

## **Southern Eastern Great Lakes Council of Figure Skating Clubs 2006 February Meeting Minutes**

The 2006 annual meeting of the SEGL council was held in Louisville, KY on February 25, 2006. The following council members were represented at the meeting: Chiller FSC, Fort Wayne ISC, IWSA FSC, ISC of Indianapolis, Knoxville FSC, Lincoln Center FSC, Louisville SA, Music City FSC, Nashville FSC, Northern Kentucky SC, Point Mallard FSC, Queen City FSC, South Dayton FSC, Thoroughbred FSC, and Troy SC. Birmingham FSC sent a proxy vote with Jenni Cashen. The following officers were present for the meeting: Sheri Carey, President; Trish Burke Williams, Vice President; and Jenni Cashen, Secretary. The meeting was called to order at 8:15 p.m. by Sheri Carey. All participants introduced themselves.

**2005 Minutes:** Minutes from the 2005 annual meeting were reviewed. Kathy Slack made a motion to approve the minutes: Jennifer Tarr seconded and the minutes were approved.

**Financial Report:** The financial report was not available so it will be emailed to all club delegates.

**Competition Report:** Trish Burke Williams spoke about last year's competition hosted by the ISC of Indianapolis. ISC of Indianapolis contributed a fee of \$1954.00 to the SEGL Council from the competition. Last fall at a special meeting the SEGL delegates voted that the council would receive 15% of the registration fees from the top for future competitions. This measure was to stabilize the amount of income the SEGL council will receive from the competition each year and would help to continue to fund our scholarships. Trish Burke Williams moved to accept the competition report; Jennifer Tarr seconded and the motion was approved.

**Scholarship Report:** Sheri Carey reported that we did award our qualifying awards to all skaters placing in the top four qualifying for sectionals, nationals, and junior nationals. We also awarded our first Financial Aid Scholarships to Gretchen Fuller of the Louisville SA and Keta Burke Williams of the South Dayton FSC. Our first Sportsmanship Award went to Jennifer Westerkamp of the Queen City Figure Skating Club. The Scholarship Selection Committee of Ruth Frey, Kathy Slack, and Jerry Shipley was thanked for their time contributed. Kathy mentioned that the selection was very difficult because there were many wonderful applications received.

**Executive Committee Report:** Jenni Cashen reviewed the Executive Committee Report which was available to all delegates. The Executive Committee feels we achieved our yearly goals of improving communications among clubs, coaches, and judges, updating our constitution, and compiling a policies and procedures manual. We are still working on an annual dance test session. Jenni Cashen moved that we accept the report; Trish Burke Williams seconded and the report was approved.

### **Special Orders**

1. **Bylaws:** Many changes have been made to update the language in our constitution over the years, but these changes have never been formally adopted. Proposed changes have been emailed and given to all delegates and meeting participants. There was some discussion about the references to US Figure Skating as USFSA or USFS. We decided it was most important that it just be consistent and decided to leave it as USFSA as the rulebook does. Trish Burke Williams motioned to accept the new constitution; Laura Sanders seconded and the motion was approved.
2. **Nominations:** Jenni Cashen presented Alexandra Dunne Bryant (Chiller FSC) as our nominee for President and Mark Chastain (Northern Kentucky SC) as our nominee for Treasurer. Both nominees introduced themselves to the membership. No nominations came from the floor. Butch Russell motioned to accept the nominations; Kathy Slack seconded and they were voted in unanimously.
3. **Competition Bids:** Three bids were submitted to the Vice President. Queen City withdrew their bid because of unstable ice costs with the management at their rink. Birmingham FSC submitted a bid, but no one was present at the meeting to accept the bid. Troy SC also bid. Kathy Slack (Troy SC) proposed two dates: February 23-25, 2007 or February 9-11, 2007. Their ice costs are \$155/hour and the availability is unlimited. Butch Russell moved that we accept Troy's bid with the later date as our preference. Troy will have to wait to see if that date will be available until early summer (possible basketball event at Hobart Arena that date). Alexandra Dunne Bryant seconded the motion and it was approved.

**Unfinished Business:** At last year's meeting, it was determined that there was significant interest in and

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SEGL annual Dance Test Session. Gayle Lemoine is working on a bid sheet. Dates were discussed as IWSA FSC hosts one in April and August and S. Dayton FSC hosts one in April. There were several issues discussed:

1. Dates: May, June, and July were all discussed as well as doing it with the competition.
2. Partners: Would the council subsidize the partners? How are they selected? How are they pre-booked for the dates?
3. Is the host club responsible for the partners?

It was finally decided that there are too many unresolved issues to immediately go forward with this. The Executive Committee will appoint an ad hoc committee to work on the Dance Test Session. They will communicate ideas via email and if it looks like we can pursue one before next year's meeting, we will vote on that via email.

### **New Business:**

1. **Adult Qualifying Competition Awards:** It was proposed to the council that we give qualifying awards to cover adult competitors who advance from Sectionals to Nationals. This year 3 skaters from our member clubs qualified. Laura Sanders reported that her club (Nashville FSC) supports their skaters with the same award as skaters who qualify from regionals to sectionals. Trish Burke Williams motioned that we give awards to our adults in the same manner as the skaters who qualify from regionals to sectionals (\$25). Laura Sanders seconded the motion and it was approved.
2. **New MIF Tests:** It was proposed that we support pursuing an adult tract of MIF beyond the intermediate level that the current test structure supports. This would be similar to the adult and masters dance test tracts. There was discussion about this and it was proposed that the adult skating committee should be asked for support.

**Pertinent Issues:** There was a discussion about the New Judging System (IJS). Initial discussion was about the costs to clubs to host non-qualifying competitions. It increases ice costs, officials costs, overworks accountants, and adds additional expenses (radios, computer expenses, etc). Ann Arbor FSC has figured it will cost an additional \$17,000-\$20,000 to host EGL this year if the IJS is used for all qualifying events. It will require an additional 15-16 hours of ice time for competition. Several skating club councils are proposing a delay in using the IJS at a lower level and at regional competitions until more officials are trained, it can be used more efficiently, and the computer software is more user-friendly. Kathy Slack also gave her perspective of using the IJS while judging the Championship Ladies event at Nationals this year. Several members talked about their feelings that it gives more feedback to the skaters if it is well applied, but the results seem to be similar to the old judging system. Overall the feeling is that everyone likes the new system, but it still has some bugs to work out and probably isn't ready for the lower levels yet. Discussion then moved to governing council and the issues facing our federation. This year the Board of Directors is going from 40 members to 15. Many of our members feel this switch to more of a federation system is going to ruin our grass roots programs and recreational skaters who financially support the USFSA. ***It is important that all member clubs not attending governing council send their proxies with other SEGL member clubs!*** The following clubs offered to take proxies for any clubs not attending: ISC of Indianapolis, Louisville SA, Troy SC, Nashville FSC, and Chiller FSC.

Kay Vickers (Nashville FSC) is serving on the US Figure Skating Parent's Committee and she reported that there are members of the parents committee that want to get rid of any region-hopping (ie require skaters to prove residency in the region in which they compete). This proposal is coming from members in the Northwest Pacific Region. The competition committee did not approve this, but the parents committee wants to bring it up again.

Butch Russell mad a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m. Laura Sanders seconded. Sheri Carey and Duane Skavdahl were thanked for their dedication to SEGL and to Sheri for hosting the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jenni Cashen  
SEGL Secretary