

**STMA Girls Fastpitch Association**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**January 5, 2012**

**Opening**

The regular meeting of the STMA Girls Fastpitch Association was called to order at 7:00 pm on January 5, 2012 in St. Michael, MN by Jon Davis (President).

**Present**

Jon Davis (President), Brian Burditt Vice President), Jim Kessler (Travel League Director), Deanna Mosley 7:12 pm (Webmaster), Chad Wenzierl (Asst. Webmaster) Stephanie Puncocar (Treasurer), Mike Gilbert (Secretary), Jody Kangas 7:28 pm (Fundraising Coordinator), Jen Pipp (Volunteer Coordinator), Danny Salas (House League Director), Lori McCabe 7:08 pm (Equipment Manager)

Absent: Karie Lake (Asst. House League Director), Tracy Williams (Field/Umpire Director)

**Secretary's Report**

December 15, 2011 Minutes Approved.

**Treasurer's Report**

No Report. Detailed budget was reviewed 12/15/2012.

**President's Report**

Agenda Approved.

Jon has been in contact with other area associations to coordinate shared efforts and has discovered that some have not transitioned well in implementing their succession. Due to the negative reactions, these associations are losing players in mass. Jon thanked the board members for the positive manner our association is handling the perpetuation.

Jon identified to the new board members that the next three months will be the most demanding in terms of time and commitment. Everyone was reminded that once the season begins, the duties will become less burdensome.

Chad Wenzierl was welcomed to the board.

**Open Issues**

1. Uniforms

Jim Kessler is researching options for uniforms this year. The association saved a notable amount of money last year, received good feedback from players and parents and excellent service from the vendor. Other vendors and styles are being considered.

## 2. Concussion Awareness

Chad Wenzierl researched and presented a plan for educating coaches, players and parents regarding the new Concussion Awareness Law in Minnesota. The board approved Chad's obtaining free supplies from The CDC for coach and player communication and thanked him for thorough efforts. The board sought clarification on who specifically must undergo the online training required and thought it best to review the law. Mike Gilbert will get a copy of the new law for board review.

All agreed that safety is at the heart of our mission. Chad identified this may present an opportunity to clarify our overall safety policies. It was agreed that Concussion Awareness will be included with Code of Conduct materials.

## 3. Registration

Registration forms were presented by Mike Gilbert. The board felt it important to add communication this year that there will be a new \$20 Travel tryout fee. It was decided the board will separately communicate the reason for the fee (MN Fastpitch Academy paid Evaluators and Gym Fees) via e-mail and on the websites. Once form is revised, board approved going live with registration as soon as possible. Deanna Mosley will complete the online process and post the forms.

## 4. House League

Danny Salas advised the board that arrangements are complete for flyers to be distributed to the schools. 1500 copies are needed and Danny and Karie Lake will get all completed.

## 5. Website Calendars

Jon Davis noted the need to list events on the website calendar and the need to have a system in place to be sure members have adequate time to plan for things like tryout, registrations, and other important dates.

## 6. Fundraising

Brian Burditt reported fundraising activities and ongoing efforts to assist the association, including:

- Bar Bingo to start soon, He will send dates to Jenn Pipp.
- Meat Raffle at Dittos on 1/29 and 2/26.
- Dairy Queen. Jim Kessler is clarifying the date.
- Sponsorship forms are complete and will be posted on the website, the Fundraising team is being assembled to recruit sponsorship from local business. Brian is overseeing.
- Applebees. Arrangements are being made for fundraising breakfasts.

7. Hitting Clinic

Brian Burditt indicated he has been in contact with MN Fastpitch Academy to coordinate hitting clinics this year. Brian provided background and the merits of MN Fastpitch Academy and Julie Standering. Brian mentioned more info is on the internet [www.minnesotafastpitchacademy.com/](http://www.minnesotafastpitchacademy.com/) Brian and Mike Gilbert will work together to arrange the hitting clinics and report progress back to the board.

8. Mail Box

Mike Gilbert will take over the responsibility of checking the post office box.

9. Tryout Evaluators

Discussions were opened by mentioning there is a desire to improve the tryout process. It is the board's goal to offer the best possible opportunity to the players to be evaluated properly, so they can be assigned to the appropriate team in a fair manner. One strategy forwarded was to hire three professionals and utilize 6 volunteers currently outside the STMA GFA program. Three of the 6 are already confirmed and recruitment of the other three is in progress. It was agreed to proceed with the above strategy.

10. In House Association Partnership

Discussion was opened regarding whether the board feels alignment with Rockford is still in the players' best interests, or whether we should look to other associations. Jon Davis will contact Rockford to find out their participation potential and Brian Burditt will reach out to Buffalo to see if they are a possible fit. Danny Salas noted that the Rockford partnership has worked well and feedback from parents has been positive. Teams that also chose to participate in a tournament, indicated that the House League struck a proper recreation/competitive balance.

11. Open Gyms

Background & history on the open gyms was provided for the board. The need for assistance in set up and tear down was noted and whether DIBS should be available to those assisting in the set up and tear down was discussed. The need for a Coordinator at each open gym was identified. High School players will be present to assist with the open gyms and have been confirmed. It was affirmed there are 6 open gym times reserved. Separate times will be arranged for 10U-12U and 14U-16U players. Board members were asked to think about open gym strategy for 2012.

**Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm by Jon Davis. The next meeting will be held Thursday, January 19, 2012.

Minutes Submitted by: Mike Gilbert (Secretary)

Approved by: Jon Davis (President)