

**American Darts Organization
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
November 7, 2021
Video Conference**

Call to order: 1:09pm EST

Roll call:

Present:

President – Charles T. Sawyer

Vice President – Matthew Stoner

Chief Financial Officer - Jacqueline Robbins

General Secretary – Cynthia Annette Lynde

Director of Operations - Stephen Brown

Area 3 Manager – Christopher Shawn Helms

Area 4 Manager – Elizabeth Newby

Area 5 Manager – Michael French

Area 6 Manager – Christopher Ryan Mooneyham

National Youth Manager – Carrie Marie Demers

Guests Present:

Steve Moore – National Youth Fund Trustee

Absent:

Area 1 Manager – Ronald B Peppers

Area 2 Manager – Michael J. Sexton

National Youth Fund Report – Steve Moore

Mr. Moore introduced himself as the primary trustee, and explained the status of fund.

National Youth Manager Demers and Jason Demers are the other trustees.

The fund is up to date, healthy, and in good standing with IRS. 2021 will be filed electronically at the end of December. As of September, statement shows balance of \$51,766.36. Since Feb of 2020, there were no withdrawals from the fund because there were no tournaments, and youth had not requested the scholarship money.

There are youth players that earned scholarships, but have not yet requested the funds.

President Sawyer asked how it will be handled if a youth player has been collecting scholarship money before turning 21 and will still be in school when they turn 21. Mr. Moore stated the balance will be paid to them before they turn 21.

Because of COVID, Mr. Moore would like to extend the scholarship awards to 18 months past the 21st birthday of youth that earned scholarships. Mr. Moore, National Youth Manager Demers, and Jason Demers will discuss, and if necessary, bring to the Board for a vote at the January meeting.

Report from the President – Charles T. Sawyer

Possibility of extending open registration for Nationals

Discussion – One major issue with the buy-in program is that it has lessened the participation in National Qualifiers. The question is whether the ADO is collecting enough money through the buy-in to cover the costs, versus the money that is collected through National Qualifier participation.

Vice President Stoner will pull the numbers to compare the number of players who participated with the ‘buy-in’ and the number of players that participated because they won through a National Qualifier, and how much money was collected for each. Subject will be re-visited at the in-person meeting in January.

Vice President Stoner wanted to clarify how the buy-in will be split between the prize pot and the International Travel Fund for the Nationals in Las Vegas. Of the \$150, \$100 will go to pot and \$50 will go to the Travel Fund. For the \$50 collected from the first alternates that are playing the Nationals, all \$50 will go to the Travel Fund.

Dart board costs and sales price

President Sawyer signed a contract with Winmau, then Escalade and Winmau has extended the contract for ADO to 2025 or possibly 2027. However, after the first 500, the cost has worked out to \$50.58, a loss of \$.58,

plus shipping, per board to the ADO. President Sawyer brought up if the ADO should raise the selling price, or cut off sales at 500 boards. Vice President Stoner suggested raising the selling price to \$60. Discussion surrounding waiting to raise the price until the Blade 6 comes out, or raising it now. Tabled for now.

Report from the Vice President – Matthew Stoner

The WDF Gold this weekend, November 12-14, at Seacoast. The winner of men's and the winner of women's advance to Lakeside World Championship.

The new WDF program has balanced out the opportunity for North American women to participate at Lakeside. The WDF now has a 3 month cut-off for sanctioning. It's important that tournaments get their sanctioning in as early as possible.

The WDF wants ranked tournaments to go to the single board format for the 501 singles. It will be done at Seacoast and at the Las Vegas Open.

Chief Financial Officer Robbins brought up the problems at the Virginia Beach tournament. The WDF rules weren't enforced, the tournament director stated she had no intention of enforcing said rules, and that tournament should not be WDF-ranked. Vice President Stoner suggested that Virginia Beach not be approved for WDF, if the tournament director doesn't follow the rules.

In addition, the tournament flyer advertises a total prize purse of \$37,695, but that includes the pro cricket singles, which is not an open event. Vice President Stoner stated that they need to be informed they cannot advertise a total that includes events that are not open to everyone.

Report from the CFO – Jacqueline Robbins

Everything looks good. Financial reports will be forwarded to the Board at a later date.

Vice President Stoner asked Director of Operations Brown if rosters were being submitted with association membership renewals. The answer was no. This brought up the fact that it is believed Florida Dart Association has more members than they have been paying ADO membership for and they likely need to start paying the maximum in the Fee Structure schedule.

Report from the General Secretary – Cynthia Annette Lynde

No new updates to the By-law revision project. General Secretary Lynde is waiting for fellow board members to give feedback on most recent submission for changes. President Sawyer stated that he knows of someone who can help the Board with updating/revising the bylaws.

No new updates on the status of unpublished past minutes (January 2019, January 2020, July 2020)

Elections –

General Secretary Lynde suggested adding a change to the by-laws to allow Area Managers to nominate a perspective Regional Director, that doesn't quite meet the eligibility requirements listed, so they can be listed on the ballot.

