



**Illinois Youth Soccer Association (IYSA)
Approved Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
February 3, 2017
IYSA Office**

Board Members Present: Salvador Arroyo, Gus Bender, Robert Berkley, Charlie Dyson, Flo Dyson, Kelly Fairwood, Dave Hicks, Stuart Kasten, Gary Seyring.

Regrets: Yianny Caparos.

League Representatives: Johann Arnason, Bob Barrett, Jan Berkley, Wayne Bernacki, Greg Cole, Flo Dyson, Jose Fleita, Eliudes Hernandez, Rick Kaempfer, Jen Mateus, Geoff Moore, John O'Donnell, Mike Oertel, Jay Ray, Frank Schuler, Hynek Stehno, Scott Walz, Matt Warmbier.

Guests: Mary Jane Bender, Bill Bruno, Tim Deters, Bob Hansen, Chris Jamrozy, Ale Jurado, Meaghan Kinser (recording secretary), Dale Litney, Louie Mateus, George Mihalopoulos, Jacob Mooney, Hugh Orlicz, Jonathan Orlicz, Ivan Rico, Caulbert Smith.

The Annual General Meeting was called to order by the President, Gus Bender, at 7:02 PM on Friday, February 3, 2017 at the association offices.

ROLL CALL

Roll Call was taken and the following leagues were present: Cary Soccer Association, Central Illinois Youth Soccer League, Chicago Alliance FC, Crystal Lake Soccer Federation, Des Plaines Park District Soccer League, Ela Soccer Association, Fox River Grove Recreation Council, Green White Soccer Club Rec, Heat United Soccer Club, Illinois Women's Soccer League, Perry County Soccer League, Prairie Cities Soccer League, Princeton Youth Soccer League, Raptor Youth Soccer League, Saint Louis Youth Soccer Association – Illinois, Schaumburg Athletic Association, Thunder Soccer Club, Woodstock United Soccer Association, Young Sportsmen's Soccer League.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the February 5, 2016 Illinois Youth Soccer Annual General Meeting were unanimously approved.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Gus Bender presented the President's Report. Gus thanked our member recreational and competitive leagues for their contribution to the success of Illinois Youth Soccer. He reflected about the past year and the challenges that we encountered. Gus stressed the importance of referees and the referee shortage. Many referees stop officiating due to referee abuse. For this reason, Illinois Youth Soccer is working with the Illinois Soccer Referee Committee to build a youth referee mentoring program under the leadership of Tim Deters. Gus mentioned that US Soccer continues to change the soccer landscape including the two major mandates which have had their challenges and a significant impact: Small-Sided Games and the shift from school-year to birth-year age groups. Although the Federation mandated these changes, it is our duty as a charter member organization to implement them. Gus also talked about the

Federation's work to improve the Coaching Education Program and to create a better playing field. Coaching courses have become more stringent in this challenging environment. Illinois Youth Soccer is trying to broaden the base and to work with our recreational programs to make the coaching programs more consistent. Gus appreciates the help from our members for implementing the heading ban and concussion procedures. He discussed how Illinois Youth Soccer is expanding its State Cup, Presidents Cup, and Midwest Regional League programs to meet the needs of the clubs and teams. Gus was happy to report that Illinois Youth Soccer is continuing to receive grants to help fund the *Soccer for Success* program. The current program supports over 900 kids from Chicago's inner city. He was pleased to announce that Illinois Youth Soccer was selected to receive a grant from the Department of Justice through the US Soccer Foundation that will allow us to reach 1,300 kids. Gus thanked the Chicago Fire and the Chicago Red Stars for their contributions to the game. With the help of Illinois Youth Soccer and Illinois Women's Soccer League, the Chicago Red Stars can fund the Chicago Red Stars Reserves to help build the girls program. Gus thanked the leagues for their support and attributed our success to them.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Stu Kasten presented the Secretary's Report. He noted that IYSA provides secondary coverage and that all insurance claims are handled through the Illinois Youth Soccer office. For any questions or to file a claim, please contact the office.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Gary Seyring presented the Treasurer's Report and budget. He was pleased to report that Illinois Youth Soccer ended the year with a growth in revenue. With the ever-changing soccer landscape and national economy, every year brings its own set of challenges but the organization is in sound condition.

Motion: Bob Berkley moved to approve the Treasurer's Report. The Treasurer's Report was unanimously approved.

REPORTS

Mary Jane Bender presented the Risk Management Report. She mentioned that Illinois Youth Soccer handles over 3,500 background checks annually with nearly 300 being returned for review. She thanked Tom Appleton for helping the organization make the difficult decisions.

Central District Commissioner, Dave Hicks, reported that Central had a bit of a decrease after last year's substantial increase. Dave noted that he takes pride in being a member of the board and that their ideas provide quality standards of play. He also talked about how CIYSL is looking forward to the player development in Central Illinois. Dave thanked the Illinois Youth Soccer board and the staff for their continued support.

