

**AGENDA AWSA – MIDWEST REGION 2007 WINTER MEETING**  
**Polk City, Florida - January, 25<sup>th</sup>, 2007 Thursday, 8:00 a.m.**

1. **Call to Order** – EVP Jeff Surdej called the meeting to order at 8:14
2. **Introductions – Council and Committee Members** – Jeff Surdej, EVP/Skiers Rating/Website; Pat Cook, IA; Kate Knafla, MN; Jeff Lindsey, MO; Dennis Downes, KS/Regional Tournament; Tom Danford, Director/ Treasurer/Rules/; Dave Clark, Director/ Seeding/Technical; Greg Chapman, OH; Don Bucher, Hon Director/ USAWS Director/E&F/Nominating/NSL; Janet Piercy, Hon Director/Nominating; Dean Chappell, IL/Rules; Jim Babcock, WI/Safety/ Regional Guide; Janice Prociw, Awards; Jim Beck, IN; Jim Beebe, Drivers; Wilma Nock, Hon Director; Dick Nock, Hon Director/AWSEF; guests Lisa St. John, Bud Piercy, Kay Babcock, Terry Dlugosh, Roger Skalco
3. **Appointment of Parliamentarian** – Don Bucher was appointed Parliamentarian by EVP Jeff Surdej
4. **Review / Approval of Agenda** – Jim Babcock moved, seconded by Dean Chappell to accept the Agenda, motion carried
5. **Approval – Summer 2006 Board Meeting Minutes-** Cory Piercy – Dean moved, seconded by Kate Knafla to accept the Minutes, motion carried
6. **EVP report** – Jeff Surdej – Jeff handed out a rough draft on the Regional Guide, everyone needed to review their states tournaments to note any changes. He has been very happy with the way things are set up and Don Bucher noted that Jeff has done an excellent job, especially with the new website. Jeff mentioned that the conversion from rating to ranking will be very big and we will have to educate our skiers. Our region may be the only one going by ranking for this year’s Regionals. This past year’s Regionals was the largest growth by pulls from the previous year.

Jeff would like to get all skiers emails so if you have a database set up for your state, get it to him as soon as you can. There are a number of skiers who haven’t renewed their AWSA membership, Jeff passed around each state’s list of skiers that haven’t renewed in the past several years that had been members at one time. Try to contact them. Also, Jeff wants to get an “And 1” club for people who didn’t ski/judge a tournament last year.

7. **Treasures Report** -Tom Danford – The report was handed out showing the previous year’s numbers and proposed numbers for the year to come:

	2006 Actual		2007 Proposed	
	General Fund	Junior Fund	General Fund	Junior Fund
Total Revenues	16,328.06	6,550.80	16,250.00	5,000.00
Total Expenses	-14,098.99	-4,575.50	-16,035.00	-5,000.00
Excess/(Deficit)	2,229.07	1,975.30	215.00	0.00
Beginning Balance	20,698.07	5,918.99	22,927.14	7,894.29
Ending Balance	22,927.14	7,894.29	23,142.14	7894.29
Combined Balance	<b>30,821.43</b>		<b>31,036.43</b>	

Tom requested that we wait until the end of the meeting for final approval to account for any changes. There may be increases for awards and other items.

**8. Secretary's Report - Cory Piercy** – If anyone is interested in handling the Secretary's duties at this summer's Midwest Regionals let me know and I will give you the information you need. I am going to be the Assignments Coordinator and will be gainfully employed for most of the weekend. Janet Piercy said she could be used if needed.

