



**United States Blind Athletes Association
Board of Directors Meeting
February 5, 2018**

Directors present on the conference call: Larry Dickerson, Ken Hannah, Amy Wasson, Gary Remensnyder, Paul Shields, Matt Simpson and Tim Vlach, Peter Paulding, and Mike Bina

Directors absent: Brittany Wozny and Danelle Umstead

USABA staff present: Mark Lucas

The Board of Directors of the USABA convened for its board meeting via telephonic conference call on February 5, 2018. The meeting was called to order at 11:08 a.m. by President Mike Bina.

Mike Bina welcomed directors and thanked them for taking the time to participate in the call.

Mike Bina informed the members that there were two board member resignations. The first was Nancy Louraine, board Secretary, resigned and this vacancy will be filled under New Business at the meeting. The second resignation was Michael Elliott. His position vacancy may be filled at the next upcoming board meeting.

Mike Bina stated that in accordance with USABA bylaws, Article 4-Section 4; "If a vacancy occurs in an office, the Executive Committee may appoint a person to fill the vacancy until the next board meeting election." Accordingly, Paul Shields has been appointed as interim Secretary until the election is held later during this meeting.

Roll call was conducted by Interim Acting Secretary Paul Shields. A quorum of 9 members was present with a majority vote on any item requiring 5 votes.

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the November 2-3, 2017 meetings. The motion to approve the minutes was approved.

Executive Director's report: Mark Lucas highlighted the following from his January Executive Director written report which was sent to the members prior to the meeting:

- A 2018 \$30,000 sponsorship from Vanda Pharmaceuticals has been secured.
- Year-end direct mail campaign yielded \$12,000 in donations.
- An external audit is scheduled in April 2018.
- Unaudited FY2017 financial results showed total revenues of \$1,290,719, which is \$104,000 over budget and total expenses of \$1,061,159, which is \$123,000 under budget.
- Title sponsorship from Hanson McClain advisors for the 2018 USABA Marathon National Championships has been renewed.
- Five foundation grant proposals are pending.
- US Olympic Endowment account as of November 30, 2017 is \$410,410.
- USABA National Blind Sports Day planning committee met in January.



- USABA and YMCA Pikes Peak Regional working to develop a pilot program to make YMCA facilities more accessible to blind and visually impaired individuals with the goal to take the program nationally.
- Working with Turnstone to submit a bid to host the IBSA 2019 World Championships in goalball and judo.
- Launch date for new USABA website, February 2nd, official announcement will be the following week.

Chairman's Report: Mike Bina informed the members that he and Mark Lucas had a 3-day retreat in Fort Wayne at the Turnstone facilities. Mark organized a reception for the athletes, coaches, donors, Lions Club International representatives and members of the community. In addition, a meeting was held with Mike Mushett, Turnstone CEO; Tom Trent; Turnstone board chair, Mike and Mark to strengthen the USABA/Turnstone relationship.

Some of the items discussed at the retreat included:

- USABA staff job descriptions. Mike Bina offered the Maryland School for the Blind Human Resources Director to review the drafts and provide feedback and recommendations.
- Bylaw revision process for approval of Paralympic Sports Organization status. The application process has begun and the USABA bylaws need to be amended to conform with the USOC bylaws. Mike Bina offered to have the USABA bylaws reviewed by the Maryland School for the Blind attorney, at no expense to USABA. Their recommendations will be discussed and sent to the USOC attorney for input before sending them to the USABA Bylaws Committee in late February or March. This will allow time for the By-laws Committee to submit with sufficient notice a motion for new bylaws approval for the board's consideration and vote at the May board meeting.
- USOC Safe Sport policy: All coaches and athletes will complete a webinar training to be fully informed as to policy, procedures, and protocols.
- Mike Bina stated that he and Mark Lucas are recommending that the board members also complete the webinar training. A motion was made to require board members to complete the Safe Sport webinar training. The motion was seconded and approved.
- Future board meeting dates are May 2nd and August 10th.

Audit and Finance Committee report: The financial report was sent to the directors prior to the meeting. Gary Remensnyder reported the following:

- USOC/Federal Grant: Budget not met due to the entire grant not being spent. Approval has been given to move the \$36,000 into next year for additional programming.
- Corporate/Foundation: Projected to exceed budget due to an unbudgeted \$60,000 grant received from an anonymous donor.
- Membership/Investment: Year-end goal for Endowment balance is over \$400,000 which surpassed goal.
- Competitions: Under budget due to underspending of the federal grant (\$36,000); cost savings across national programs; basements at Turnstone on hold (\$100,000) and cancellation of an event due to lack of participation (\$30,000).



Mike Bina asked for a motion to be made to accept the financial report. The motion was made and seconded. The financial report was approved.

Governance and Nomination Committee: Peter Paulding reported that the election for Secretary will be held at this meeting and two other board vacancies needed to be filled. Peter also stated the Governance and Nomination Committee will begin working on vetting the bylaws draft following the review done by the USOC and developing a motion for board approval at an upcoming board meeting, possibly at the May board meeting.

Peter stated that he hosted an Paralympic athlete at his home and had a reception which resulted in two gifts to USABA

Strategic Direction: Larry Dickerson reported that he and Mark Lucas met to discuss a strategic direction accountability format to track the progress that has been made toward established goals.

Old Business: No old business reported.

New Business:

- Creation of a brokerage account to accept stock gifts. Gary Remensnyder informed the members that a donor would like to donate stock to USABA. In order to do this, USABA staff must set up an account with a broker. Gary asked that a motion be made to approve creating a brokerage account in order to accept the current and any future stock donations. A motion was made, seconded and approved. Mark Lucas will forward the required paperwork to Executive Committee members for their signatures.
- USABA and Turnstone proposal to jointly host the IBSA World Championships in judo and goalball. Mike Bina asked that a motion be made to approve that Mark Lucas be granted board approval to submit a formal proposal to host the IBSA World Championships. A motion was made and seconded. The motion was approved.
- Election of Board Secretary. Mike Bina stated that Peter Paulding has indicated his intent to run for election to the position and that there was one candidate. Matt Simpson nominated himself for the position indicating that he believed an athlete should be on the Executive Committee to be in compliance with Ted Stevens Act and USOC bylaws which USABA is in the process of adopting.

Mike Bina stated that in keeping with past practice the vote would be secret and each member would send their vote to Amy Wasson. Amy tallied the votes and announced the results. Five affirmatives votes would be needed to be elected.

The candidates were given an opportunity to speak about their qualifications to be elected. They were then asked to leave the conference call and would be contacted by Mark Lucas to rejoin after the results were tallied.

Peter Paulding and Matt Simpson rejoined the call and Amy Wasson announced that Matt Simpson had received the majority of votes to be the USABA Board Secretary.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.



Respectfully submitted: Paul Shields, Interim Acting Secretary