
Jamie Hazel, NFCA Director of Finances Team Membership & Events Team Member
Annie Heskett, NFCA Intern
Dave Hines, NFCA Director of Publications
Joni Schmidt, NFCA Membership Services Specialist
Brian Stanley, NFCA Director of Media Relations
Michelle Vasquez, NFCA Director of Events

Also in attendance:

Karen Weekly, University of Tennessee, Incoming NFCA President
Larissa Anderson, Hofstra University, Incoming Fourth Vice President

- I. Convention discussion and organization of event
- II. Membership
 - a. Membership increase to almost 4,300
 - b. Group membership
 - i. Travel ball/youth membership boost when website is fixed through Honeywick
 - c. Possibility of tracking membership
 - i. Posting members' years/loyalty
 - d. Attempting to track history
 - i. Managing membership start dates
 - ii. Checking membership directory
 - e. Map of Members
 - i. Attempting to track potential locations
 - ii. Looking to grow high school and travel ball membership
- III. Statement of Activity
 - a. NFCA is in a positive position for 15-16, significant change from 14-15.
- IV. New advertising
 - a. Trailer
 - b. Website
 - c. Sponsors
- V. Additions
 - a. Coaches Clinics
 - b. Summer Camps
 - c. CoachTube
 - d. Job Postings
- VI. Cost efficiency (Jamie Hazel)
 - a. Cutting costs
 - b. Eliminating bulk mailings
 - c. Credit Card Points
 - d. Going Green
 - e. Marriott Points
 - f. Utilizing contacts
 - g. Making more efficient/smarter decisions
 - h. Paychex
 - i. 2/3 of members opt for digital options
- VII. Coaches college
 - a. Profit margins
 - b. Difference between Clinic and College
 - c. Question raised: NFCC classes to be run at convention only
 - d. Big Picture: possibly parallel soccer's structure
 - e. Filming Classes
 - f. Using CEU's to promote the classes
- VIII. Convention Topics

- a. Rules cycle year
 - b. NCAA rules committee
 - i. Proposals can be sent in at any time
 - ii. Anyone can submit
 - iii. High percentage about pitching
 - iv. Fixing survey timing
 - c. Penalty for the illegal pitch
 - d. Using membership to show support to rules committee
 - e. Midyear transfers (Joe Yegge)
 - f. Possibility of Vicky presenting at Softball Summit rather than caucus meetings (Karen Weekly)
 - i. Summit one of three presentations for all memberships (Joanna Lane)
 - ii. Discussing time allotments
 - iii. DI moved to small group forums at the end of caucus
 - iv. Move to discuss rule changes and then hot topics (Natalie Poole)
 - g. Softball Summit: bring up general topics (Natalie Poole)
 - i. Use Summit to address what was/wasn't supported
 - ii. Compare to other divisions
 - h. Natalie Poole lists all rules change topics
 - i. Inviting Rules Committee to attend convention
 - j. Travel ball caucus takes place after Summit which causes issues for TB members (Kevin Shelton)
 - k. Status of legislation: How it looks in real life (Rhonda Revelle)
 - i. May need to focus on things we can affect more
 - ii. Topics that are already moving are intentionally left off (Joanna Lane)
 - iii. DI HCC will discuss and prioritize prior to caucus (Karen Weekly & Natalie Poole)
 - l. Lobby your way into proposals (Samantha Ekstrand)
 - i. 33 recruiting proposals
 - ii. Recruiting calendar voted on in April
- IX. Special Projects (Kelley Fisher)
- a. Coordinated transition of database
 - b. Committee project
 - c. Transition of the High School liaison to Joni
 - d. Currently evaluating the HS AA
 - e. Evaluate the assistant coach group
 - i. Identify needs
 - f. Evaluating Coach Emeriti Group
 - i. Keep them involved
 - g. Evaluating and researching committees/committee comparisons
 - i. Attachment A - Committee Comparison
 - 1. NFCA has 276 elected positions
 - 2. Other associations appoint percentage of positions
 - ii. NFCA tailors every ballot for every group