**9. State Council Reports**

- A. Illinois-Dean Chappell – State is really unchanged. Little Egypt Ski Club has been disbanded and reformed and now called Duquoin Ski Club. Sheedy will have a weekend where they have 2 sanctioned tournaments on one weekend. Sally Montevon held 3 Junior clinics that were very successful and stressed trick skiing. Waters Edge will host state this year.
- B. Indiana-Jim Beck – We will be very busy this year but the number of skiers appears to be down. There will be 3 new lakes for skiing. The state tournament will be held at Timberlake which is in a different part of the state so numbers may be down. Carl Truesdale has been instrumental in getting sponsors and new members for our association. There should be 13 tournaments this year plus Indiana is the host for this year's National Disabled Tournament on July 18-21<sup>st</sup>. There will be many ski clinics and an NSL event each month. The NSL has increased significantly thanks to the organization of Dave Jarrett who was honored for putting together the most NSL events this year.
- C. Iowa-Pat Cook – 2006 was about the same this year. Dream Lake hosted the All-Stars which was cold but successful. Greg Steffen had a judges and scorers clinic as well. There are 8 tournaments scheduled for 2007. One will be a record slalom tournament at Dream Lake. The University of Iowa will be hosting two collegiate tournaments as well, this year. There are two promo boats in Iowa and last summer Johnnie Pinkerton and Bud Piercy held a Driver's clinic.
- D. Kansas-Dennis Downes – We are needing a Judges/Scoring/Safety clinic in our state for 2007. There will be 1 barefoot tournament plus Regionals at Wichita and Dlugosh's site will host a tournament even though they will be out of state this year. INT did not really move to the NSL level yet. The Junior Development team keeps getting larger and we keep making it harder for them to get on the team. We raised the minimums to at least a Masters and we still have 25. We are still active in trying to get NSL skiers into our tournaments. Obviously we are very excited about 3 event Regionals this year but we will go over that later in the meeting.
- E. Michigan-Bill Bishop – No report, Dick Nock did mention that there was a three lake site being developed in Michigan but the developer is more into INT events.
- F. Minn/ND-Kate Knafla – 12 tournaments for this year and had a few safety clinics last year. We will also have a Drivers and a Judges clinic. Hank Longo was entered into the MN Hall of Fame. Junior Development will be June 8-10 on 4 lakes in state and out of state coaches. We had 9 Junior skiers make the Midwest All Star team.
- G. Missouri-Jeff Lindsey – Tournaments for 2007 will see some old sites getting back into it. Feb 10<sup>th</sup> we are having our mid-winter meeting in St. Louis with a guest speaker. College tournament information was not available at press time thanks to the last ice storm. We have up to 13 skiers or our Junior Development and are looking to run our NSL tournaments with our Class C.
- H. Nebraska-Cory Piercy – We had a safety clinic in early January with 4 new people becoming certified with only the CPR portion to complete. There will be a judge's clinic before May with that date forthcoming. The 2007 ski calendar is as full as it has ever been with 5 tournaments with 4 NSL stops integrated into these dates. Additionally, our Syracuse site will

be having 4 Learn to Ski events. We will let you know these dates when they become available. Janet also mentioned we are having a 4-ft jump contest to introduce Jr's and some Sr's to start jumping again.

- I. Ohio-Greg Chapman – Numbers are still down somewhat but we have someone helping out with online membership payments. Our State tournament is going to be held in the southern part of our state which might affect our numbers. We will be having a Friday slalom only tournament that weekend to try and encourage skiers to come down. We are also having 1 class “R” tournament but no 2 lake sites. We have not had NSL or INT tournament information for several years.
- J. Wisconsin-Jim Babcock – In March we had our 30-year Anniversary for our Think Tank. The location is being changed to Chula Vista Water Park on St. Pat's weekend and Lucky Lowe is going to help with the 3-event clinics. We ran our first airing of “Discover Wisconsin” which is a documentary about water sports in our state. This should help increase interest in water skiing in Wisconsin. We have already had clinics this year and will have more throughout the year. We had 72 Learn-To-Ski clinics last year. This year there are 17 tournaments with 11 NSL's as part of them. We had 1 class “R” tournament last year but none scheduled for next year. We want the Board to look at only recognizing 1 state championship held in our state which would be recognized by the WWSA.

**10. National Directors Reports-**Dave Clark, Jeff Smith, Tom Danford - There was not much to report on for this meeting, Tom noted that USA WS is separating the sport divisions financially so AWSA will now be separately reported as will all other Sport Divisions, such as Barefoot, Wakeboard, etc.

**11. USA Waterski Directors Report-**Don Bucher- Not much new to report, our meeting is once a year and it's after the BOD meeting this year (on Sunday). I will send out a report after the meeting, I will be up for Chair and Jim Grew is running for President. Tom Ghiloni from show skiing is running for VP.

**12. Committee Reports:**

A. E & F – Don Bucher – We met in December. The Western region may try a split Regionals in 2008. There is a map that shows the breakdown of the number of skiers by state for each Regionals. Wisconsin's Think Tank is still very impressive and Andy Jugan talked about having a National Level Think Tank. Andy is also looking at the insurance program. We have a new clothing and apparel agreement with a company out of Florida to our wholesale supplier. They will help design your apparel and even set up a booth at your tournament. Lisa St. John mentioned that Andy also talked about all the new hires and a great deal of them were from the Midwest. There will be tours of the Hall of Fame today after the meeting. Andy feels it is very important for us to run this as a business in order for the sport to survive. There were many personnel changes from a business standpoint with the same people but in a different direction. We do have a new insurance company, called Essex, they specialize in sports specialties. This was a needed upgrade. Lisa also works with Waterways and if you need help she can get you help. We can't lose our water access. Don mentioned that if you have someone in your state that is active in Waterway issues, let Lisa know.

