



Skating Club of Lake Placid Board Meeting 6/28/2022 - ZOOM Virtual Meeting

Meeting ID 807 361 6515

Passcode 087529

Call to Order: 6:37 pm

Roll Call: Anne Bennett (Pres.), Jolletta Yates (V.Pres) Amy Fairchild (Treas.), Christie Sausa (IPP), Ed Minkoff, Ernie Hough

Margaret Hurley excused due to birthday

Linda Flederbach excused due to other board commitment - will be with us in July

Guests: Sarah Jo Damron-Brown, Marc Fenczak, Jeff LaBrake, Valerie Hodgson-Murray

~Gina Abodeely is resigning from the SCLP Board of Directors due to relocation. Anne asked her to supply a formal letter for their records.

Secretary's Report: Anne Bennett

Ed sent calculation error correction in an email regarding amount of skaters at banquet - it should have been 16 skaters for a total of \$80 rather than 13 skaters for a total of \$65.

******Motion by Anne Bennett** to make this correction. It was seconded by Jolletta Yates. Approved by Amy Fairchild, Ernie Hough, and Christie Sausa.

Minutes were reviewed from last meeting, specifically highlighting the new policies for LTS classes including parent presence and policy for dealing with unruly skaters.

******Motion by Anne Bennett** to approve the minutes as amended. It was seconded by Jolletta Yates. Approved by Amy Fairchild, Ernie Hough, and Christie Sausa.

Tests and Membership Report: Christie Sausa

~Virtual tests picking up.

~Requesting expense gift cards for several judges who have been judging over the past two months.

~Further request to distribute the expense gift cards monthly after test deadline rather than waiting to have the amounts approved by the board every two months.

~Christie explained that judges had inquired about receiving the expense gift cards more regularly especially as more tests are accumulated.

~Already has access to Amazon so if approved she can distribute the gift cards herself after each deadline. Explained that it should be under \$150 monthly unless tests REALLY increase, at which point she would share that with the board. Would also send Amy an email reminder monthly post deadline so she is aware of expenditure.

******Motion by Ed Minkoff** to allow Christie Sausa (Test Chair) to purchase and distribute expenses gift cards monthly without waiting for board vote for virtual test judges, and approving proposed expense gift card amounts as presented. It was seconded by Anne Bennett. Approved by Amy Fairchild, Ernie Hough, Christie Sausa, and Joletta Yates.

Action Item: Christie will send expenses gift cards to noted judges via Amazon virtual gift card and from now on will distribute expenses gift cards monthly.

Membership is 194 members as of now, but that will “reset” after June 30th when new membership year begins. Renewals have increased as June 30th approaches. Christie noted that we currently have 35 renewals and 2 new members. She anticipates renewals to continue over the next month.

Treasurer’s Report: Amy Fairchild

~Noted received raffle money from ice show and that membership fees are coming in.

~Membership fees also starting to be paid in large amount to USFS as renewals come in and Christie (Membership) renews them.

******Motion by Anne Bennett** to accept the Treasurer’s Report, seconded by Ernie Hough. Accepted by Ed Minkoff, Amy Fairchild, Christie Sausa, Joletta Yates.

Further updates:

~Bank currently required two signatures on checks. It was discussed at Feb 2022 meeting that this should be reduced to one signature. Rationale is that getting signatories together to sign is logistically challenging. Current signatories are Christie Sausa (IPP), Bethany Kress (IVP), Amy Fairchild (Treas.). New signatories should be Anne Bennett (Pres.) and Joletta Yates (V.Pres) in addition to Amy Fairchild (Treas.). Bethany Kress and Christie Sausa will be removed as signatories as they are no longer officers.

******Motion by Amy Fairchild** to change the two signature requirement to one signature at NBT Bank, with the caveat that an accountant audit the books quarterly/annually as a measure of control. Seconded by Joletta Yates. Accepted by Christie Sausa, Ernie Hough, Anne Bennett, and Ed Minkoff.

~Insurance with ORDA was purchased by Amy, as required by ORDA. However, there are a few changes that need to be made. As per Cindy Dady's (ORDA Risk Manager) email reply 6/28/2022 to Amy via the SCLP box, a waiver of subrogation must be added; abuse and molestation must be covered in the general liability section (else, covered in separate policy); workers compensation policy must be listed if had, if exempt, a CE-200 must be provided; and finally, additional insures must be listed on the certificate as per ORDA policy. NYS ORDA is the certificate holder at 2634 main street Lake Placid, NY 12946, and additional insures are the New York State Olympic Regional Development Authority; The State of New York; The Town of North Elba; and The Town of North Elba Park District.

