

Minutes of E.M.S.O.A. Annual Business Meeting
Held on January 9, 2005 at V.F.W. Hall
Needham , MA

- **Members present:** T. Attardo, P. Campbell, G. Cataldo, W. Brown, R. Cocuzzo, S. Cronin, J. D'Amico, W. Flannery, D. Fredericks, F. Hasek, D. Hussey, Jr., M. Kelly, P. Kristo, M. Manuelin, N. Martens, R. McArdle, T. McNair, Jr., E. Mercier, K. Moore, M. Orrichio, J. Palmer, M. Pelletier, C. Perry, J. Power, C. Whiting Rice, R. Ringuette, M. Salerno, F. Scarsella, T. Stagliano, P.St. Clair, A. Stevens, R. Stowell, S. Whelan, L. Wise.
- **Regrets:** F. Rich, R.Valle, T.Butler
- ***Meeting called to order at 1:30pm by President Thomas McNair, Jr.***
- **Minutes:**
Minutes of the December 13, 2004 meeting read. Amend pg.2 North Chapter President to read .. Cheryl *Sanderson*.
Motion to accept minutes as amended. **VOTED** and **APPROVED**
- **Election of Officers:** (no elections are in order this year)
- **Report of the Treasurer:**
Treasurer reports the Treasury is solvent..
Motion to accept Treasurer's Report. **VOTED** and **APPROVED**
- **Communications:**

a) Chapter meeting dates for 2005 have been submitted as follows;

Chapter Clinics: Classes start at 7:00 pm

West Chapter April 26, 28, May 3, 5, 10. @ United Methodist Church, Framingham, MA

South Chapter May 5, 2, 9, 11 & 16. @ Hanover HS, Hanover, MA

North Chapter April 26, 27, May 1, 2. @ United Unitarian Church, Bedford, MA

Chapter Interpretation Meetings: All meetings start at 7:00pm.

West Chapter - Sept. 6, 2005

* South Chapter - Sept. 7, 2005

North Chapter - Sept. 8, 2005

* South Chapter meets at 7:30pm.

Chapter Regular Meetings: All meetings start at 7:00pm.

West Chapter - Sept. 13, 20, Oct. 4, 18, 2005

* South Chapter - Sept. 21, Oct. 5, 19, 2005

North Chapter - Sept. 22, Oct. 12, 27, 2005

* South Chapter meets at 7:30pm.

b) Communication from T. Stagliano regarding background checks of members. Several comments and suggestions concerning types and classifications of checks critical to obtaining accurate information. Criminal and Sex offender registrations are separate and require specific inquiries. The State board will be looking into this topic and will be providing direction after conferring with MIAA. Motion to table this item until report from State Board is available. **VOTED** and **APPROVED**

c) Letter from Coach Ramirez, Freshman Coach, Brookline HS; et al; regarding an EMSOA official. Letter sent to Coach Ramirez along with Grievance Form on 11/24. No response as of this date.

d) Letter from Massachusetts Soccer Hall of Fame indicating Frank Scarsella to be inducted into Hall of Fame on April; 10, 2005. Frank has indicated that Frank Hasek will also be inducted into the Hall of Fame in April. Congratulations to both members for this honored recognition.

- **Committee Reports:**

a) **Judiciary Committee** - Cal Perry, Chairman gave a brief description of the Grievance Form now in use by the organization. Hopefully this will deter frivolous complaints from the general public. Cal also spoke about the membership of the Judiciary Committee and their involvement in clinics. Recruitment of officials needs to be a priority, the attrition rate is too high and we need to retain younger officials. Item in Spring Newsletter will speak to this issue and clinic dates will be published.

b) **State Committee** - No report, next meeting is January 30, 2005.

c) **Chapter reports:** **South** - Ron Cocuzzo reported on dates of the spring clinic and regular meeting dates.

West - Tom Stagliano would like to see email addresses of college coaches in the area and send clinic info to them in the spring.

North - Suggestion that ethnic newspapers be provided clinic information for possible recruits. Local Cable TV should also be utilized to disseminate clinic information, will try to get access to sources.

- **Unfinished Business:**

a) Secretary reported on the results of the combined Assignors, Assessors and Officers of the EMSOA last September. Overall the meeting was productive to the extent that information was shared, assignment web sites made available to assessors, a revised availability sheet that will be filled out by all clinic participants and sent to all assignors. New officials will be instructed to send a copy of their schedules to assignors in the fall. Further discussion regarding the use of non-members. If an EMSOA member arrives at a game, regardless of level, the EMSOA members should stay and complete the game but report this incident to the EMSOA Secretary and Assignor.

b) An attempt will be made to insure that efforts to not have any conflicts in Regular meeting dates for the 2005 season. At the present time there are no conflicts in dates for regular season meetings amongst all the Chapters.

- **New Business:**

a) Proposed addition to EMSOA By Laws and Constitution by R.Ringuette, Sec./Treas. Article IV - Ethics, Section I - Code of Ethics

Add...#8 - Act in any way that is detrimental to the organization, including but not limited to; any and all breach of conduct unbecoming a trusted soccer official; any breach of conduct governed by civil and/or criminal statutes; and any other breach of conduct as determined by the findings of the Judiciary Committee.

