

**MINUTES OF THE
NATIONAL FASTPITCH COACHES ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

December 9 & 13, 2008

Marco Island Marriott, Marco Island, Florida

Tuesday, December 9

The meeting was brought to order at 6:05 p.m. Those present were Carol Bruggeman, President (University of Louisville); Rhonda Revelle, Past President (University of Nebraska); Kris Herman, First Vice President (Williams College); Kathryn Gleason, Second Vice President (Michigan State University); Linda Kalafatis, Division I Representative (The Ohio State University); Kelley Green, Division II Representative (Lock Haven University); Sean Cotter, Division III Representative (Plattsburgh State University); Ritchie Richardson, NAIA Representative (Olivet Nazarene University); Susan Painter, NJCAA Representative (Gulf Coast Community College); Darci Brownell, Cal JC Representative (Sierra College); Wade Wilson, High School Representative (Brenham High School, TX); Terry Burdette, Travel Ball Representative (Heartbreakers Red, MD); Annie Smith, Assistant Coach Representative (Mississippi State University); Lacy Lee Baker, NFCA Executive Director, and Karen Johns, NFCA Associate Executive Director. The remainder of the NFCA staff was present in the meeting through staff reports. In addition, incoming board members, who take over their duties at the end of the convention, were present for all or parts of the meeting: Patrick Murphy, Second Vice President (University of Alabama); Hal Wynn, NAIA Representative (Faulkner University), and Jayne Clem, NJCAA Representative (Wallace State Community College, Hanceville).

1. NFCA Staff Reports.

A. Recruiting Camps. Hildred Deese, NFCA director of events, shared updates for 2009.

(1) Camp locations/dates for 2009 NFCA Administered Camps:

Thur, June 18, 2009	NFCA/Pennsbury Recruiting Camp Yardley, PA
Mon, June 29, 2009	NFCA/Colorado Sparkler Recruiting Camp Westminster, CO
Tues, June 30, 2009	NFCA/Fireworks Recruiting Camp Aurora, CO
Thur, July 16, 2009	NFCA/Fastpitch Classic Recruiting Camp Toledo, OH
Thur, July 23, 2009	NFCA/Elite College Showcase Recruiting Camp Plano, TX

(2) Camp locations/dates for 2009 NFCA Summer Endorsed Camps:

Fri, June 12, 2009	NFCA/Las Vegas Recruiting Camp Las Vegas, NV
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Fri, June 19, 2009	NFCA/Valley Invitational Recruiting Camp Hillsboro, OR
Thur, June 25, 2009	NFCA/New England Recruiting Camp Devens, MA
Thur, July 9, 2009	NFCA/Stop DWI Tourney of Champions Recruiting Camp; Binghamton, NY
Thur, July 16, 2009	NFCA/Delaware Recruiting Camp Wilmington, DE

(3) Camp locations/dates for 2009 NFCA Fall Endorsed Camps:

Fri, October 16, 2009	NFCA/Sparks Pumpkin Fest Recruiting Camp Elgin, IL
Fri, October 23, 2009	NFCA/Oklahoma Night Recruiting Camp Mustang, OK
Fri, October 30, 2009	NFCA/ Ronald McDonald Recruiting Camp Houston, TX

- (4) 2009 Modification: The overhand throw starting position is now 40 feet from the target, rather than 60 feet. The throw must hit the catch net in order to be recorded. Balls missing the net are recording as a scratch.

B. Web Site. NFCA Director of E-Services Scott Walters discussed plans for changes to the web site, including a new web store and updated look. He would like feedback from the board about aspects of the web site most commonly used, as well as new features the NFCA could implement. Anticipated changes include:

- (1) Softball archive and history area.
- (2) Hall of Fame site, and well as redesign of the NFCA awards area.
- (3) Revamping of score reporting area.
- (4) Use of more video, including video promos for membership and the NFCC.
- (5) Subsequent to the presentation, it was suggested that the NFCA consider hiring an IT person on a part-time or full-time basis.

