

MYCCA Membership Meeting

April 7th, 2019

Meeting called to order by Scott 1:01p

In attendance:

Scarborough Cheer
Portland Cheer
Oxford Hills Youth Cheer
Firehouse Cheer
Fairfield Rec
Mt. Blue Rec Cheering
Lewiston Sparks
Jefferson Village School
Messalonskee Youth Cheer

Saco Stars
Massabesic Middle School
Skowhegan Junior High
Woolwich Cheer
Synergy Rec
Turner Rebels
Auburn Wreckers
So. Portland Youth Cheering
Tri-Town Knights (Poland)

President Remarks

Polled the audience for membership tenure. Thanks given to all organizations for their efforts knowing how long and challenging Cheering can be as a program.

Observations:

When registering, rosters and fees need to be completed **timely**.

Some organizations have lagged in turning in their comp fees and waivers. **Need to Receive sooner.**

Competition fees need to be paid to hosts before competition. **Not day of comp.**

Discussed national trends have shown that youth activity participation has been decreasing among most sports. Divorce rates may be the supporting factor of this trend. 20 years ago, there were more households with only 1 working family member. Commitment & free time is coming at a premium, and families are not able to afford the same time off they once were to support the extra curriculums of their family. Cost may also be a factor. Programs and hosts should keep entry fees in mind, and programs should be trying to find ways to keep customer costs **down**. We need to work together to ensure participation is trending in the right direction for our sport.

Scott mentioned wanting to poll/survey the programs on some general items pertaining to the facilitation and execution of their individual organization. The results of this survey would be used to assist new programs with the startup of their league. Example questions include:

Do you pay your coaches? Program director?

Facility usage?

What is your registration cost?

What does your registration include?

Are your uniforms purchased annually or on a refresh schedule?"

(quick show of hands proved that many members of membership would favor having this info)

Dani will work to establish deadline for question/survey ideas & question submission to MYCCA.

Membership supplied questions:

Is your director paid a stipend/rate or are they reimbursed for their expenses?

Does your program allow admin & coaches children to participate for free?

The results will be pooled together and organizations will not be listed with results. The results could provide helpful information to all of programs in how you do business.

Mission Statement

Read by Trisha to all membership in attendance.

Treasurer's Report (Trisha)

Trisha reviewed the treasurer's report. She also reviewed a previous topic regarding transferring of information from old website. Mentioned May 2019 should be the last \$9.99 fee. No questions from body on report.

OFFICIAL MOTION: Accept Treasurer's Report

Motion Made (Lakota, Lewiston), Seconded (Heather, Scarborough)

Discussion: None.

In Favor - All

Competition Schedule 2020

January

HS Regionals - Jan 25

Firehouse-Safety Comp - Jan 26

February

Cheers from the Heart (OH/Bidd) - Feb 1

HS States - Feb 8

OPEN-Feb 9

Scarborough - Feb 15

Mt. Blue - Feb 16

Lewiston Vacation Classic - Feb 22

Fairfield PAL - Feb 22

OH - Feb 29

March

Poland - Mar 7

Saco-Mar 7

So. Po. - Mar 14

Skowhegan-Mar 14

Turner - Mar 21

Elite - Mar 22

Synergy- ME Cheer Classic - Mar 28

Reminded membership that organizations must be a current member in good standing for consideration to host a comp. Also reviewed some things to consider when contemplating hosting a competition. **While they generate revenue, it is not as fruitful as it once was.** The only desire for MYCCA is that competitions are **good**. The reputation of our organization depends on the success and execution of our comps.

Below is a list of other organizations interested in hosting competitions in 2020:

Skowhegan is interested in hosting the Showcase again and/or competition in March

Firehouse interested in hosting a competition (or Cheer Classic)

Saco is interested in hosting either on Mar 21, Mar 7, Feb 29, or host Cheer Classic

Synergy interested in Cheer Classic or comp on Mar 14

Q: *Is the Cheer Classic locked in at the Colisee for 2020? (Lakota, Lewiston)* **No (not yet!)**

Hosts need to be 100% committed to both the Fall & Spring meetings. If a host isn't here, the comp will be taken off of the schedule (per a proposed by-law change).

