**Iowa Racquetball Association Board Meeting**

**September 20, 2016 from 8:35pm – 9:58pm**

*In attendance: Josh Paul, Dan Horner, Susan Acoymo, Jeff Burbank, Mike Gleason, and Dennis Chandler*

*Absent: Rob Paulsen*

* Financial Update—Josh gave a report of our financial standing. Our account balance is now at $11,745. The checkbook is balanced as of today except for $168.19 in missing funds that Josh reported he has attempted to reconcile without success. Josh also informed the board that he recently obtained a debit card and switched over to a new account at the same bank that has more favorable terms. Susan is still the second person listed on the account and is able to write checks as needed.
* Fundraising for Junior Worlds—Josh reported that he set up a GoFundMe account. There was discussion of the board giving a gift of $500 to Benjamin directly, but that it had not been voted on officially. Josh then motioned and Susan seconded and the motion passed 5-0 with Dan abstaining. Josh added the $500 onto the GoFundMe account. Dan still has apparel sales that were provided by USAR to sell where all the profits will go to fund Benjamin’s trip if anyone is interested.
* Bid for 2017 Junior Olympic National Championships—Dan reported the USAR did not choose Iowa to host the tournament and instead it will go back to Stockton, CA in 2017. He then stated that he and Don McCormick just had a meeting yesterday with the YMCA to discuss the outcome of our bid. The USAR informed us that the number one reason we lost the bid was because of the high cost of renting the YMCA courts for the tourney with the next reason being the individual cost of the meal at the Saturday night banquet being too high to sell to family members, etc. The purpose of the meeting was to first break the news to the YMCA and then find out if they are interested in bidding for the 2018 Junior Olympics. When we put in for 2017 we also checked a box in the bid packet for 2018, however we would want to make the bid packet more attractive in order to have a chance at winning the bid for that year. So we needed to convey to the YMCA that if they are not able to come down on the facility rental costs then we would be withdrawing our bid for 2018. Terry Feldt of the YMCA said he would take this matter up with the CEO of the YMCA and would have an answer for us in 4 weeks at a future meeting. We then scheduled our follow up meeting for October 17, 2017.
* YMCA Facility Rental Rates for 16/17 Season—Dan reported that he had solidified keeping the same rates for the 2016/17 season that we had negotiated for last season. This was unexpected with the issues we had regarding the Junior Olympic rates for rentals. The rates are for 2 and 3 day tourneys $14/non-member, $7/member, and $0 per junior. For a 1 day tournament $10/non-member, $7/member, and $0 per junior.
* September USAR Directors meeting information—Dan reported on some topics that were discussed at the most recent USAR Directors meeting that may be of interest to other board members.
* The national tourney calendar was released and National Singles is moving to Arizona, Junior Nationals is moving to Stockton, CA, and National Collegiates is moving to Orange County, CA.
* The Executive Director Steve Czarnecki resigned and the search is on to fill the position.
* USAR is looking for copies of each state’s 501(c) paperwork and State Constitutions and Bylaws. Josh said he would look into making sure we have submitted these to them already.
* They are beginning a membership challenge where the state with the most new members and the state with the highest percentage of membership increase will win a prize at the conclusion of the 4th quarter 2016 drive.
* Having an insurance policy may be a good idea for the IRA. Susan mentioned that she will ask Ryan Davis about preparing some insurance estimates for the IRA as he is in that field of work.
* Blind Draw—Josh announced his upcoming blind draw doubles planned for September 24 in the Quad Cities. It is maxed out at 32 participants just like last year.
* Marigold Resources Quad Cities Open—Josh announced that his upcoming tournament set for October 21-23 has been downgraded from a Tier IV to a Tier V because one of the sponsors fell through from last year when they gave $300. It should still be a great tourney with prize payouts of $1,000 for first place in the Men’s IRT division. It is listed on R2 Sports and people are signing up already. He asked us to post flyers around the Des Moines area clubs.
* Fall Classic Tournament—Dennis announced that his upcoming tournament is now live on the R2 website and set for November 4-6. He mentioned that he will need volunteers to make this a successful event. Dan agreed to pick up the speakers and microphones and also arrange to get the other tournament supplies from storage. Dan will also share information on prior sponsors for Oakmoor and YMCA tourneys in the Des Moines area as well as share the different vendors we have used recently for awards, t-shirts, food, etc. Dennis made a request of the board to approve a sponsorship from the IRA of $300. Josh made the motion and Dan seconded and the motion passed with a vote of 5-0 with Dennis abstaining.
* Discussion on other potential tournaments in the 2016/17 season in Iowa—Dan mentioned that the fundraising tournament idea that the downtown YMCA had proposed where the beneficiary was to be a school in Ghana has been cancelled. Dan also mentioned that he will be running the 2017 Iowa Open on March 3-5 just like last year and it will serve as our State Singles again if all are okay with that. We may want to plan an Iowa State Doubles/State Juniors Championship for either January or late April. January is good as it is halfway between the other 2 tourneys and late April is good as it would satisfy our 2nd quarter tournament requirement to receive membership dues from USAR. Rob was not on the call and he ran this tournament last year. We will discuss this further at the next meeting.
* 2018 National Masters Championship bid possibility—Josh tabled this item for the next meeting due to the late time.
* The next meeting is planned for October 11, 2016.