Penalties - Penalties for any of the above infractions may warrant warnings, fines, probation, suspension or even immediate termination. Such penalties incurred will be determined by the Judiciary Committee's recommendation to the Executive Board upon completion of a hearing allowing for due process.

Rationale: This addition will bring the E.M.S.O.A. Code of Ethics in line with the National Association of Sports Officials' Code of Ethics. Cal Perry, Chair. of Judiciary Committee proposes the following amendment to include under penalties...determined by the "*Judiciary Committee's recommendation to the Executive Board*" ...upon completion of a hearing allowing for due process. Amendment accepted as a friendly by sponsor.

Motion to accept proposed addition to Article IV, Section I Code of Ethics, #8 as amended. **VOTED** and **APPROVED**

b) Proposed amendment to By Laws Article III, Section VI - Meetings, C. 2 by Ron Cocuzzo, President, South Chapter E.M.S.O.A. ; To read"All members are required to attend two (2) Chapter meetings during the season (in addition to the Interpretation Meeting); meetings are scheduled each month at each Chapter for this purpose.

Rationale: This change will allow members who have night games that conflict with meeting dates to attend more meetings instead of sending in written excuses.

Motion to accept. **VOTED** and **APPROVED**

c) Proposed change to EMSOA By Laws and Constitution by Ron Cocuzzo, President South Chapter E.M.S.O.A. Article IV, Section II - Uniforms, A. Eliminate the words"Black shirt" and replace with"a Yellow shirt/ with Black Pin Stripes...."

Rationale: Alternate shirt may now include Black or other colors for both officials as necessary. Only a few teams use gold or yellow shirt colors. This change to Yellow w/black pin stripe as the "primary" shirt adopted by the EMSOA will become effective for the 2005 season and will put the EMSOA in line with our neighboring boards Whaling City SOA, and Central MA SOA . It is also agreeable by the EMSOA to allow for shirts that have the USSF logo on the sleeve.

Motion to accept. **VOTED** and **APPROVED**

d) Motion carried over from Executive Board meeting held on Nov. 21, 2004 at Hanscom AFB, Bedford, MA. Motion by George Cataldo to increase the honorarium of the Secretary/Treasurer by the sum of \$500.00 to a total of \$2,000.00. This motion is supported by the Exec. Board.

Motion to accept. **VOTED** and **APPROVED**

e) E.M.S.O.A. 50th. Anniversary Committee. The Executive Board has asked the membership for volunteers to serve on the 50th Anniversary of the E.M.S.O.A. in 2008. The following members have come forward to serve Thomas McNair, Jr., Bob Ringuette, George Cataldo, Peter Kristo, John

Power, Larry Wise. Any other members who wish to serve are asked to contact Bob Ringuette, Sec./Treas.

f) Double Dual System proposal for MIAA Soccer Tournament consideration. Ron Cocuzzo, President of the South Chapter presented a detailed account of the Double Dual System of officiating as outlined on page 85 of the National High School Federation Soccer Rule Book 2004-2005 to be utilized in Sectional and State Semi-Final and Final Tournament play.

Rationale: Ron is asking for endorsement of this system by the E.M.S.O.A. to assist in his presentation to the M.I.S.O.A. later in January. Ron detailed the pros and cons with emphasis placed upon the fact that all of our officials use the DUAL SYSTEM of officiating all season only to defer to the DIAGONAL SYSTEM of officiating for the Sectional and State Semi-Final and Final games. The transition to Double Dual is more natural and would allow for ANY of the E.M.S.O.A. officials to be familiar with the mechanics involved. This change would not require any additional fees to the MIAA and consistent with other MIAA sports utilizing three game officials.

Motion to endorse this system for presentation. **VOTED and APPROVED**

- **g) Proposal for the investigation by the Executive Board for a West area Assessor.** Jim Palmer, President of the West Chapter has indicated a need for assessment coverage in the Metro West geographical are. At the present time two Directors of Assessment are handling all evaluations North and South of the Mass. Turnpike; Mike Pelletier from Salem and George Cataldo from Weymouth. Each Director of Assessment has utilized assistance from veteran members in covering new officials; Jim Palmer would like to see a more equitable distribution of evaluations in the West area. Much discussion was critical of League Assignors having coaches and the second game official conducting the evaluating in the West; neither of which is the best method of evaluation. The Directors of Assessment are handicapped by the lack of schedules available to them indicating assignments, especially new officials. Another concern is having new officials working single, this does not allow for the Dual System to be evaluated also the number of changes of assignments occurring daily makes it difficult to observe individuals. League Assignors were asked to make a better effort in reducing the number of changes at the September meeting, one method would be to charge a large enough fee for changes in scheduling in order to discourage frivolous changes. The main issue is concerned with complete assessment coverage throughout our region, and having only two Directors of Assessment is insufficient. It was noted that two League Assignors, Roy Condon (North) and Pat Donovan (South) provide web site information of all game assignments. No other League Assignors are as cooperative which leaves a large gap in providing coverage. Motion to have the Executive Board investigate the possibility of adding a third Director of Assessment to cover the West area and make recommendation for implementation if necessary. If a need for an additional Director of Assessment is determined then the position will be posted to the membership.

VOTED and APPROVED

- **Meeting adjourned at 4:15pm.**