Scott opened the floor for discussion on distance/radius for same-day competitions:

River Valley commented on how they were impacted changing from 60mi to 50mi.

Lewiston commented that they have noticed a decrease in participation/numbers with a northern same-day competition.

Scarborough cited they are indifferent on same-day competitions, but mentioned that vendors have been commenting that competitions aren't as profitable as they once were for their time and effort.

Members who'd like to host the Showcase:

Firehouse

Skowhegan

Members who'd like to host the Cheer Classic:

Saco - Can only offer the classic if at a 3rd party location which appropriate size

Synergy

Firehouse

****Per member request, Christine from Firehouse reviewed the finance report for the Showcase held at the Colisee in 2019.**

****Lewiston offered to allow their Mat's to be used (maybe negotiated) provided the competition is located at the Colisee (attempting to lower expenses for host)**

Things being considered for outstanding competitions:

Skowhegan - If not chosen for Showcase, First choice March 21st; Second choice March 14th.

Saco - If not chosen for Cheer Classic, First choice March 21st, Second choice March 7th.

OFFICIAL RECOMMENDATION: Scott submitted the formal item to the floor that Skowhegan will have their competition on March 14, and Saco will have their competition on March 7th IF either are not chosen for the respective premier competition (Showcase or Cheer Classic)
Vote Taken - Show of hands.

In Favor – All

OFFICIAL RECOMMENDATION: Scott submitted the formal item to the floor that Firehouse Cheer is allowed to host their comp on February 9th if not selected for the premier competition, waiving the 50 mile distance requirement (Topsham is 48 miles).

Vote Taken - Show of hands

In Favor – All

Further discussion resulted in the following

-Skowhegan pulled their name for consideration for the Showcase as they cannot have confirmation of facility until September 2019, locking in their competition on March 14th.

-Saco pulled their name from consideration for Cheer Classic, locking in their competition on March 7th.

Final: Firehouse Cheer is allowed to host the Showcase (At. Mt. Ararat) on January 26th.

Final: Synergy is allowed to host the Cheer Classic (At. Lewiston Colisee) on March 28th.

****An additional item was introduced to the floor that there is an opening on February 9th, 2020 if anybody is interested in coming forward to host a competition. Note: Feb 9th is the same day of a non-MYCCA sponsored event in Augusta.**

Elections (Scott)

OFFICIAL MOTION: To accept the open officer seats as presented (Scott, President; Trisha, Treasurer; Dani, Registration Coordinator; Christine, Invitation Coordinator).

Motion made (Shelly, Poland), Seconded (Annie, Messalonskee)

No Discussion.

In Favor - All

Head Judge Remarks (Susan)

Tumbling Safety - An official recommendation has been handed to membership to remove tumbling from the main floor area. Proposes that there is an additional tumbling mat out back, or increase the time to 6 minutes to warm up area.

Rubrics 2020 - A change in areas of focus was presented to membership. There are some new points of emphasis which hope to create cleaner and safer routines for all programs participating.

Pre-Cheer - Changes have been made to the timing of pre-cheering routines. Pre-cheer will need to be completed before taking the floor, as the timer is going to start once "Hit it" is called.

Lobster Bowl Funding (Trisha)

Last year we had 18 applicants, 1 dropped out leaving the total to 17 seeking scholarship. \$1700 was paid out for 2018. Board discussed capping the scholarship at \$2000, with a deadline for submission of May 15th, 2019. Submissions need be made via email to clpm2003@yahoo.com including: Name, School, and Grade.

Senior Scholarships (Alana)

We had 5 applicants for the scholarship, 2 winners have been chosen. Winners will be posted in June, after their Senior recognition/banquet which is when the applicant will first find out they've been selected.

Fall Training (Scott)

Board discussed items to be covered at the fall training. Susan has asked that members supply ideas they'd like covered at the fall training. Plans are in the works for an additional training for Stunt instruction (Where organizations could bring stunt groups) with NCA staff in early December. A fee for attending will be evaluated, with a final cost being presented at the fall meeting, held November 3rd, 2019.

