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MTWOA - March 29-Meeting Recap

1 message

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Happy Easter Week, MTWOA Officials —

As we head into Easter weekend, I wanted to share a brief recap from our association meeting last Sunday. Thank you to the 30+ officials who joined us online.

Keeping Our Community in Prayer

First, please keep **George Vander Woude** and the **Kenwood Middle School (Clarksville) community** in your thoughts.

- George shared that he is currently facing health challenges after suffering a stroke that resulted in Bell's palsy. Those who want to reach out to George directly, his email address is (GVW3@comcast.net)
- Kenwood Middle School tragically lost two students in a bus accident last Friday during a field trip.

Please continue to lift up George and the Kenwood community during this difficult time.

2025–26 Season Highlights

We had a tremendous year as an association. Some key wins include:

- ☒ Season Kickoff Pool Party
- ☒ Austin Marcum — Official of the Year
- ☒ Brette Spink — First female to officiate at the state level
- ☒ Highest overall quality of officiating to date as a collective
- ☒ Successful Grand Championships
- ☒ Renewed focus on recruitment
- ☒ Launch of Marketing/Social Media presence
- ☒ Ralph Gabriels — Coaches' clinic for Metro coaches
- ☒ Donation of 100+ pairs of shoes and 40 headgear sets to 25 schools

Pay Increases for Next Season

Summary of updated compensation:

- **Doubles, Duals & Tris:** \$80 per match
- **One-Day Tournaments:** \$300 (overtime procedures still apply)
- **Two-Day Tournaments:** \$500
- **Middle School Pay:** Remains comparable to high school

Weigh-In Discussion

We have begun discussions regarding:

- Paying officials for weigh-ins
- Eliminating weigh-ins (with skin checks upon arrival instead)
- Leaving the process as is

The Board will discuss and vote at our April meeting.

Officials Evaluations & Feedback

We are working on an internal, transparent evaluation system to provide:

- Clearer feedback
- Greater transparency
- Defined areas for growth
- Better understanding of where officials stand

Our goal is continued development and accountability.

Postseason Assignments — Clarification

To provide clarity:

- **State Assignments:**
A list of eligible officials is submitted to the State Director of Officials. That individual alone determines state selections. Our association does not influence those decisions.
- **Regional & Sectional Assignments:**
Determined by availability, history of availability, ability, and eligibility.

Eligibility Requirements May Include:

- Attending state meetings
 - Attending 3–5 association training meetings (depending on tenure)
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Association Financial Update

- Current balance: approximately **\$35,000**
 - Grand Championships revenue: approximately **\$22,000**
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Grand Championships Update

This past season was a record year in many areas. Planning is already underway for improvements related to:

- Event flow
- Weigh-ins
- Crowd management

However, with Coach Kramer's sudden retirement at Wilson Central, logistics and location are now being evaluated.

Ben Smitherman and the Grand Championships Committee are exploring options. Stay tuned.

Please remember:

Grand Championships is our association event. We all volunteer to support it, and that is why our association dues are waived.

Registration for Next Season

If you plan to officiate next season, please register as soon as registration opens (around July 1).

Mike will send details when registration begins. Early registration helps schools and assignors plan schedules effectively.

Upcoming Dates

- **Association Golf Tournament Fundraiser:** June 19
(Even if you don't golf, come out and enjoy the fellowship.)
 - **Summer Fellowship:** August 15
(Open to officials, immediate family, and friends.)
 - **Fall Training Dates:**
October 5, 7, 13, 15, 19, 21, 27, 29
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More information will be shared as we prepare for summer and move toward the 2025–26 season.

Wishing you all a pleasant and restful Easter weekend.

David