C. Media Relations. NFCA Director of Media Relations Amy Hughes introduced herself, since it was her first time at the convention, and reviewed 2008. She noted that she kept a consistent release date and time for the Divisions I and II polls and player of the week releases, and would do the same in 2009. Upcoming changes include:

- (1) Revamping of NFCA online score-reporting module, which could provide a wonderful tool for poll voters at all levels. Since this ties in with the new web site, it probably will not be completed in time for the 2009 season.
- (2) Better media placement for softball in the national market.

D. Fastpitch Delivery. Director of Publications Christina Edgar reviewed changes made in the newspaper's format for 2008, including the change to 12 issues a year and new columns such as those by Jeff Janssen and the NFCA Hall of Famer instructional series. Goals for 2009 include:

- (1) Getting on a tighter printing schedule, so members receive their newspaper in the month it was published (e.g., January paper would be received in January).
- (2) More advance planning for issues so articles can be done ahead of time.
- (3) Continue to appeal to all divisions, but work to increase the contribution and feedback of members from all groups.
- (4) Enhance the educational portion of the newspaper, with more coaching articles, tips and drills.
- (5) Work to involve the Education and Publications Committee more in developing content.
- (6) Find ways to integrate the web site and paper, such as a *Fastpitch Delivery* area on the web where potential members could find a taste of what is included in the paper. There was a straw vote on whether *Fastpitch Delivery* should be an online publication, and the majority was in favor of keeping the hard copy.

E. National Fastpitch Coaches College (NFCC).

- (1) Overall Program. Ms. Deese gave a brief general overview of the program, noting:
 - (a) The NFCC event management showed a profit of close to \$26,000 in 2007-08 (excluding NFCA administrative staff time).
 - (b) So far in 2008-09, the classes were in the black by \$11,357.93.
- (2) Curriculum. Sharon Drysdale, NFCC Director, gave the board an evaluation report for 2008, noting her duties for the past year.
- (3) Board NFCC Subcommittee. It was determined that a board-established subcommittee would be developed to oversee the National Fastpitch Coaches College and its educational duties. The subcommittee will make recommendations to the Executive Board, and the following members were assigned: Ms. Revelle, chair (the past president will always chair the subcommittee); Ms. Smith; Ms. Clem; Ms. Herman, and NFCC instructor Gayle Blevins, University of Iowa. Ms. Baker, Ms. Johns and Ms. Drysdale will serve as ex-officio members of the subcommittee.
- (4) Marketing. The general feeling was that the courses were exceptional, but more needed to be done to draw attendees, such as possibly doubling up on popular weekends. It was wondered if physical education teachers might need to be tapped as well.

[Note: Jessica Daniels, Membership and Convention Coordinator, and Mandy Daniels, Marketing Intern, also were present in the meeting but did not cover any specific topics.]

2. NFCA National Convention.

A. 2008 Attendee Totals. From preregistration numbers, it was estimated that the convention probably would have about 1,000 final attendees, with 927 pre-registered attendees. The breakdown by category was:

NCAA I	171	High School	97
NCAA II	76	Travel Ball	43
NCAA III	96	Affiliates	34
NAIA	36	International	2
NJCAA	41	Non-Members	4
CalJC	6	TOTAL	927
College Assistants	321		

B. 2008 Convention Duties. The board members reviewed their assignments in the convention manual. The 25th anniversary additions were highlighted, including a documentary and the Hall of Fame Red Carpet Gala.

C. Exhibitors. It was noted that the exhibitor show sold out again, although the space was less for 2008 (132 max booths compared to 168 in Las Vegas).

D. Softball Summit. A new addition to the program was the Softball Summit, for the purpose of sharing ideas between groups.

3. Future Convention Sites. Ms. Baker noted that the 2009 convention would be held December 9-12 at the Renaissance in downtown Nashville, Tennessee. Ms. Baker is still looking for a West Coast or Las Vegas site for 2010 and 2011.

4. Awards. Ms. Herman said that she planned to recommend a bylaw change for next year to develop a new committee to deal with general awards (e.g., national awards and grants). Currently, the Awards and Hall of Fame Committee selects the NFCA Hall of Famers, which has turned into a very time-consuming job. In addition, there was some discussion for an NFCA Humanitarian Award to recognize volunteer service.