Items for Vote (Scott)

OFFICIAL MOTION: Annual meeting will be held each fall. At least one (1) member from each organization is HIGHLY RECOMMENDED to attend the annual meeting. **A change from "recommended" to "mandatory" will be added to the by-laws, with a \$25 membership penalty for all organizations not in attendance.**

Motion Made (Amanda, Saco), Seconded (Michelle, Turner).

Discussion: None.

In Favor - All

OFFICIAL MOTION: Recommendation that host organizations **MUST** have representation at the April meeting to be considered to host their competition.

Motion Made (Heather, Scarborough), Seconded (Shelly, Poland)

Discussion: None.

In Favor - All

OFFICIAL MOTION: Cheerleaders participating on all-star teams congruently with MYCCA competitions cannot participate on any teams that compete in MYCCA sponsored competitions.

Vote will be taken via secret ballot.

Motion Made (Annie, Messalonskee), Seconded (Shelly, Poland)

Discussion:

Heather from Scarborough commented that she did not feel comfortable turning away someone trying to register because of their all-star affiliation. Cited concerns that an approach described above may limit access for advanced training and opportunities for cheerleaders trying to grow within the sport.

Scott commented that concerns and comments have come in asking to define the item further. It's still an issue, and a vote is necessary by membership to decide if this item needs to be amended. Christine commented that even in High School, student athletes are required to choose between All-star, or High School. Heather reiterated that the kids have minimal involvement in choosing the teams they cheer for.

Turner commented that their perception is teams not being placed in the proper divisions, with Div 2 teams blowing competition out of the water. A better approach may be to better place teams in the appropriate division and reassess the problem.

Portland commented that this rule needs to be evaluated as it is demoralizing to teams/towns who are struggling for resources.

Poland commented that it's the responsibility of the coaches to deflect the attention of competition level from their squads. The cheerleaders need to be mindful of their own situation, and not to worry about other programs.

Saco asked if it was possible to create an all-star division, specifically for teams who host all-star athletes.

Portland commented that we should be looking at how we build divisions as a possible method to address this item. Suggested recalibrating squads based on consistent scoring maybe provide a means to allow all-star athletes with the spirit of keeping things fair.

Secret Ballot Result: Yes (11), No (7). Motion has been accepted into by-laws.

OFFICIAL MOTION: The above vote on all-star exclusions does NOT apply to Middle School divisions.

Motion Made (Lakota, Lewiston), Seconded (Nicki, Synergy)

Discussion:

In Favor - All

OFFICIAL MOTION: Scott presented membership with a proposal to eliminate the miles which separate communities on same-day competitions.

Discussion: None.

No motion Made, lifted from table.

OFFICIAL MOTION: Christine proposed changing the mileage requirement from 50mi, to 30mi.

Motion Made (Christine, Firehouse), Seconded (Amanda, Saco)

Discussion: River Valley suggested splitting the difference and decreasing mileage requirement to 40mi.

Previous proposal lifted from the floor.

OFFICIAL MOTION: Christine proposed changing the mileage requirement from 50mi, to 40mi.

Motion Made (Christine, Firehouse), Seconded (Amanda, Saco)

In Favor - 9 in favor, 8 opposed

OFFICIAL MOTION: Motion being made that Rising Stars get scored at competitions.

Motion Made (Christine, Firehouse), Seconded (Shelly, Poland)

Discussion: None.

In Favor – All

Note: The purpose for scoring is for coaches to have information to utilize in working with their teams. This is not for announcing or for performance placement, as this division performs vs competition.

General Discussion

Membership inquired to see if there was any recourse/action that can/should be taken towards a program if they are not believed to be addressing major issues that arise as a result of their parents behavior with cheering competitions/events. Scott commented that he would recommend the host be responsible to handle issues at their event. Hosts could seek advice from the MYCCA Board if necessary.

Meeting adjourned 3:37pm.