~Since our policy is through American Specialty via US Figure Skating, Amy has an email out to USFS Member Services to ascertain how these edits can be made. She will be in touch with the BOD when all is resolved.

~Amy also renewed board insurance, which protects board members and officers from personal lawsuit. Policy was due to expire 7/15/2022, renewed policy begins 7/16/2022, so all was done ahead of time.

Action Items:

~Amy will change the two signature requirement to one signature at NBT bank and add/remove signatories when minutes from this meeting are available.

~Amy will notify SCLP BOD when Member Services has made those edits to our insurance policy.

~Amy will be working on a budget/annual forecast for the club to enable strategic planning over the next month.

~February 2022 meeting minutes must be found and eventually added to website.

~Website BOD page needs officers updated and meeting minutes brought up to date.

SkateSafe Compliance

~Amy reported that most board members are either compliant or in the process of completing SkateSafe. Technically should be compliant by 7/1/2022, but do as soon as possible. Absolutely everyone needs to be compliant by Lake Placid Ice Dance Championships/LP Ice Dance International 7/27-29/2022 for volunteering purposes. Background check in particular can take time, so plan accordingly.

~Since Gina is relocating and has resigned from the BOD, she is also vacating her SkateSafe Compliance Chair title. Ed, who had already been SkateSafe Compliance Chair, agreed to step up and resume.

Action Item: Ed Minkoff should be added as SkateSafe Compliance Chairperson on USFS Member's Only.

Summer Ice Scholarship clarification

~At the Banquet, approximately 10 scholarships were awarded to allow selected LTS and Bridge skaters to continue to skate through the summer. There were also other scholarships, valid for LTS programming this upcoming season. Amounts varied. Below were the awards by level and amount:

2021-2022 AWARDS (Proposed)

Tots (\$70 each):

- June Politi and Holden Bennett

Basics (\$100 each):

- Lilian Hobday and Lydia Lawrence

Adults (\$100):

- Joni Gerken & Amanda Gibbs

Bridge (\$250 each): For skaters to skate over the summer 2x/week (\$120/month for 8 sessions x two months for July and August unless they win a separate award) This would get paid directly to ORDA based on some sort of commitment from these skaters that they will skate over the summer.

Criteria: Must have skated all three sessions in a SCLP program and must have consistent attendance.

- Lydia Arey
- Lawson Ciferri
- Elyse Hathaway
- Addison Heading
- Lilian Heidt
- Mirella Kandic
- Kaitlyn Kress
- Kathryn Kress
- Alexa Roberts
- Rachel Rozon
- Abilene Varner

PP-PJ (\$250):

- Willow Wood

Juv-Int (\$250):

- Megan Quinn

Nov-Senior (\$250):

- none

Sportsmanship (\$250):

- Emma Kunkel

~Amy clarified that ORDA rates are still \$20/session or in a package as began this season. Because sessions must be tied to individual user accounts, the Club cannot buy them in bulk for a variety of skaters. Therefore, the skaters who earned the summer ice scholarships should purchase their ice individually and then present the receipt to Amy Fairchild for reimbursement. Reimbursement will only be up to \$250 as they were awarded.

Reminder of ORDA rates:

~\$20/session or package of 8 for \$120 or package of 10 for \$160.

~ Discussion on if there should be hard and fast time by which scholarship must be used or they will be lost, or if it can be used anytime even into the summer. Decision was that since the intention was to keep kids skating during the summer, the scholarships should only be eligible for use during the summer.

******Motion by Joletta Yates** that summer ice scholarship skaters can purchase their ice and get reimbursed by the SCLP up to their \$250 scholarship, with the caveat that all scholarships must be used by Labor Day or be lost. Seconded by Amy Fairchild. Accepted by Ed Minkoff, Ernie Hough, Anne Bennett, and Christie Sausa.

Financial Aid

~Discussion about the financial aid/scholarship committee meeting in March 2022, hosted by Christie with Ernie, Bethany, and Gina also in attendance. Christie summarized the outcome the Financial Aid discussions. At that meeting, policies were discussed and Christie drafted the proposed guidelines to be presented at the meeting for voting. The policies were accepted, and Christie had to create a form to live on the website. Also suggested that there be a Google Form option. Clarified that the entire board would vote on financial aid applications as they came in. Christie noted that she still needed to create the form and post on the site and would have that done soon. The financial aid is for the LTS sessions, not for ORDA ice as we do not have control over that.