- iii. No formal removal process or limit on number of committees one person can serve on.
- iv. Challenges and Inefficiencies
 - 1. Multiple committees
 - 2. Large groups
 - 3. Overlapping functionalities
 - 4. No affiliate involvement
 - 5. System to elect the chair
 - 6. Standing committees with specific responsibilities
- v. Proposed recommendation for change
 - 1. Staff and Board can look to develop change moving forward
 - 2. Free up blocks at Convention
 - 3. Other recommendations
- vi. Bylaws update
 - 1. Committee driven
 - 2. Look at committees at convention and take note of how many are there (Boo De Oliveira)
 - 3. Lacrosse uses Bios to describe the reason they should be elected (Kelley Fisher)
 - 4. Will continue to resolve before August to be prepare for Bylaw change proposal
 - 5. Flaws of the bylaws are their specificity (Samantha Ekstrand)
 - 6. Will we able to vote online? (Karen Weekly)
 - 7. Diversity Committee
 - a. New major implementations this year with a committed chair
 - i. Grant
 - ii. Inner City Camp
 - 8. Rules Committee
 - a. NFCA Rules Committee makes recommendations to NCAA Rules Committee
 - 9. Feed our vision and core values (Karen Weekly)
 - 10. Based on number of completed surveys it may be necessary to appoint. (Pat Conlan)
 - a. Possibility of moving to a 50/50 appointment/vote

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Michelle Vasquez, NFCA Director of Events

Also in attendance:

Karen Weekly, University of Tennessee, Incoming NFCA President

Not in attendance:

Patrick Murphy, University of Alabama, Past President

- I. Convention Review: Rhonda Revelle welcomes the Board and staff
 - a. Member reflection: this Convention was one of inclusivity and sharing
 - b. Various members felt welcome, included, and could feel a positive vibe throughout the Convention.
- II. Carol Bruggeman addresses the board
 - a. Final estimated number: 1594
- III. NFCA Future Convention Dates
 - a. 2017 Las Vegas
 - b. 2018 Chicago
 - c. 2019 Atlantic City
 - d. 2020 TBD
 - e. 2021 Las Vegas
- IV. Board Report on Convention
 - a. Rhonda Revelle:
 - i. very nice blend of programming
 - ii. Nice amenities: fireside chats, headshots
 - iii. There was something for everyone
 - b. Karen Weekly:
 - i. Great vibe of the convention
 - ii. More time for Division I for Caucus, too reliant on survey.
 - iii. Different tracking to promote change
 - iv. Possible food carts/stand
 - c. Diane Miller:
 - i. Great energy from everyone
 - ii. Fireside chats were successful and creative
 - d. Pat Conlan:
 - i. Very inclusive feel throughout convention and dialogue
 - ii. Food was excellent
 - iii. Attendees seemed very happy
 - iv. There never appeared to be issues to the outside
 - v. 50 minutes may not be enough for some topics
 - 1. Give options to pick topics and go more in depth (Carol Bruggeman)
 - 2. Speakers need to get in a start immediately (Karen Weekly)
 - 3. Implement requirements to sessions: technology or drills (Kris Ganeff)
 - e. Lisa Navas:
 - i. Vibe of convention is an attest to Carol's leadership
 - ii. The hotel issues with food
 - iii. Matt Meuchel needs to be a Pre-Convention speaker
 - iv. Most efficient convention
 - 1. Doing a brunch instead of a breakfast and lunch
 - v. Using the young hitting instructors to run/help fireside chat

