

**Minutes of the USHA Summer Board Meeting Minutes, Brooklyn, N.Y.
Monday, August 7, 2017**

President Martin Called the meeting to order at 8:48 a.m.

Attending were: President LeaAnn Martin, Secretary Tom Sove, Vice President Rob Pearse, Jeff Wall, Terry Nett, Ralph Fregoso, Alethia Mendez, Jared Vale, Rob Nichols, Jim Ward and Executive Director Vern Roberts.

Proxies: Sove was given those of Bill Kelly and Mike Steele. Steve Johnson's went to Jared Vale. Steve Birrell's went to Pearse. Steve Dykes, Carl Porter and Ken Starcher went to Martin. There are 10 members present and 7 proxies for a total of 17.

Martin asked board members what they had done to grow handball and the USHA.

Several members have sold ads and/or recruited the five members they committed to at the last meeting. Martin also noted the relationship with WPH as being positive. Play days were popular in most areas. Pearse takes a portable court to schools. Vale noted the junior small ball nationals that attracted out-of-town juniors, thanks to support from USHA and WPH.

Nett moved to accept the January 2017 meeting minutes as posted on the USHA website. Mendez seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Executive Decisions since the last meeting were reviewed. In addition to those in the board materials, the Executive Committee approved the Game recommendation on a continuing infraction.

Martin noted her enjoyment of the one-wall nationals. She thanked board members for coming to New York to support one-wall, and noted Saturday, August 5, 2017 was designated Handball Day by proclamation of the Brooklyn Borough President. She has instituted an informal survey on her work as President and asked the board to review and fill out. She will continue to ask USHA staff to assess her performance before the winter board meetings and the board to complete the evaluation around the summer board meetings. The at-large election candidates up for election for two spots later in the day are Pearse, Kelly and Glenn Hall.

Treasurer's report: Balls and gloves sales were down and creating the current deficit. However, memberships were nominally ahead of projections. The USHA Investment portfolio is once again a bright spot for us. The audit presented to the board for 2016 noted the write-off of old Capital Campaign pledges that had not been paid during the past 9 years. A brief discussion ensued regarding the acceptability of our gloves. Roberts responded that we have scoured Asia for the best deal; dealing with overseas suppliers is difficult and he is open to reviewing other options.

Glenn Hall was invited into the meeting and presented his campaign statement for the board.

Planning Committee: LeaAnn Martin noted the President's Club support of various projects, most notably giving matching funds to the Ardito Fund, and supporting webcasting. A question arose regarding the ownership of broadcast rights of our events. The answer is that we share with WPH. Antonio Navarro's work was noted at the one-wall as an example of an opportunity to spread the word. Vale and Mendez will interview him for an article for the magazine. Restructuring of regions was noted and Martin told the board there would be more discussion. Martin would re-send the recommendation

for discussion. Election discussion questioned why the officers' election schedule didn't correspond with the President's in regard to length of term. This too will be discussed by the Planning Committee.

Game Committee: Sove noted the results of the infraction situation. The member has received the letter and still has all member privileges, excepting representation of the USHA. Sove then brought up a suggested change in the confidentiality clause used in infraction letters, wherein we will include our right to make information available to other USHA officials or organizations that we determine to be affected by an infraction action. **Pearse moved that the statement be revised as proposed. Nichols seconded.** There was discussion about keeping the information as confidential as possible. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Sove noted that Tony Roberts is the rules chair for the one-wall sub-committee and it was requested that he be included on the Game Committee. This was approved by acclamation, with the proviso that whoever holds that position must be a certified referee, as well agreeable to support all USHA rules. There was discussion about a complaint at the wallball national event and some ideas for improving the administration of the event. Sove will send appropriate letters as outlined in the Game Committee session.

Regarding females who enter the USHA nationals and the division is cancelled due to not meeting minimum entry requirements, it was recommended that the females be allowed to play in a men's event if no other event is available at their age or women's event skill level. In the application of the USHA protocol to encourage participation, females will be allowed to participate in comparable male events if there's no other age- or skill- appropriate female event. **Sove moved. Fregoso seconded. The motion passed, 16-0-1.**

One-Wall Committee: Mendez thanked the board for coming to New York and the support for outdoor handball. The committee has been trying to spread the USHA's influence to other communities. To this end they have invited a representative from Pennsylvania and New England to join the Committee. She talked briefly of the restructuring of the one-wall Committee to include certain sub-committees with specific duties. The Committee wishes to hold more events this winter to take advantage of the indoor season, specifically in November and March. They hope having more events will offer a reason to join the USHA. The Players of the Year dinner will be the third Saturday in February, and will feature an exhibition including small ball and big ball. Publicity for the WallBall nationals made extensive use of social media, primarily Facebook. Prize money for this year's one-wall small ball nationals came from various sources and resulted in the largest purse ever this year. Vale's efforts were specifically noted. Crossover play, including Timothy Gonzalez' small and wallball wins would be recognized.

Recommendations from the committee were to include the one-wall committee rules person to the Game Committee. Also, to schedule the 2018 events: June 22-24 for the wallball and July 26-29 for the small ball. The events now have indoor backup at the Coney Island YMCA. It was requested to have at least one tournament at the Y to test the facility prior to next year.

The committee left for lunch at 11:55.