Vice President Stoner motioned to lower the eligibility requirement to two years, for Regional Director. General Secretary Lynde seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Vice President Stoner motioned to add a statement to allow an Area Manager to nominate a candidate for Regional Director, that may not meet the requirements but is a valid candidate, so they may be listed on the ballot. General Secretary Lynde seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Report from the ADO Office – Stephen Brown

Still have lots of individual memberships coming in.

Received letter from US Bank, stating account will be closed due to inactivity. Director of Operations Brown will make a small deposit in order to keep the account active.

Area Manager Reports

Area 1 – Ronald B. Peppers – Absent, no report

Area 2 – Michael J. Sexton – Absent, no report

Area 3 – Christopher Shawn Helms

Area 3 is still going, but the pandemic has slowed things down. 3-5 doing well, but most regions have little or no darts happening. Need to find a way to stimulate growth.

Area 4 – Elizabeth Newby

Is appointing Eric Cicogna to Region 4-1 Director.

Lost a long standing member of the GNDA and SRDA in Region 4-2 to COVID. It was a big hit to the players there.

Leagues are going as normal, tournaments going as planned, ChooChoo Classic is coming up. 501 NQ happening that day and several leagues each sending several players.

No 2022 tournament flyers sent for sanctioning from Florida yet.

Discussion, regarding the lack of participation in National Qualifiers, and possible reasons why. Ideas discussed were changing them back to 'Regionals' where players only play in their region, changing the buy-in program, changing the ADO points players earn. Discussion tabled for now.

The RCDA will be replacing their local ADO Representative.

Area 4 Manager Newby stated that Shoot for the Moon is happening, but they do not want to be WDF ranked, as the new WDF rules may be a deterrent to their local players. Once details are hammered out, the flyer will be completed.

Area 4 Manager Newby asked if Mr. Cicogna, the newly appointed Region 4-1 director, needs to inform the Florida Dart Association (FDA) they will need to pay fees based on their membership, which will likely be the maximum amount on the Fee Structure schedule. It was decided that General Secretary Lynde will send draft a letter to the FDA to inform them.

Area 4 Manager Newby also stated that the FDA is putting on their flyers that participants must be a member of the FDA, or are collecting \$1 for participants of the tournament to join their association. Vice President Stoner stated that they cannot do that, if they want to be an ADO-sanctioned tournament, as only Open tournaments are ADO-sanctioned.

General Secretary Lynde was directed to add to the above letter that the FDA is no longer allowed to charge \$1 per player, per event for membership into the FDA at their ADO-sanctioned open tournaments.

At the National Qualifier on August 28, Tom Bush walked out during the National Qualifier, before finishing. Mr. Bush was told that he'd likely be suspended from the ADO Playoff Program for at least a year. General Secretary Lynde was asked to send Mr. Bush a letter, explaining the penalties – he will be banned from participating in the ADO Playoff Program, will receive no ADO points from tournament play for the year, cannot play WDF-ranked singles for one year from the date of the offense (August 28, 2021).

Director of Operations Brown motioned to add the verbiage regarding the penalties to the Playoff Rules. Vice President Stoner seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Area 5 – Michael French -

Is working on reaching out to everyone in Area 5, as newly elected to Area Manager. Decent turnout at New England Dart Shootout, as well as Arctic Blast, so darts are being played.

Low turnouts for Area 5-1 National Qualifiers.

Area 6 – Christopher Ryan Mooneyham -

Newly appointed Region 6-5 Director, Ed Garcia, doing good so far.

6-2 National Qualifiers had no participation, 3 separate times.

6-5 likely wouldn't have participation at their National Qualifiers if it wasn't open to players outside their region.

Trying to some other associations back to ADO, Columbia DA hasn't been as strong but starting to make a turn, Central Missouri DA has seen a significant drop in teams, Oklahoma City DA has no leagues, Lawton is pretty strong, other leagues doing their own thing.

Area 6 Manager Mooneyham is concerned about the attitude of some tournament directors toward ADO board members when they attend the tournaments. Generally, when he introduces himself, they seem uninterested, and sometimes pretty rude. Feels that all WDF-ranked events should be 100% DigitalSteel with tablet coverage.

National Youth Director Report – Carrie Marie Demers

The main concern is whether there will be enough youth players for the upcoming US Team Youth Nationals. At this point, there are only 2 boys and 1 girl. To possibly get more youth, National Youth Director Demers wants to waive the increase to \$75 and keep the entry at \$50 to the day of the event. The board members agreed this was a good idea.

Old Business

Office (old) Storage –

Area 1 Manager Peppers picked up 40 boxes from the storage unit. He is currently storing them and will bring them to the January meeting for Board members to go through. The plan is to scan in pertinent documents and dispose of the rest.

New Business - None

Next meeting – Wednesday, January 12, 9am PST in the Rotunda room at the Tuscany

Adjourned – 3:35pm EST