Northern District Commissioner, Charlie Dyson, reported that there was continued growth in the Northern District. He pointed out that the Young Sportsmen's Soccer League had a phenomenal increase in registrations. Charlie also noted that the Illinois Women's Soccer League has grown, but there continues to be more competition from other organizations trying to recruit girls' teams. Overall, however, membership in the Northern District continues to be healthy.

Southern District Commissioner, Stu Kasten, reported that Southern Illinois has gone through a lot of positive changes in the past year. The creation of St. Louis Youth Soccer Association – Illinois has helped revive soccer in Southern Illinois. With the help of Johann Arnason, they have been successful

in raising interest as well as the level of play in Southern Illinois. Stu also noted that registrations in St. Louis Youth Soccer Association – Illinois has reached 190-200 teams, which is a phenomenal increase for the number of competitive teams previously registered in Southern Illinois. Stu concluded that St. Louis approved an MLS team in St. Louis.

Recreational Program Director, Gary Seyring, presented the Recreational Program Report. Gary noted that Illinois Youth Soccer brings many services to our recreational members and that many of these are free. He also pointed out that our staff is always open to new ideas. He concluded that the recreational player registrations were down a bit but hopes to get them back up.

Hugh Orlicz presented the US Youth Soccer National Recreational Committee Report. The directive to the Recreational Committee from the US Youth Soccer Board is to develop initiatives that increase membership and better serve its recreational member organizations and players. He hopes that the national committee will be able to address the development of supplemental coaching educational courses that are more appropriate for recreational programs. Hugh also applauded Illinois Youth Soccer for its success in implementing the 5-Star Program and, as a result, Region II is looking to expand the same platform within the region. He emphasized that there needs to be a National Recreational Recognition Program. Hugh concluded by stating that Region II will need to look at their standards for the 5-Star curriculum as coaching standards are changing.

Executive Director, Mary Jane Bender, presented the State Office Report. She advised that after 5 years of service to Illinois Youth Soccer, Rick Flores resigned in December. She thanked him for pursuing higher standards for coaches, for engaging quality coaching staff, for delegating the administration of the coaching education program to Ivan Rico for the past 5 years, for allowing Jonathon Orlicz to continue to administer the ODP for the past 6 years and for entrusting the ODP and *Soccer for Success* programs to Associate Director of Coaching Caulbert Smith for the past year and a half. She noted that Rick has made the transition during the search process seamless and she wished him the best.

Mary Jane was pleased to report that registration numbers for this past Fall are up from this time the previous year although the number of recreational players are slightly down and that does concern us.

She talked about the Heading Ban that was implemented by Illinois Youth Soccer based on the advice of the US Soccer Medical Committee. This became national press news because Illinois Youth Soccer was the first State Association in the country to implement the US Soccer Heading Ban for players aged 10 and younger. Based on the prevailing medical information, it was the right decision because it safeguards the players, helps reduce liability and it was well received by national and local press.

Mary Jane stated that it was with deep sadness that one of our former *Soccer for Success* players, Deangelo Martin, was fatally shot in the Englewood neighborhood on the South Side in December. Deangelo participated in our inner-city program for many years and was a recipient of the Sepp Herberger Committee Scholarship in 2004. She went on to report that, for the second time this past year, Ale Jurado was forced to cancel the after-school *Soccer for Success* program at Whitney Elementary School due to gun shots in the area. Unfortunately, our *Soccer for Success* players, parents and coaches have become familiar with the sound of gun shots. She reported that, after a due-diligence review, the US Soccer Foundation has selected our *Soccer for Success* program as a sub-grantee for a 2-year grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention.

She went on to discuss that Illinois Youth Soccer has been proactively supporting gender equity. She noted that although almost half of the soccer players are women, the number of women at the highest

coaching levels and positions in soccer is declining. She asked the US Soccer Youth Council (comprised of AYSO, SAY, US Club and US Youth Soccer) to include women on their Technical Committee or on any other committee they create.

Mary Jane informed the membership that Illinois Youth Soccer is in the process of finalizing a Sexual Abuse Awareness Training Certificate that would be free of charge to our member leagues. Once it is finalized, information will be sent out to our member programs.

She reported that US Youth Soccer has lost over 50% of its experienced staff while Illinois Youth Soccer has been able to retain its experienced staff who continues to work hard to provide our members with quality programs in an ever changing soccer environment. She concluded that she is starting her 25th year at Illinois Youth Soccer while Meaghan has been on staff for 18 years, Ale for 16, JD for 12, Chris for 11, Rico for 6, Rick for 5 and Caulbert for 3 years. Additionally, Bill Bruno has been directing the Illinois Youth Soccer Cups for nearly 24 years and Hugh Orlicz has been overseeing the Illinois recreational referee and tournament programs for the past 17 years.