The meeting reconvened at 1:10

Promotions Committee: Pearse reviewed the upcoming schedule: Three-Wall in Toledo, Juniors in Chicago, Masters Singles in San Diego, Collegiates in Springfield, Masters Doubles in Houston, Women's

Classic in Tucson (unless someone else expresses interest in hosting), Wallball June 22-24, and July 26-29 for small ball. Discussion turned to the National four-wall and a recommendation that the four-wall nationals be suspended for one year or combined with the worlds, Aug. 9-19. Martin noted the national events are revenue makers for the USHA, and cancellation will adversely affect our 2018 budget. Nichols noted Los Cab would likely have it and noted LifeTime has already expressed an interest. Austin may also be receptive.

Reasons suggested for combining were a lack of venues and watering down of events in terms of numbers. **Pearse moved that the four-wall nationals be combined with the worlds in 2018. Sove seconded.** In discussion, Martin read a statement from Carl Porter in support of keeping the separate events due to prestige of USHA nationals. **Pearse and Sove withdrew the motion.**

The board thought Los Cab, Concord, Calif., or another site in Nor Cal, and UT were possible hosts. Discussion included a swing through permanent sites on a rotating basis. **Nett moved that we do not split nationals (hold singles and nationals separately) for 2018, provided we find a venue. Fregoso seconded.** In further discussion, it was agreed to see what was available by Sept. 11 for an attractive site for a combined and/or split nationals. In the event a venue could not be found by then, we would revisit the option to combine with the Worlds. **The motion passed 11-4-2.** The board will be kept informed as we move forward.

Pearse discussed Team USA representation. Men's four-wall would be decided by the top US finishers in four-wall nationals. In the case of a tie, it would be decided by WPH rankings. Wall ball and Small ball champions from 2017 would be the representatives. Pearse noted a goal of at least \$1,000 a player plus a uniform to help them attend. It was noted that any member of Team USA must be a USHA member. A question arose about adding a Wallball men's B representative to Team USA. This will not be USHA sponsored, and the one-wall committee will raise those funds. The USHA needs to be cognizant of what uniforms players use when they play for Team USA. A discussion ensued about having one uniform for TEAM USA with other organization-sponsored players wearing the same uniform with an additional distinctive patch or logo. Vale would seek other organizations for support of TEAM USA. Birrell sent a note for the board to consider promoting the regional events more prominently with a few items, including free national tournament entry fees for regional winners.

Pearse suggested that prize money could be awarded for worlds, but only if there's no four-wall nationals.

Collegiate Committee: Wells sent a report with Martin, noting their accomplishments and regular communications. Mike Wells was reelected Chairman, and Van Arsdale from Illinois was added to the committee. The Committee has better collaboration with the Irish, specifically regarding our rules and banquet behavior. The Committee requested that the USHA do a better job of promoting new rules, such as the recent glove rule. Game Committee Chair Sove was tasked with the job to write an article discussing the USHA's intent on enforcing the glove rule. The collegiate nationals have been scheduled for two years: MOST to host in 2018 and Univ. of Minn. to be held in 2019. The Committee has adopted new starting times for doubles (earlier on Wednesday). They will have further discussion of the US and International awards. The committee asked the board to consider improvements on the USHA website regarding collegiate activities, as well as an increase in First Ace funding for the collegiate tournament. Martin will share discussion with Wells.

First Ace Committee: All grant recipients are current in their reporting requirements, and all grants have been awarded. The Board was asked for its support to encourage more First Ace support for junior travel and Ardito funding. In a straw vote, the board voted unanimously to pursue that plan of action. In further discussion there was consideration of allowing Ardito funds be given to adults, as well as reducing the mileage threshold from 250 miles to 100. This will be sent back to the Committee.

Wall talked about the USHA App. Wall stated the ability to view Court Shorts is back up. The app also offers marketing for local tournaments. This might be a potential to garner ads. A lookup app for places to play was suggested. Also, regional members were asked to bring the board up to date on the ambassador listing and follow-up to see if the current ambassadors are willing to be listed publicly.

Membership/Services Committee: Staff was asked to re-send an email to those who paid the \$10 trial fees. The board still thinks it still is worth pursuing the outdoor market and current non-members for a trial. Wall will look into seeing if Stripe or another company can handle the credit card payments without USHA holding the card info.

Hall of Fame Committee: Martin noted the Moey Orenstein recommendation and resulting board confirmation from the last meeting. She explained the committee's decision to honor the current requirements for induction. The one-wall Committee suggestion to allow alternative documentation was rejected. The proposal to allow dual induction (Player and Contributor) didn't pass but may be discussed again. The Hall of Fame Committee currently has 8 members, and would prefer to have 11 or 12. Martin asked the Board members to consider likely potential candidates

Personnel Committee: Nett noted the employee guide was being reviewed by staff and would be discussed in January. Nett handed out the annual reviews for the board, and the executive director by staff and board. They have been reviewed and edited by Terry since the last meeting. Approval of the forms was made by acclamation, and the new reviews will be put in place for next meeting.

Investment and Budget considerations: Ball sales and glove sales were discussed. New funds have been established for the USHA, including the Keith Mardak Endowment. Mendez offered to look at other business models for income.

At-Large Elections: Running were Bill Kelly, Rob Pearse and Glenn Hall. Kelly and Pearse were elected.

Regional elections were reviewed with assignments for candidates. Ballots are needed by Sept. 1 for fall election.

LeaAnn noted the need to keep the momentum up for the next meeting, which will be held in Tucson, Jan 19-21, 2018.

The meeting concluded at 5:05 p.m.