Action Items:

~As per policy, other scholarships should be entered into skater's entryeeze account for use in the upcoming season (towards contract ice). Christie will input them into skater's carts for future use.

~Christie will create the financial aid form and policies document to be posted on the SCLP website by the next board meeting in July. She will also create a google form of the financial aid form so that is also available, and link it on the same page.

President's Report: Anne Bennett

~Has been busy!

~Communication with various parties including coaches, program director applicants, etc.

~Feedback has been provided and hopefully will be implemented in this year's programming.

~Accessed the Crow's Nest and SCLP Club Office with Joletta to organize and find materials that could be used for Olympic Day.

~Olympic Day at MVH 6/23/22. Used interactive props including balance board and jump contest to engage guests. High level of engagement and interest in the SCLP and their programs. Joletta made a promotional flyer to hand out and many were distributed.

Lake Placid Figure Skating Championships

~Anne discussed the competition. She, Ed, and Joletta did a good portion of the volunteering, along with their friends/family members.

~Anne and Karen Kan brought snacks, which were enjoyed by officials and volunteers alike.

~Things mostly went smoothly - no negative feedback.

~Short staffed at registration table; one misunderstanding about staffing time resulting in early closure.

~Announcer (found through FISU volunteer mailing) did not show up at 1932 rink for one shift.

Action Items:

~Anne Bennett will notify the FISU volunteer contact about volunteer who did not show up.

Fourth of July Parade

~Not enough interest this year as most were out of town. Next year, promotion will start earlier so it is on schedule for skaters and parents.

*******Motion by Anne Bennett** to accept the President's Report. It was seconded by Joletta Yates. Approved by Amy Fairchild, Ed Minkoff, Ernie Hough, and Christie Sausa.

New Business

Summer Skating

~interest from adult skaters in Coffee Club resuming, Thursdays 10 am - 11:30 am. All were receptive to the idea being pursued with Mary E Wightman/ORDA.

~Thursdays at 7 am were also brought up as a time that could potentially be used.

~Suggested that skaters have a recital time at the end of the summer to look forward to, maybe with a barbeque afterwards.

******Motion by Anne Bennett** to pursue various summer ice times with Mary E Wightman. It was seconded by Joletta Yates. Approved by Amy Fairchild, Ed Minkoff, Ernie Hough, and Christie Sausa.

Action Items: Anne will ask Mary Elizabeth about the viability of: 1) Coffee Club returning Thursdays 10 am - 11:30 am; 2) recital time at end of the summer 3) Other ice time availability to keep skaters engaged and skating over the summer.

SCLP Storage Outcome

~ORDA had not previously wanted the Club to use their storage space to store Marc Fenczak's sharpening machine due to lack of contract between the parties. ORDA had wanted to ensure that all independent contractors in the building were operating under contract.

~Anne discussed the matter with Jay Harvey including concerns that the high cost of sharpening via box office ticket was prohibitive; that access was challenging due to construction/COVID/box office hours; and requested some compromise be reached.

~Marc (guest) relayed that he had been asked a few times about leaving the room if he was not willing to sign a contract; the previous GM of OC had wanted contract with independent contractors which Marc was willing to accommodate.

~Concerns were raised about the costs of sharpening, lack of availability for locals; suggestions were made that ORDA should change their rates, at least for locals, to make sharpening more affordable in house.

Action Items: Anne wil communicate these points and concerns from Marc and the BOD with Jay so as to avoid further conflict or confusion to see what compromise can be reached. If no response is received by the end of the Fourth of July weekend, Anne will follow up.

Lake Placid Ice Dance Championships/LPIDI

~Once again, volunteers will be required.

~Volunteers should all be SkateSafe compliant, especially if they are working as locker room monitors dealing directly with young athletes.

~Discussed that the volunteer room (side room off 1980 Zamboni Pit) was difficult to access for some volunteers; more centralized volunteer room preferred. More snack donations would be appreciated for volunteers.

~Incentives for volunteers, volunteer swag - Anne Bennett brought up Christie's donated volunteer gift in 2019, small plastic water bottles with SCLP logo, thinks they could be a good token of gratitude. Anne Bennett thinks that volunteer gifts need to be provided to incentivize volunteering and give volunteers something to walk away with after they volunteer. Christie offered to help however she could with volunteer gifts going through her wholesalers to make custom volunteer swag as done previously.