Communication out of HQ is going to change to electronic format in a 4 page news letter. The Waterskier will also change from 9 issues a year to 7 issues but will have more content. Andy is also working on upgrading the web site. Jim Beck mentioned that wakeboarding has really been working with Waterways to open up some lakes to ski on. This may be an opportunity to work with them to allow new chances for water skiers to get on some lakes.

B. Judges & Scorers – Jeff Smith– There will be a Senior clinic Feb 23-25 in Sacramento CA. If you Chief Judge, Drive, Score or TC a Regionals, Jeff Surdej would like that considered to be your clinic.

C. Rules – Tom & Dean - IWSF is tightening up skier tolerances (rerides) and driver's tolerances are even tighter providing a basis for removing the driver during the event. Slalom buoy count is going towards IWSF rules; this will be voted on Saturday. Competition Task Force (CTF) is looking at wording changes such as anywhere the word "ranking" is implied will now be "rating." There was a question on CTF #6c regarding the National Ranking List including scores achieved in the prior division on a rolling 12 month basis in the new age division provided. The council members were wondering if this was a CTF, Rules, or Seeding implementation. Don asked about "ski-year" or "calendar", the proposal that will be voted on this weekend looks to be "12 months rolling." It was the council's feeling that Nationals should be the last tournament of our ski year. The Ranking's list will be calendar year this year and ski year next year. Tom asked what the council felt about a July 20<sup>th</sup> to July 20<sup>th</sup> year, a straw vote was taken ending in a 3-3 tie.

Tom went through the proposals on page 16, proposal #2. The National Rankings List will look at only the top 3 scores in each event and overall with a 5% penalty for 2 scores and a 10% penalty for only one score. Proposal #3 is new to watch our time patterns for driving. Now we will see WSTIMS kick out driver's reports. The Chief Judge has protocol when it comes to looking at these numbers. Proposal #14 looks at buoy count, the skier must have a "tight line" behind the boat to get full credit. The elite athletes want a ¾ buoy count with the rule. Dave Clark went through the new Overall submission. It was moved by Greg Chapman and seconded by Jeff Lindsey to accept these changes. Motion carried.

Andy Jugen was then welcomed to the meeting and he went over the changes that are happening and HQ and introduced new staff workers.

D. Skiers Rating – Jeff Surdej - The request to move the cutoff date to 5 weeks prior to Nationals was denied. The 2008 rankings level chart was available for review at this meeting. It showed the different levels and what % of skiers made up that level. So far "Open" "55K" and "Collegiate" skiing will still be on ratings but we are looking at what it will take to incorporate these into the Rankings lists. Also looking at NSL and to have them included in some form on the Rankings list. The challenges with collegiate ranking comes from tricks only being one pass and jump being limited to 32 mph and 5' ramp. Open would be in the form of level 9 and 10.

Our Committee will be looking at changing our name from Skiers Rating to Skiers Ranking. The Ranking's List champion is as of the "Ski Year"

E. Technical – Dave Clark – no issues before the Board

G. Tow Boats and Speed Control – George Lindy – No reports

H. International Activities – Jeff Smith, Larry Downes – No report

H. Junior Development – Barb Lindy – Jeff Surdej reported from Barb that our Jr Development was looking at staying home in the Midwest but there are currently no volunteers or sites to host. Therefore they will be going to Bennett's Ski School again. Tom Danford moved, seconded by Jeff Lindsey to do the same thing as last year for the budget and approve up to \$1,000 for T-shirts for 2007. Motion passed.