5. NFCA Leadoff Classics. It was reported that competition was set for the 2009 NFCA Leadoff Classics, with the Division I tournament to be held in Columbus, Georgia, and the NAIA tournament in Panama City Beach, Florida. Ms. Johns reported progress on the 2010 Division I field of teams, and initial discussion about the Division III tournament field.

6. NFCA Documentary. In honor of the 25th anniversary, the NFCA produced an NFCA Documentary, and it was viewed by the group.

[Note: The meeting was recessed at 10:25 p.m. until Saturday morning at 7 a.m.]

Saturday, December 13

The meeting was brought to order at 7:03 a.m. All board members were present, as previously noted.

7. Convention Review. Although there was one more day in the convention, the group was pleased with 2008 convention. Comments included:

- A. It was the general feeling of the group that attendees loved Marco Island and would want to return. Many coaches really enjoyed the keynote, Christine Grant, and would like to purchase her address.
 - B. Changes made to the Hall of Fame dinner were well received, since the induction of six hall of famers took only three hours. The only criticism was that people were talking too much during some of the videos, which made them hard to hear. It will be recommended in the future that the videos include music, instead of a lot of talking.
 - C. It also was noted that the past Hall of Famers in attendance were very appreciative of the special recognition and the presentation of rings. More will be done to incorporate them into future Hall of Fame Banquets, such as introducing them at the beginning and having them walk into the room prior to the seating of that year's inductees. Ms. Baker was asked to include "dress attire" in the convention brochure so future attendees will know that it's a more formal function.
 - D. Although the group liked the Softball Summit and felt it had a lot of potential, too much time was taken for the accompanying presentations. It was suggested that organizational reports be moved back to the Wednesday business meeting, which will be renamed the NFCA General Session. Then, more time would be available for the actual sharing of ideas. It also was suggested to check with Dee Abrahamson, NCAA secretary-rules editor, and Kathy Strahm, NCAA national umpire coordinator, about giving reports at the Summit, instead of having to attend the individual business meetings. Ms. Baker was instructed to add to the rules of the meeting that all speakers should state their name and school when addressing the group.
 - E. Ms. Smith said more room was needed in the assistant coach caucus, since about 150 coaches attended. Hall of Famer Sue Enquist was well received as a keynote for the group.
 - F. Other functions mentioned were the Diamond Hospitality (great reviews but music too loud for some attendees) and Easton Victory Club Luncheon (great anticipation on the number of attendees and great timing).
 - G. The board liked having a theme for the convention — 25th anniversary — and it was suggested that the 2009 convention also have one. It was decided that the 2009 theme would be "For the Love of the Game."
- 8. Documentary. The group felt the documentary, which was shown at the Opening Business Meeting, was a hit and that it should be made available for purchase, possibly for \$14.95. In addition, Ms. Baker said that Hall of Famer Celeste Knierim had suggested that the NFCA name a "Softball History Day," and members would be encouraged to purchase the documentary, as well as the "Path to the Gold" book written by Mary Littlewood.
 - 9. 2009 Hall of Fame Inductees. Ms. Herman announced the Hall of Fame inductees for 2009: Frank Cheek, Humboldt State University; Bill Edwards, Hofstra University, and Diane Ninemire, University of California.
 - 10. Day of Caring. Ms. Smith said that the assistant coaches may want to try to promote softball clinics in urban areas, as a community service project. Since the convention will be in

Nashville in 2009, more thought will be given to doing a clinic in conjunction. It was asked to try to incorporate the parents into the project as well.

11. May Board Meeting. It was suggested that more time be spent on the 2009 convention at the May board meeting, including the development of Hot Topics and assignment of board members to various functions during the convention.
12. NFCA Finances. The board reviewed the financial report provided by the NFCA accountant, and was very pleased that the 2007-08 fiscal year had the highest revenue of any year in NFCA history (\$1,601,253.67). Net receipts totaled \$28,525.98.
13. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 a.m.

[Note: Other prospective projects and NFCA office administration issues were discussed in executive session.]