Illinois Youth Soccer Marketing & Communications Director, Chris Jamrozy, presented the Marketing Report. He stated that the website continues to be the main hub of communication for Illinois Youth Soccer. He was pleased to announce that the reach of our print publications has increased where the Coaches Book & Tournament Guide was sent to over 10,000 coaches and the Network News was distributed to over 124,000 homes (a 24% increase). With this outreach, the Network News has become the 5th largest distribution among newspaper publications in Illinois. Chris was also happy to report that email subscriptions were up by 7%, reaching over 59,000 email addresses. Additionally, Illinois Youth Soccer also saw an increase in social media followers. The Morgan Brian Fundraiser that was originally scheduled for November 13, 2016 was cancelled due to change to the Women's National Team schedule. Morgan is currently working on an alternate date. He concluded by thanking all our sponsors for their continued support and hopes to have some new sponsors added in 2017.

Coaching Education Administrator, Ivan Rico, presented the Coaching Education Program Report. Ivan stated that, in 2016, we had a 15% decrease in the number of coaches that registered for coaching education courses due to a decrease in the number of new coaches. Ivan was pleased that Illinois Youth Soccer hosted another successful USSF C License Course. He noted that Illinois Youth Soccer has applied to host two USSF C License Courses in 2017: one in the Chicagoland area and one in Southern Illinois. Ivan informed the membership that, beginning in 2018, US Soccer is restructuring their Coaching Education and will no longer be offering the F and the E Licenses. They have plans to replace these licenses with a new format that is similar to 4v4, 7v7, 9v9, and 11v11. The courses are still being finalized by US Soccer.

State Cup Director, Bill Bruno, presented the Illinois State Cup, Illinois Presidents Cup, and Illinois Cup Reports. Bill was pleased to report that Illinois continues to be one of the top states throughout the country. Out of the 26 teams that competed in the US Youth Soccer Midwest Regionals from Illinois, 10 teams competed in semi-final matches with 8 in the finals. Of those 8 teams, 4 advanced to the US Youth Soccer National Championships, and another 2 teams through the National League. Of the 6 teams competing in the US Youth Soccer National Championships, 2 teams advanced to semi-final matches, with 1 to the final. For 2017, the US Youth Soccer Midwest Regional Championships will be held in Sioux Falls, South Dakota and the US Youth Soccer National Championships will be held in Dallas, Texas.

Bill was also pleased to report that the Illinois Presidents Cup competition continues to grow and the competition is getting stronger. Out of the 12 Illinois teams that participated in the US Youth Soccer Midwest Regional Presidents Cup, 7 teams advanced to the final match of whom 6 qualified to the US Youth Soccer National Presidents Cup competition and 2 teams advanced to the final match. For 2017, the US Youth Soccer Midwest Regional Presidents Cup will be held in Overland Park, Kansas and the US Youth Soccer National Presidents Cup will be held in Auburndale, Florida.

Caulbert Smith and ODP Administrator Jonathan Orlicz presented the Olympic Development Program (ODP) Report. Although there was a decline in the Central/South numbers, Jonathan was pleased to report that there has been steady growth in participation. The addition of the Pre-ODP that began last year has been such a great success that we had to find another facility to accommodate the additional players. We added more invite tournaments than previously offered. He thanked Ivan Rico for helping with all of the weekends required to run a successful ODP. Jonathan also thanked Caulbert for heading the coaching staff and for developing a quality ODP coaches' curriculum.

Caulbert added that Illinois will be hosting our first ever ODP College Showcase February 11-12 for the 2000 and 2001 girls. He noted that this provides our players with a great opportunity to be seen by college coaches. Mary Jane thanked the ODP staff for their devotion to the ODP which is time intensive and involves long days and many weekends from November thru March.

Soccer for Success (SFS) Program Director Ale Jurado and Caulbert Smith presented the *Soccer for Success* Report. Ale reported the program was selected to receive a Department of Juvenile Justice Grant from the US Soccer Foundation starting Fall 2017. She noted that this will increase the number of sites and players. Ale thanked the Illinois Women's Soccer League and the Young Sportsmen's Soccer Leagues for their continued support of the *SFS* Chicago Knights program. Because of their support, these players have been able to participate in competitive soccer. She thanked Caulbert for assisting the coaches in the program.

Caulbert added that the *SFS* Program really pulls at his heart strings. He noted that dealing with children who don't have the resources, opportunities, or fields to play on can be challenging but rewarding. He stated that he is happy knowing they can leave the field with a smile. Caulbert was pleased to report that 8 *SFS* players currently participate in the ODP and it's a major accomplishment for them to experience the game at that level.

