



MDCVSA General Council Meeting  
Wednesday, January 23, 2019, 7 pm, teleconference

**1. Roll Call**

Member Leagues

Capital Coed Soccer League  
Central Virginia Soccer Association  
District Sports Premier  
Northern Virginia Adult Soccer Association  
Northern Virginia Soccer League  
Northern Virginia Women's Soccer League  
Southeastern Virginia Women's Soccer Association  
Tidewater Women's Soccer League  
Washington Area Women's Soccer League  
Valley AFC

Elaine Freedman  
Jamie Williams, Rob Witte  
Alex Bearman  
Lou Chinchilla  
Dane Merkel  
Wanda Rixon  
Erin Footland  
Alex Westphal, Sue Starkey  
Kathryn Griffis  
Steve Simon

Officers

James Sadowski  
Marti Bevan  
Jessie Kratz  
Chris Tierney  
Katie Carey

President  
Vice President  
Treasurer  
Secretary  
Social Media and Marketing Coordinator

Delegates

Steve Long  
Chris Eakin  
Ricardo Lasso  
Jamie Williams

MDCVSA Admin Staff

MaryBeth Falk

Administrator

**2. Credentials Report**

72 of 139 eligible votes. A quorum was achieved.

**3. Agenda**

Motion to accept the agenda was approved.

**4. Minutes**

Motion to accept the minutes of the January 23, 2018 and August 19, 2018 meetings was approved.

**5. Officers' Reports**

a. President's report:

- i. Web Conference—Jim said we will get a web conference program for the next teleconferenced meeting.
  - ii. US Soccer Grant Proposal—Jim said he will talk more later about a grant proposal he put into US Soccer—last fiscal year US Soccer announced 3 million for Innovate to Grow grants and most members didn't request them so US Soccer indicated they might close down the program. Jim said he submitted a grant to US Soccer for developing an app that was proprietary to the state association that would allow a player to register and we can communicate to our members through push notifications. Jim said he asked for \$80,000 and part of the grant was the applicant had to pony up some money. In our application he indicated we would contribute \$10,000 subject to approval of our executive council. He said it is "free money" that we could use to build into our online communication process that would solve the problem of players registering at the field and then US Soccer could allow other states to use it.
  - iii. USASA Meeting—Jim reported the board attended the USASA mid-year meeting where John Motta was challenged by Fritz Marth and Mike Edwards, and after first round Motta had 49% of votes and the two challengers conceded. Carlos Cordeiro was there with Brian Remedi and during the forum Jim asked some questions and afterwards came and talked to him about better serving the members where Jim floated the idea of the app grant. Jim hopes to hear back by the end of January whether we got the grant or not and we'll vote on it later in the meeting.
- b. Vice President's Report: Marti welcomed everyone and said she is happy to report there have been no adjudications. She wanted to talk about a situation where a player suffered a heart attack on the field—thankfully the player was okay but gave her pause to consider how our leagues are handling these sorts of situations and is bringing it up to remind everyone about risks and emergency plans. She implored leagues to do a risk assessment and have an AED onsite.
  - c. Treasurer's Report: Jessie reminded everyone of the June 1, 2019, grant deadline and said she'll save the remainder of her time for the budget discussion.
  - d. Secretary's Report: Chris had nothing to report.
  - e. Social Media and Marketing Coordinator Report:
    - i. DC United tickets—Katie wanted to remind folks DC United season to start and will be giving tickets out and raffling some out on social media. She said she will remind folks later.
    - ii. USASA Rule Committee—Katie also announced she was asked to join USASA rules committee and has accepted so she will be working on bylaw and constitution changes at the national level. Jim asked if his bylaw change ever make it to the rules committee. Katie said she will ask about it. Jim went on to say he submitted a voting structure bylaw since the current voting structure skewed for small states—large states are capped and smaller states with small numbers are over-represented. He said the rules haven't been changed for a very long time and large states like ours get outvoted by states that combined don't have as many players as we do. Jim would like to change the voting structure to be more proportional. He also proposed bonus votes—if states send in their data on time or if they send their teams to a national cup they get an extra vote—these sort of incentives to comply with rules and participate in events. Jim asked Katie to ask Karissa to look at his proposed bylaw since if it comes through the rules committee it will be considered more favorably. Katie said that Karissa hasn't seen it.