- I. Coaches – Chris Kosek – No report but Chris is excited about the new position. Chris was our nominee for Development Coach of the year and John Kniesly was our nominee for Volunteer Coach of the year. Neither won but the Midwest was well represented.
- J. Safety – Jim Babcock – The annual safety report was handed out and reviewed. There is some discussion on the flotation ability of some of the jump suits. This is in the informal talk's stage right now. We are about the same as last year on injuries per rides as a percentage. There were also about 25 Safety Clinics held in the Midwest last year. If your state had clinics, Jim needs to know the numbers attending, passing, etc. from the instructors.
- K. Awards – Janice Prociw – It was discussed about making a new designation for award to give certificates for the Highest Ranked Skier per division/event. It was accepted that if a skier is Rankings Champion in more than one event, he/she would get just one certificate. If they set a record in more than one event though, they would get separate certificates for that. It was moved by Tom Danford, seconded by Greg Chapman to add \$400 to the budget for certificates. Janice figured the cost at about \$1.80 per certificate. Motion passed.
- L. Drivers – Jim Beebe – On the national scene there is not much new to report. A few drivers put in for Emeritus and they have been approved. Looking at having 2 event drivers to drive Regionals. We only had the bare minimum of 3 event drivers for this year's Regionals. Jim reported there is a system in place in order for us as Council members to make an informed decision on drivers. Don Bucher moved, seconded by Dean Chappell to allow 2 event drivers to apply. Motion passed. It was mentioned that the quality of our drivers at Regionals needs to be the most qualified. Currently, our region allows 10 drivers for Regionals, this includes the Chief Driver. Tom Danford moved, seconded by Jim Beck, to accept our 10 drivers that applied to drive Regionals and that Derk Brittain would serve as the Chief Driver with Jim Beebe as Assistant Chief Driver. Motion passed. The Council then voted on our two drivers to represent the Midwest Region at Nationals. After votes were tabulated by our Tellers Committee, the representatives will be Dean Chappell and Greg Chapman.
- M. Seeding – Dave Clark – Registration could be changing; Dave showed us the new way names will be input when typing in names to list officials. You will actually pick the name from a list. This will also tie in with the Driver/Judge reporting for slalom (recording times, drivers, and judges).
- N. Bylaws – Bill Murbach – No report
- O. Nominating – Don Bucher-Janet Piercy – You need to let Janet know if someone is interested for Director. We could then get that into the Guide. Dave Clark is up for re-election this year and is still interested in serving as Director. Don Bucher mentioned that we should get the By-Laws on our website. Dennis Downes inquired as to if qualifications are in the By-laws, it was noted that they are.
- P. Announcers-Paul Volmers – No report
- Q. Tellers-Richard Williams – No report

### **13. Other Reports:**

- A. AWSEF – Dick Nock – Dick wanted to thank the Midwest for their support as always. He mentioned there were several Midwest skiers being inducted into the Hall of Fame this year.
- B. Regional Tournament – Dennis Downes – There are several options as to locations for the banquet, one being the Botanical Gardens which is very family friendly. The other location is

called the Boat House. Richard Williams will be helping us out with the Friday Night dinner and there is a Family All Star Park with go-carts, etc which will be fun for young and the young at heart. There will be a swimming area on site and we are looking at getting sponsors on site. Try to promote this Regionals to your skiers. Jeff Surdej has been instrumental in getting questions answered. Jeff also had the list of officials.

CJ-Terry Dlugosh

CS-Linda Coss

Safety-Tami McLaughlin

CD- Derk Brittain

TC-Darren Janzig

ACD- Jim Beebe

ACS-Richard Williams

ACJ-Jeff Surdej and Janice Prociw

Appointed Judges-Fred Krueger, Larry Downes, Steve Gallop, Bud Piercy, Sam Schmitt

Assignments-Cory Piercy

Qualifications-Janet Piercy

Starting speeds have been an issue in the past. It was the Committee's desire to try one year with no minimums. Terry brought up the issue of running an E/L event together (at the same time) this would affect B/G 2-3 and M/W 1-2 the most. It was the Council's desire that the 2007 Regionals will be run class E for all divisions but every skier will have the choice of skiing under class L. This must be indicated when the skier checks in on site and can not be changed after that. Attempt will be made by the LOC to find out skiers desired classification prior to the tournament in order to help the assignments coordinator schedule events.

It was also indicated that Dennis was asking for approval on a \$5 entry fee increase for this year's Regionals. It was made into a motion by Dennis, seconded by Jim Babcock to approve the \$5 increase. Motion passed. Online registration is also being set up on our regional website.

Jeff Surdej then discussed "How I qualify" for this year's regional tournament. There were 3 ways and we would propose a fourth.

1. If at July 19<sup>th</sup> (cutoff date) you were ranked at the correct level 7/6 depending on your division you qualify. Men 1-4 level 7 with third event level 6 and level 7 for overall. All other divisions are level 6.
2. If, after the cutoff date you raise your average to the cutoff average, you qualify.
3. If you place 1-3 at your State Championships, you qualify.
4. (Proposed) If, at an E/L/R event between State and Regionals, you ski a performance equal or above the cutoff average, you qualify.