State Premiership Administrator Chris Jamrozy, presented the State Premiership Division Report. He stated that the State Premiership Division allows elite teams registered with Illinois Youth Soccer member competitive leagues the opportunity to compete against other top teams in the state. Chris was pleased to report that there is continued growth, not only in the number of participating teams but in quality of the teams. He also noted that, in collaboration with our member competitive leagues, the top two teams in the State Premiership Division earn a State Cup seed and the top team in the Boys 2nd Tier to earn a Presidents Cup seed. He thanked the member competitive leagues for their continued support for the State Premiership Division. They helped us make this division a success.

MRL Administrator Jonathan Orlicz, presented the MRL report. Jonathan noted that, while we saw an increase in MRL teams in 2016 due to the expansion of the MRL Qualifying Divisions created by Region 2, there will be a decrease in 2017 due to the mandated age group changes. Illinois held the MRL Qualifying Competition for the 13U age group for boys and girls to help place these teams into the correct Fall 2016 MRL division. Jonathan was pleased to announce that Illinois had 11 teams advance to the US Youth Soccer Midwest Regional Championships as MRL Wildcards.

Since TOPSoccer Director Shawn Danhouser was attending the US Youth Soccer Regional TOPSoccer Symposium, Mary Jane Bender presented the TOPSoccer Report. Mary Jane praised Shawn increasing the number of TOPSoccer programs in Illinois and involve nearly 300 players. Illinois has the largest number of TOPSoccer programs of any state in the Region. Mary Jane encouraged the member leagues to create TOPSoccer programming for their children with special needs. Illinois TOPSoccer would be hosting a TOPSoccer regional indoor tournament with Wisconsin TOPSoccer at the Athletico Center in Northbrook on February 11, 2017. Gus asked the leagues to review the need for a TOPSoccer program in their community.

Tournament Director, Hugh Orlicz, presented the Tournament Report. Hugh reported that tournaments are all about managing risk and our goal is to minimize that risk because it affects all of our members. He was pleased to report that Illinois has an outstanding reputation for its tournaments. Hugh encouraged our recreational members to host a recreational tournament. He also encouraged competitive clubs that have an Illinois Youth Soccer member recreational program to include a recreational division in their tournament. Hugh stated that is important to expand playing opportunities for our recreational players.

Illinois State Youth Referee Administrator, Tim Deters, presented the Referee Report. Illinois sent the following officials to regional and national events: 9 Referees and one Mentor to the US Youth Soccer Midwest Regional Presidents Cup in Westfield, IN of which 3 Illinois referees were selected to participate in the US Youth Soccer National Presidents Cup; 21 Referees and 4 Assessors/Mentors to the US Youth Soccer Midwest Regionals in Westfield, IN, of which 3 Illinois referees were selected to participate in the US Youth Soccer National Championships and 2 selected to return in 2017; 4 Referees and 2 Assessors to the Adult Regionals in Saginaw, MI; and 4 Referees and 2 Assessors to the Tournament of Champions in Saginaw, MI. Tim announced that the Illinois Soccer Referee Committee is launching the Illinois Youth Mentoring Program in 2017. The participants will be recommended by referee assignors throughout the state. He also thanked the Illinois Youth Soccer Board of Directors and the Administration for continuing to support the Referee Program. He noted that anyone wishing to run a referee certification can contact the Illinois State Referee Committee.

ELECTIONS

Gus Bender conducted the elections.

Jan Berkely nominated Jacob Mooney for the Director-at-Large position; nomination was seconded by Flo Dyson. Greg Cole nominated Bob Hansen; nomination was seconded by Flo Dyson. George Mihalopoulos nominated John O'Donnell; nomination was seconded by Flo Dyson. The nominations were closed and ballots distributed to the delegates.

The ballots were counted.

Gus Bender declared Jacob Mooney as the newly elected Director-at-Large to the board.

Bob Berkley nominated Flo Dyson for the Director-at-Large position; nomination was seconded by Jay Ray. No nominations were made from the floor. Flo Dyson was elected by acclamation.

Jay Ray nominated Dave Hicks for the Central District Director position; nomination was seconded by Frank Schuler. No nominations were made from the floor. Dave Hicks was elected by acclamation.

Jan Berkley nominated Gary Seyring for the Recreational Program Director position; nomination was seconded by Salvador Arroyo. Geoff Moore nominated Dale Litney; nomination was seconded by George Mihalopoulos. The nominations were closed and ballots distributed to the delegates.

The ballots were counted.

Gus Bender declared Dale Litney as the newly elected Recreational Program Director.

Motion: Gus Bender made a motion to accept the candidates as elected. Motion was seconded by Flo Dyson. Motion was unanimously approved.

Gus Bender thanked Gary Seyring for his many years of service to Illinois Youth Soccer.

ADJOURNMENT

Gus Bender declared the Annual General Meeting adjourned at 8:48 PM.