- f. Joe Yegge:
 - i. Interactions between divisions have grown
 - ii. Mentoring session for lower divisions is difficult when the people move around.
 - 1. The choice is nice but difficult for each side. (LeeAnn Taylor)
- g. LeAnn Taylor:
 - i. Great theme and attention to details
 - ii. Travel mug was a great gift
 - iii. The App was a huge hit among attendees and board
 - 1. Very few attendees asked for speaker outlines or programs (Jamie Hazel)
- h. Hal Wynn:
 - i. App was easy to use and great addition
 - ii. NAIA was very happy Carol stopped by
 - iii. Smoothest convention
 - iv. The energy was totally different
 - v. Space was long and difficult to see in the front without the extra screens
- i. Gary Bryce:
 - i. DII Caucus was very efficient and had a high number of attendees
 - ii. Best convention
 - iii. Need to do more with the Emeriti
- j. Diana Pepin:
 - i. DIII Caucus went very well and dividing by regions was well taken
 - ii. Mentoring session went well
 - 1. Curb back on the money during session
 - 2. Money in the mentoring session is a balancing act (Rhonda Revelle)
 - 3. Envelopes on the table were helpful
 - iii. Addition of speakers to help overall athlete
 - 1. Mental health
 - 2. Nutrition
- k. Natalie Poole:
 - i. The team worked with positivity
 - ii. App worked wonderfully
 - iii. Director of Ops session was fantastic
 - 1. Variety of coaches/director of ops attended
 - iv. DI Caucus
 - 1. Power 5 and autonomy makes it difficult to discuss and generate support.
 - a. Are the topics given by members beforehand relevant?
 - b. Power 5 coaches do not need to discuss
 - c. We need the discussion to hear all the voices and create the surveys (Carol Bruggeman)

- d. The Power 5 does not feel they have separate power, it is inefficient to have everyone in the BCS meeting but it is also necessary to include everyone in an open caucus (Karen Weekly)
 - e. Open the floor to discuss new topics in the smaller groups but need to circle back
 - i. 8:00 a.m. continuation is not a good time (Karen Weekly)
 - ii. Need a separate meeting for the follow up post discussion to create decision making here (Karen Weekly)
 - iii. Rule changes and the focus of discussions are not always best for softball because they represent Division I (Gary Bryce)
 - iv. Exposure is growing the game (Boo De Oliveira)
- v. Samantha Ekstrand
 - 1. Office hours went very well
- vi. Boo de Oliveira:
 - 1. Mentoring session went well
 - a. Triangle email was great idea
 - b. Envelopes worked well
 - 2. Preconvention events went well
 - 3. Events were professional
 - 4. Drills, Drills, Drills
 - a. Make videos mandatory
 - 5. Include Sam in Convention
 - a. Address the attendees
 - 6. Travel Ball Caucus before the summit
 - 7. Panel of Champions
 - 8. Carol is amazing and is changing the organization
 - a. Staff reflects their leadership
 - 9. Pay extra to have dinner with a coach
- vii. Kris Ganefff
 - 1. Carol promoted inclusivity and positivity
- viii. Kevin Shelton:
 - 1. Travel Ball and High School before the summit to help inform members
 - a. Additional time
 - 2. Live questioning was a great addition
 - 3. More analytical and statistical information
 - 4. More materials
 - 5. Recommend Randy Schneider as a speaker

- 6. Live streaming of caucus or possible fireside chat
 - a. Travel ball/youth coaches would pay to hear
 - b. Post-convention videos
 - c. Facebook live
 - ix. Yvette Girouard:
 - 1. Director of Ops meeting was successful
 - 2. Great energy by Emily in exhibit hall
 - 3. Emeriti Panel
 - 4. Add on passes for kids or family members
 - 5. Great staff energy
- V. Rules Caucus
 - a. Carol Bruggeman suggests to have a separate meeting/caucus for Rules
- VI. Staff Reports
 - a. Joanna Lane: Education & Programming
 - i. Start a new podcast
 - 1. Weekly educational series
 - ii. Continuing Tip Tuesdays
 - 1. Not always drills or videos
 - 2. Sharing tips and experiences
 - iii. Coaches Helping Coaches
 - 1. Mentoring & Triangle Service
 - a. Need experienced leaders
 - b. First year pilot program
 - c. Pairings meet at convention
 - iv. NFCC Evaluation
 - v. CEU through TWU
 - 1. Joanna Lane received certification
 - 2. Past Convention units
 - b. Jamie Hazel: Finance
 - i. Looking for local accountants
 - ii. Diversity committee is using funds restricted for them from the past years.
 - iii. Credit cards and points have saved the association money
 - iv. Processes and billing has improved over the past year
 - v. Everything is up to date with building and property
 - vi. Need to create budgets over different areas
 - 1. Continue to evaluate spending
 - vii. Move to tax exempt nationwide
 - viii. Events
 - 1. New events site is improving processes (SDI)

