



**NED Minutes - October 27 & 28, 2023  
Presidents and Directors Session**

**Attendees:**

Directors: Chris Wasburn, Cheri Bonawitz, Sarah Fraser, ~~Richard Oliver~~

Affiliate Presidents: ~~Matt Roy (NH)~~, John Cioffi (VT), Chuck Wilkerson (CT), Mike Keaney (ME), Andrew Giuliano (RI)

NED Board Support Staff: Ray St. Pierre (District Admin/Interim Director), Kim Gaines (Secretary), ~~Jake Strong (Treasurer)~~

Guests: Tom Regan (USA Hockey), Keith Barrett (USA Hockey)

**EXECUTIVE SESSION 10/27/23** - called to order at 12:52pm / adjourned 5:17pm

**GENERAL SESSION 10/28/23** - called to order at 8:08am / adjourned 9:24am (ME 1st - VT 2nd)

**\*\*\*\*\*ME makes a motion to accept the Spring 2023 minutes as written. – RI seconds – ALL IN FAVOR (motion carried, no discussion)\*\*\*\*\***

**\*President Reports**

- ME (Mike): Fall leagues have been mild so far (behavior), registration is in good shape and numbers look good. Player Development registrations are open, new disabled group/programming available this season.
- NH (Matt): N/A
- VT (John): Just getting started, tryouts will happen during the holiday week. Registration numbers are about where they are expected to be. Have added supplemental discipline that seems to be working but a bit high to start the season. Some shifts in board positions.
- RI (Andrew): Quiet since starting late September, low penalties but not complaining, a couple of rinks went down but seem to be back up and running, Player Development tryouts coming up next month. Registration numbers on par with previous year. Getting support from other board members (finally).
- CT (Chuck): A ton of high level penalties to kick off the year, new goalie coordinator off to a good start. Good board member support.

- Discussion about disabled hockey - relationship between ASHA & USA Hockey, hurdles and ideas, idea of New England tournaments or events
  
- o Financial report – presented by Chris Washburn (on behalf of Jake Strong)
  - Taxes filed on time, some changes happening with current firm but will likely stay.
  - Make sure the NED block grant and USA Hockey block grant are both reported the same way, block grants handed out this weekend
  - Futures Camp, Boys Camps, Girls Camps: collectively net ~\$50k
  - Profitability of the District (after camps, tourneys & events) looks to be in good shape
  
- o Coach in Chief Report - presented by Ray St. Pierre (on behalf of Larry Rocha)
  - 37 clinics: 13 L1, 12 L2, 12 L3 / 31 virtual and 6 in person
  - Instructors getting more comfortable with the new format
  - 1600+ coaches certified to date
  - Group sharing the benefits and pros of the online clinics
  
- o Referee in Chief Report - presented by Ray St. Pierre (on behalf of Barry Zalcmán)
  - NED Officials up 12%, nationwide up 4%
  - 16 seminars hosted so far
  - Working on 3 development camps with other districts (\$6k estimate), looking for NED to support to help cover expenses at about \$2k. Group asking for additional details in order to weigh in
  - Discuss having a police/security presence at Regionals events
  - Continues to be hard to monitor officials and their SafeSport credentialing when it lapses mid-season
  - Can assignors work with local registrars
  
- o Player Safety Report - presented by Ray St. Pierre (on behalf of Kyle Peckham)
  - Platform has been chosen for reporting purposes
  - Redacted forms will be sent to Kyle for entry
  - Make sure everyone in the district knows this data collection exists, and signs are hanging in rinks sharing concussion awareness information
  - Information on medical coverage requirements is being gathered from other NGBs before a proposal is presented for hockey
  
- o Risk Management Report - presented by Ray St. Pierre (on behalf of Charlie Fortin)
  - Consider future transition plan, perhaps someone that is involved in hockey and insurance

- o Grant update - checks disbursed by Ray St. Pierre (on behalf of Jake Strong)
- o NED regional tournaments - presented by Kim Gaines (on behalf of Richard Oliver)
  - Based on my recent review, everyone is all set with hosting and team declarations
  - ME to discuss with VT about swapping one of the tournaments
  - MMcCullough will update matrix with final information
- o Player Development Camp Dates
  - Youth 16s & 17s / April 26-28 / Attleboro, MA
  - Girls Camp / May 10-12 / Northford, CT
  - Youth 15s / May 17-19 / Attleboro, MA
  - Youth 14s / July 23-26 / Keene, NH
- o NED tryouts - presented by Ray St Pierre
  - Making sure dates are set for ALL tryouts by all states in a timely manner
- o Futures Camp Update – presented by Mike Keaney & Cheri Bonawitz (with input from Jake Strong)
  - March 29 & 30, need to revisit Mar 28
  - Ice is booked, but schedule needs to be reviewed, discussed and finalized
- o Girls Director Update (+ girls tryout weekend) – presented by Cheri Bonawitz
  - More conversation amongst the T1 teams
  - New Admin for Girls Camp - Kim Gaines to begin with 23-24 season, rest of the staffing team will come back
- o Player Development Camps – presented by Tom Regan
  - Need a new goalie person - Matt Minyo has moved to Cincinnati, Vin Stelleti will fill the spot
  - Goalie Nation - Steve Thompson - Commentary from Tom - Steve has grand plans, but does not seem realistic. Enthusiastic. Wants 3 goalie people in each affiliate.
  - 17s Camp did well, NED won and represented us well.
  - Staff is returning, we are in good shape
  - 8U waivers have been approved and given out, states are being asked to oblige by them to the letter, but may not be happening
- o Youth Council Report - presented by Sarah Fraser (on behalf of Richard Oliver)
  - National Tournament updates
  - Working on initiatives for winter meeting including meetings with girls council
  - Report outs from districts - good, bad, change

- Task Force - Tier 1 tryout proposal being discussed (residency rule, tryout timing, play up permissions, etc. still being looked at)
- o USA Hockey Update – presented by Keith Barrett
  - IT headaches / consider dumping it and finding something new completely instead of fixing what already exists. Goal is to encompass everything (registering, coaches, refs, etc.)
- o NED Spring Meeting Format Change Idea Discussion – presented by Keith Barrett
  - Attended a Northern Plains District meeting (one of a few outside district guests), NED should consider inviting outside folks and re-engaging members and reps in a big way

**\*\*\*\*\*CT makes a motion for the District Registrar to renew NED domains. – VT seconds – ALL IN FAVOR (motion carried, no discussion)\*\*\*\*\***

- o Disabled Section - open discussion
  - Still looking for a NED rep
  - Have looked to other states/districts for collaboration but with a low desire to travel makes it tough
- o Legal Report – Tom Regan
  - One meeting so far with task force subcommittee items
- o Discuss dates for Spring NED, location and format
  - Vet some spring dates and bring back subgroups as well as consider leadership sessions. Change format of spring/fall agenda - propose Friday evening dinner, breakout sessions first thing Saturday AM followed by general session and exec session in PM. Consider Apr 19-20 in Nashua, NH
  - Kim Gaines to start social media initiatives for NED Hockey (facebook and instagram to start)
- o Old Business - N/A
- o New Business
  - Plan for Winter meeting - Ray to start putting together details
  - NED on-line store - open with motion for coupon code below
  - USA Hockey Hall of Fame dinner attendees 12/6/23 - (5) from NED to possibly combine with (5) from RI Hockey

**\*\*\*\*\*VT makes a motion for NED to offer a \$100 coupon towards an on-line store for district board members & execs. – CT seconds – ALL IN FAVOR (motion carried, no discussion)\*\*\*\*\***