

EMPIRE RFU GU
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
January 16, 2017

The Executive Board met via conference call on Monday, January 16, 2017, at 9:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Voting Board Members: Ken Pape (President), Pat Moroney (VP Communications), Sharon Berger (VP Operations), Rosalie MacGowan (VP Finance), Lex Maccubbin (ED Men), Brad Kleiner (ED Referees)

Non-Voting Members: J.C. Whipple (Administrator), Gary Heavner (DC Chair)

Absent: Angela Corpus (ED Women), Sean Horan (ED Sevens)

Clubs: None

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:16 p.m. A quorum was in place.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ken Pape reported to the Board that he and Pat Moroney attended the NDS over the weekend. He said the #1 item to discuss is a dues increase. There is a current proposal on the table to the Board of Directors of an increase of \$55 to raise the USA Rugby dues to \$100 + \$45 EGU dues = \$145 per registrant.

Ken said this did not pass and no financials have been produced to warrant this increase (where there are shortfalls, etc.). It has been around 10 years since the last dues increase. In order for a dues increase to pass, it must be voted upon (next Board meeting in February). If it is not voted upon in February, there would be no dues increase for this year, though that may mean we lose some benefits from the national office. Any information will be passed along to the EGU membership.

Ken said he spoke with Alex Magelby about High Performance. Ken said he shared thoughts with Alex around a plan that will be beneficial to all, especially for EGU members to have visibility to the National programs.

There are some changes with PRO Rugby and it will have impact on Men's Division 1.

Jillion Potter is a current Eagle (15s / 7s) and battling cancer. Ken's feelings are that the EGU should consider having a charitable arm to cover things on this nature and help as many as people as possible. Pat Moroney said it would help to move quickly in situations like this to have a more immediate impact.

Ken stated that EGU supported PLATES in Sacramento with a \$100 donation. PLATES was negatively impacted by PRO Rugby to a significant monetary loss.

Overall, Ken is very happy with the progress EGU has made in the past year.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Rosalie MacGowan asked everyone to review the management report, including the balance sheet included (as of Dec 31, 2016). As of that date, there was approximately \$92,000 in the bank account. While that looks nice, EGU is operating with a net income of approximately \$34,000.

Rosalie said based on the budget, it looked like EGU was going to operate at a \$6000 loss for this fiscal year. In looking further, it looks like it would actually would be a \$1600 loss. While this is an improvement, operating at a deficit is never ideal.

Rosalie said she has been working with Mike Crafton and Jorge Quintana regarding taxes. She said there is an accredited individual who has offered to provide services pro bono and she will be discussing with them this week.

Ken asked what services college players receive for the reimbursement. Rosalie said it is money-in, money-out. The \$45 fee to register is simply returned to the player for their participation in the Summer 7s.

Ken said he is concerned about the tax situation. Rosalie said she is working through the process and will have a more detailed report for the next Board meeting. An in-depth discussion took place regarding the EGU tax situation and the process to resolution.

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

Pat Moroney said he is speaking with Google about incorporating Google for Work. It is possible EGU can utilize for free, max it will be \$4 per Board member+Admin per month. EGU docs / email would live within the Google ecosystem and benefit from its redundancy.

An update from NDS, Pat said he has seen that EGU has multiple layers of playoffs which creates a barrier to the National pathway. EGU operates much differently than other Unions, putting it at a disadvantage compared to others.

Ken Pape said there are changes coming. The Northeast is the most under-represented per-capita as compared to other regions. Gary said that this issue is well-known, but the folks nationally making the decision were from the Midwest, South and West.

MEN'S REPORT

Lex Maccubbin reported on Paul LaMancusa from Western NY. Working with the Peace Corps and has implemented rugby into the school curriculum where he is working. Some entities, including USA Rugby, have donated balls and light equipment. A write-up will be included in an upcoming newsletter(s) to publicize and promote Paul's efforts.

Ken Pape said he started discussions with Lori Staples of NERFU regarding Saratoga. NERFU will discuss internally. Ken said there needs to be a conversation with Saratoga to gauge its level of interest.

WOMEN'S REPORT

Angela Corpus was not present for a complete Women's report.

SEVENS REPORT

Rosalie said she and Sean has a call set up with the various clubs interested in hosting Upstate / Downstate 7s. It looks like there may be some cuts this year, which is a good thing and shows the interest in hosting these events. Tournaments and dates will be announced ASAP.

REFEREES REPORT

Brad Kleiner reported there was a referee course for Women in December and was very well attended. Two Level 1 courses (Rutgers / Batavia) and a Level 2 course (with 12 attendees) upcoming. Brad has been tracking where referees have been coming from / clubs. Brad will target club contacts directly instead of generic communication to drive more active participation / refereeing.

Lex Weiner was selected to ref at the National Academy in Chula Vista. Reports are he did very well.

DISCIPLINE REPORT

Gary Heavner said there have been no cards since the last meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Pat Moroney - HP Director

Ken Pape reported Pat Moroney has stepped down as High Performance Director. The position will not be replaced at this time. Ken has a report on High Performance, once that has been reviewed it will be determined if the position will be replaced. Ken thanked Pat for all his hard work over the past several years.

Pat said he is stepping down because he received abusive actions from some members of the EGU, accusing him of stealing funds. Pat said, as everyone knows he has no direct access to funds and it was very un-

fair. He said as things like this continue to happen, we will lose administrators and coaches. Ken Pape said he is working with Gary Heavner to develop language for the policy manual regarding Administrator abuse.

Jillion Potter Donation

Ken Pape proposed that EGU put forth a fundraising effort in support of Jillion Potter (USA Eagle), setting a cap of \$2500. Pat Moroney suggested matching funds raised by EGU members / clubs.

Ken Pape motioned EGU establish a fundraising effort to support Jillion Potter with a stipend up-to \$2500, based on matching on funds raised by EGU members / clubs. Rosalie MacGowan seconded. The motion passed, 6-0.

Ken will reach out to NERFU and Mid-Atlantic to discuss a fundraising challenge.

Being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
J.C. Whipple
EGU Administrator