**6. Referee Matters**—Jim had nothing to report.

**7. Administrators Report**—MaryBeth mentioned new option to PayPal—we opened a non-profit account so it will say "donation" instead of "pay now." Jessie mentioned you don't need a PayPal account to pay us. MaryBeth also

asked if everyone is getting her Mailchimp emails and if anybody on the call hasn't been getting blasts shoot her an email. Jim asked MaryBeth to reach out to those not here since those who are here are probably getting the emails. MaryBeth also announced that the USASA SoccerFest is in Lancaster, MA this summer. Wanda said her team is going back and are looking forward to it. Jessie mentioned using the travel subsidy—teams should tell MaryBeth that they are going so Pierre can send her a copy of the roster. Finally, MaryBeth mentioned joined the appeals committee as a strictly volunteer position.

## **8. Old Business**

- a. Ratification of last meeting's actions—Jim asked to ratify all actions from last meeting which passed without objection.
- b. Risk Management Policy bylaw adoption—Jim said that USSF looks at everyone's bylaws across the country and that our bylaws were missing an anti-litigation clause. He said by ratifying the bylaw we are basically copying the US Soccer bylaw into our bylaws, and by ratifying actions from last meeting we have incorporated them into our bylaws. He said we don't have a choice and it's just a clean up matter but to be sure he wants a voice vote to adopt bylaw—motion passed without objection.
- c. League incentives discussion—Jim reminded everyone that at the August meeting we decided our investment account was netting some money, and appointed Steve Long to head a committee to look at how we can give some of that money back to leagues. Lou asked if the funds were available now. Jim said if the budget is passed the EC will establish rules and guidelines so it is done in a fair way. He said currently our grant has limits—leagues have to be a member for 3 years, and we require accountability how money is spent. A discussion followed on how leagues would like to spend the money such as slush funds for subs, new websites, incentives for players to join, discounts for military, or if it should be a straight refund to leagues. After some discussion the council decided to let leagues decide what they want to do with the money as long as it promotes adult soccer and doesn't require a lot of paperwork however leagues need to meet two criteria: be in good standing and have been affiliated for two years. A question was then raised on how does this impact the sustainability of this association and Jim replied we have plenty of money—\$400,000 investment account. Another question came up if we were going to divide the subsidy by league or proportionally divide it, and after some discussion Jim said we'll create a google form for people to apply, and they fill out what they want to use it for, how much they want, by a certain deadline then the EC will make the determination and give leagues the money. Jessie said she will create a google doc and share with leagues once the EC determines an application process. Motion to give out money passed without objection.
- d. Constitution and bylaw changes—Katie acknowledged we missed 15-day deadline to get proposed changes in. She said there is nothing controversial in the bylaws—it's basically to incorporate social media coordinator role; address the topic gender identity since we only give the option of female/male and lots of leagues are opening up to gender non-conforming; switch to calendar year; and establish term limits to be consistent with non-profit best practices. She said she will send them out again before the next meeting.

## **9. New Business**

- a. Budget 2019 review and adoption—Jessie went through budget highlighting a few items and reminded folks of grant, travel, and tournament subsidies, and asked if there were any questions. Elaine asked about the over-30 men's league taking over Neptune and if the tournament is affiliated which had yet to be determined since the league is affiliated through US Club Soccer. Jim noted the budget didn't include the US Soccer grant request. Motion to accept budget passed without objection.
- c. Travel policy updates—Jessie went through changes including the addition of administrator; a request to book air travel in advance; moving the per diem up in the document because it had been buried in the end; and making the way decisions are made consistent throughout the document. A motion to accept the travel policy changes was adopted without objection.

d. USSF grant request for \$10,000—Jim said our commitment must be \$10,000 if his grant proposal is accepted. After some discussion about whether it was an effective use of our money since similar apps already exist a motion to allocate the funds if the grant was accepted passed.

b. Investment options—Jim asked to move our money over to more aggressive funds, and after no discussion a motion to give the EC authority to move \$200,000 passed without objection.

**10. Open issues raised from the floor—**

a. Steve Simon said his international players don't want to give data and Jim said he will talk to Steve offline but assured everyone that we don't share our information with anyone but USASA and US Soccer and maybe FIFA.

b. Elaine said one of her players was injured on the field and had a lot of trouble with the insurance. She wanted to see if MDCVSA could stream the injury reimbursement process. She said she has gotten feedback that players don't take advantage of because it is not streamlined and online. Marti encourage everyone to get more information and put together an email of what they are getting. MaryBeth said she submitted 22 claims and 16 didn't come back because players never submitted bills.

**11. For the good of the game**

a. Next meeting—August 11, 2019, in conjunction with a DC United game; MDCVSA will look into paying for hotel or travel subsidy for those leagues who have to travel far.

**12. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Tierney  
Secretary