C. Regional Guide – Jim Babcock – We have 96 events which includes collegiate, clinics and tournaments. We can get these on 40 pages. Also, we are no longer going to include Novice standards in the guide. Jim was then advised we would get 4 extra pages with which we could get our rankings list champions listed plus get some more advertising revenue with spots for Regionals advertising.

D. Regional Records – Jerry Hosner – No report

- E. Regional Website –Jeff Surdej – We used online sanctioning for the first time for sanction fees and it worked well. Try to get any and all information to Jeff about upcoming and ongoing events.
- F. NSL / NWL Leagues – Don Bucher – 80% of NSL tournaments are being combined with Class C tournaments. Most of you have seen the spreadsheet that shows results for NSL tournaments, we want to add two more columns to show age and division. We also want to encourage actual buoy count to be able to utilize WSTIMS to score them for the rankings list. Recognize scores as from a Class F tournament. Right now we have to use two scorebooks, this is our challenge. If we want NSL to grow we can't count on headquarters to take care of things, that's just too much work. We have to take charge.
- G. NCWSA-Jeff Surdej – The Midwest region is still the largest, most active of all regions. Six teams got to go to Nationals. Cale Burdick won Slalom with 2 at 41' off. The Midwest also won the All-Stars held in Iowa. We are trying to work with the graduating collegiate skiers to get them to continue skiing. Winter Conference X had 25 teams with over 200 kids who got to sit in on all kinds of sessions. This year the conference will be held in Iowa in January with some excellent speakers for the sessions. If you can, try to get a collegiate rep on your council. Chris Kodiak stepped up to fill Jeff's spot as Jeff is running for the top job.

#### 14. Other Old Business

In going back over the Treasurer's Report it was agreed that we would include \$1,000 for Jr's skiers' shirts, \$400 for Ranking List Champion and Record Breaker awards, and approving \$11,500 for the Regional Guide expense. Dean Chappell moved seconded by Jim Beck to accept the budget as amended. Motion carried.

	2007 Approved Budget	
	General Fund	Junior Fund
<b>Revenues</b>		
Regional Guide Allowance - National	\$ 7,500.00	
Midwest Sanction Fees	8,000.00	
Junior Team Revenue - Auction, Contributions		5,000.00
Interest Income	750.00	
Contributions		
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 16,250.00</b>	<b>\$ 5,000.00</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>		
Regional Guide Expense	\$ 11,000.00	
Junior Team Expense		5,000.00
Junior Skier Travel Assistance		
Awards	400.00	1,000.00
Boarder Material for HQ		
Contribution - AWSEF (General Fund)	1,000.00	
- AWSEF Memorial Bricks		
- AWSEF Lake Fund	1,000.00	
- AWSA General Fund	1,000.00	
- AWSA Designated to Supporting Member Promotion		
- WSDA National Fund		
- AWSA IOC Teams Fund	1,500.00	
Clinic Assistance		
Council Meeting Expense	150.00	
Postage, Printing and Newsletter		
Internet Web Page Costs	175.00	
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 16,225.00</b>	<b>\$ 6,000.00</b>
Transfer Between Funds	-	-
<b>Excess or (Deficit) of Revenue Over Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 25.00</b>	<b>\$ (1,000.00)</b>
Fund Balance - Beginning	22,927.14	7,894.29
<b>Fund Balance - Ending</b>	<b>22,952.14</b>	<b>6,894.29</b>
<b>Combined Fund Balances</b>	<b>29,846.43</b>	

Jim Babcock moved seconded by Greg Chapman that only the State Federation may approve the state tournament for their respective state and there will be only one state tournament per state and no other

tournament the same day and/or weekend of the state tournament. If it is only a one day tournament, there may be an allowance for a 2<sup>nd</sup> tournament on the off day. Motion carried.

**New Business:**

Tom Danford moved, seconded by Jim Beck to show that the USAWS position on our council be a voting member. Motion carried.

Dave Clark mentioned that we are looking at patterns for slow times in slalom. He then showed how WSTIMS will give the tournament's report on driving times.

For Nationals it was moved that Richard Williams and Kate Knafla represent the Midwest region as Scorers and Janice Prociw and Janet Piercy be our Appointed officials with Buddy Piercy, Jim Petersen, and Sam Schmitt as our assigned officials. Dave Clark would like to go if another region needs one.

**15. Executive Session (if necessary)**

**16. Adjourn-Don Pablos** It was moved by Dean Chappell and seconded by Dennis Downes to adjourn the meeting, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cory L Piercy  
Secretary, Midwest Regional Council