~In event contract signed with ORDA, it was noted that food would be provided for volunteers and officials yet there wasn't; Anne will follow up about that and getting a more accessible room.

Action Items: Anne Bennett will follow up with ORDA about volunteer requests/needs in advance of LPIDC/LPIDI.

Program Director Posting

Program Director applicants zoomed in to introduce themselves.

Sarah Jo Damron-Brown

~Trained in Lake Placid.

~Currently coaching in VT.

~Enjoys choreography and figures coaching.

~Cannot commit to director full time but interested in being part of the team however needed.

Valerie Hodgson-Murray

~Skated in Lake Placid in the 1970s.

~Started coaching in Lake Placid in 1984.

~Coached in Long Island, built program from nothing to over 800 LTS participants.

~Still coaches competitive skaters but also enjoys coaching LTS/developmental skaters.

~Focused on helping her skaters get their gold medal tests (USFS), going to a good school, and competing in school as collegiate skaters.

~Wants to help build Lake Placid back to where it used to be, a training center for figure skating.

~Happy to help however she can.

Jeff LaBrake

- ~Lake Placid native; grew up skating here with the Club and coaches Jack and Joan Devitt.
- ~Skated pairs with his sister Leanne, competed Nationally.
- ~Performed in ice shows; moved to Miami for 12 years after retiring from ice show skating.
- ~Coached there and built huge clientele.
- ~Moved back to Lake Placid recently.
- ~Lake Placid has always been a huge part of him; sad to see the decline of skating here and wants to help bring it back.
- ~Invested in working with locals, knows it's an expensive sport, wants to get more local involvement in skating.
- ~Excited to be back and be a part of it.

~All were excited to hear from the candidates. Anne expressed that they could stay for rest of meeting or leave if they wanted, and that she would reach out to them as soon as possible with next steps.

Membership Chair Reimbursement

~Christie had Fourth of July items she purchased herself several years ago for the Fourth of July parade. Unfortunately there was not enough participation so she could not use the items. They are giveaway type items from Oriental Trading. She gave them to Anne Bennett for use in the Club and was hoping for reimbursement. Both Anne and Joletta have the invoice as well, the amount was \$166.23.

~All BOD members seemed receptive to the idea and thought that the items could be useful for the next Fourth of July parade. Christie mentioned that they could also use them for giveaways at promotional events and for volunteers. All agreed.

~Amy had to leave so there was not enough for a quorum.

Action Items: Anne will send out an email to conduct the vote via email.

LTS Introductory Ideas

~The new policy regarding unruly skaters, the importance of having at least one parent present, and more structure was discussed.

~Discussion began about membership, specifically retaining competitive skaters. The Sarandevs were mentioned, specifically the importance of retaining them as members. They have already renewed but should receive a scholarship to offset the costs of membership and a certificate to commemorate their achievements. Ideas for name of scholarship/award to be discussed further.

~Discussion about allowing higher level skaters on Club freestyle ice. It was mentioned that the Sarandevs and other higher level skaters were not encouraged to train on Club freestyle ice because of their high speed. All agreed that Club members of all levels (including and especially elite) should be allowed and encouraged to take part in club ice and events.

~Further discussion on how to build community included covering entry fees for qualifying competitions and having send off parties for skaters who are competing in qualifying or international competitions. The last one of record was in 2019 for the Adult International competition hosted in Lake Placid. Having send offs gives the skaters the opportunity to perform and feel supported by their club. Current policies for Club support for competitions are in the handbook created by Past SCLP President David Kobe, but it was discussed that perhaps these could be reviewed and potentially revised to offer more assistance to Club skaters. Members were reminded that many clubs even give skaters gifts for competing in qualifying competitions and support travel expenses. All seemed open to further investigation.

~A Bring a Friend day type idea was suggested for the beginning of the LTS season. Although waivers would be required, we should still be able to do this since it's a big component of US Figure Skating's National Skating Month, which happens Nationwide every January. Christie told Anne she would share her contact at USFS who could tell her how to host a Bring a Friend day type event without opening ourselves to any liability issues with ORDA or participants.

Action Items: Christie will share her USFS contact with Anne.

Program Director Resumes

~Resumes will be shared with the rest of the board to peruse.

~Hiring decision for program director needs to happen soon; a special executive committee meeting was suggested to happen soon, preferably after fourth of July weekend.

Action Items:

~Anne will send out resumes to all BOD members.

~Meeting will be set after Fourth of July for program director hiring.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:41 pm

Next Meeting - July 26th at 6:30 pm