

IEBU/SBU Board Meeting Minutes
November 1, 2022
(Approved on January 3, 2023)

Meeting Called to order by Clark Cosby, President, at 6:00 PM.

In Attendance:

Clark Cosby, President
Gary Teale, Secretary
Rich Hobson, Treasurer
James Whiteley, Past President
Bob Francis, Assignor
Kerry Kelly, Assignor

Not able to attend:

Efrain Rosadovelasquez, member-at-large
Kevin Gawenit, Vice-President
Ryan Olson, member-at-large

Approval of Board meeting minutes for October 4, 2022

- James Whiteley moved to review the minutes.
- Minutes were reviewed with no suggestions for corrections. Board was unable to officially approve the minutes due to the lack of a quorum.

Assignor's Report (Bob Francis/Kerry Kelly)

Bob Francis reported that the baseball season is finished. Totally done with all games. Already starting to get HS varsity schedules for 2023. Most JV games schedule will not be received until March. Fall Sports are going full swing (football, volleyball, etc.) Basketball also starting soon. Communication with SIYB/INW fall ball was a challenge at the end of the season.

Rich Hobson shared data on # of games completed by each umpire this last season. Approximately 40-50 regular umpires taking assignments, with additional umpires recruited from outside the area during tournaments. It is estimated that we have a shortage of approximately 20-30 umpires needed to fill available game slots.

Treasurer's Report (Rich Hobson)

Rich explained the process for billing schools and then payment to officials.
Rich explained WOA bills WIAA schools for officials provided. Officials are then paid directly by WOA through Arbiter.
Rich explained the process for billing schools and then payment to officials.
Rich reported that in 2022 there were an estimated unassigned 520slots/407 games. Most unassigned games were at the PONY/lower level ball.
Rich reported that our financial situation is stable, with only one account receivable past due. There has been a slight improvement in our total equity since this same time in 2021. We do show a slightly smaller operating surplus in 2022 when compared to 2021. There will be some additional expenses in

the last two months of the year and there may need to be some write-offs of delinquent accounts (mostly uniforms for umps not assigned enough games to pay back their uniform costs in previous years.)

Old Business

➤ **American Legion contract renegotiation**

- We are still engaged in the negotiation process. Rich presented a worksheet that was prepared by him, Kevin and Clark to present to Legion. The proposed fee target for Legion was linked to the \$15.00 increase similar to the state. The initial SBU proposal was for an increase of \$20.00/game-non-tournaments (\$60-70/per game) with tournaments proposed at \$85/game along with the elimination of travel fees. Kerry mentioned that this would not be competitive with other tournaments and that it would be difficult to fill Legion tournament needs.
- Rich and Clark emphasized that this is a compromise situation. Discussion ensued around setting our fees higher in order to be more competitive with other tournaments. Some felt that the proposed fees were considered too low based on inflation pressures. Kerry feels that current proposed fees will make it very difficult to find umpires to fill slots. It was suggested that we return to Legion and ask for more and see what the response is. Clark says that he needs additional information to present a case for higher fees.

➤ **SIYB Contract**

- Still being negotiated. Clark asks that the board to provide input on what should be our negotiating position. Kerry noted the “linkage” between Legion and SIYB fees. SIYB fees reflect the additional issues that typically arise with SIYB games.

➤ **Confirmation of Treasurer’s role and compensation:** Tabled until next meeting

➤ **Addressing the Umpire Shortage**

- Gary distributed handouts outlining a comprehensive Umpire Recruitment Plan which included:
 - i. Outreach/Marketing
 - ii. Intake/Orientation
 - iii. Equipment
 - iv. Training
 - v. Mentoring
 - vi. Annual timeline for the recruitment of new umpires
 - vii. A draft budget for implementing the plan
- Due to a lack of time, it was agreed that this item will be discussed in greater detail at our next meeting.

➤ **Items for the next meeting agenda:**

- Legion Contract Negotiations
- SIYB Contract Negotiations
- Treasurer Compensation Agreement
- Implementation plan for recruiting new umpires
- Dealing (Discipline?) with umpire misconduct/lack of professionalism

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, December 6, at 5:30 PM, Location the Hive, 2904 E Sprague, Room A.

The Hive utilizes a “door-lock” system. The code to enter the building and Room A is **719075** and cannot be used before 5:30.

The meeting will officially start at 6:00 but we encourage all to arrive close to 5:30 to get the social pleasantries out of the way before beginning the official meeting right at 6:00.

NOTE: We have now had two consecutive board meetings without a quorum. Please save the date on your calendars and make every effort to attend. Thanks