2. 2017 Camps are already posted and people have already registered
 3. Updated camps via feedback
 4. Leadoff Classics
 5. Fastpitch Showdowns
 - a. 100 new members since November
 - b. Tracking to see retention
- c. Katelyn Funchess: Membership
- i. Convention registration and memberships
 - ii. Honeywick
 1. Softball Excellence Year Two
 - iii. 4,000 mark hit this year
 1. Numbers are increasing
 - iv. Strikeout Cancer to be added to Events webpage
 - v. Diversity Committee
 1. Grant
 2. Inner City Camp
 - a. Expansion for next year
- d. Joni Schmidt: Membership
- i. One Membership drive: 167 new members
 - ii. Dear High School and Travel Ball packets
 1. Generates new members
 2. Continue to ask for tournament books
 - iii. New donation option on invoice sheet
 - iv. Implementing new AA process
 - v. Social events targeting High School and Travel Ball
 1. High School speaker
 - vi. Programming geared towards coaches with limited calendar days with their athletes (Emily)
- e. Michelle Vasquez: Events
- i. NFCC
 1. 2016
 - a. 404 – 40
 - b. 402 – 41
 - c. 405 – 60
 - d. 406 – 39
 2. 2017
 - a. Joanna taking over moving forward
 - b. Dates are tentative
 - c. Fall courses: 404 & 405
 - d. Convention courses: 401, 402, 403, 407
 - ii. Camps
 - iii. Coaches Clinic
 1. 2016: 25,000 in profit

- 2. 2017
 - a. Currently 128 signed up
 - b. 6 Exhibitors
- iv. Leadoff Classics
 - 1. Online registration (Diana Pepin)
- v. Convention
 - 1. JC Caucus
 - a. Streamlining AA process
 - b. High attendance and representation
 - 2. 2017 Convention
 - a. Sights, schedule, and planning in January
 - 3. Begin 2020 location solidification
- f. Dave Hines: Media and Publications
 - i. Newspaper largely electronic (2/3)
 - 1. Looking to get into new topics
 - a. Coaching Trees
 - b. Balancing coaching and life
 - c. Legal issues
 - ii. Education & Publications
 - 1. Productive meeting this year at convention
 - iii. Leadoff Classic
 - iv. Social Media
 - v. Advertising
 - 1. Half page ad open
- g. Emily Allard: Marketing
 - i. Revamp and renew "Partnerships"
 - ii. 40 FREE Convention Booths
 - 1. Goal to decrease
 - iii. Relationships with exhibitors
 - iv. Electronic credential
 - v. Booth Policies
 - 1. Exhibitor credential/attendee ticket
 - 2. Sharing booth space
 - 3. Number of additional exhibitor badges
 - vi. Payments online
 - vii. Advanced registration for 2017
 - viii. Loyalty Ranking
 - ix. Advertising
 - 1. Marketing plan for travel ball
 - 2. Sponsorships growing
 - 3. Advertisements running on screens during sessions (Boo De Oliveira)
 - x. Future Conventions
 - 1. Limit/manipulate booth options (Karen Weekly)

2. Demand is high
 3. Credentials for different options
 4. Security in the exhibit hall
- h. Brian Stanley: Media Relations
- i. Convention
 1. Jade Hewitt (photographer) made convention presence easy
 2. DII HCC and Caucus went well
 - ii. App
 1. Easier moving forward
 2. Utilizing live questioning
 - iii. Website
 1. CoachTube
 - iv. Leadoff Classics
 - v. Job postings
 - vi. Media Policy
 1. Creating and implementing policies
 - vii. Honeywick
 1. Nominations online
- i. Samantha Ekstrand
- i. A year in review
 1. Monthly volume
 2. Utilization numbers
 3. 404.8 hours used
 4. Utilized across divisions
 5. Division I salary survey
 6. Working on prioritizing and being responsive
 7. Could extend office hours
 8. Happy to help with bylaw overhaul
 9. Margo Jonker's proactive session was informational
 10. Rewarding aspect of working with NFCA