

**Summary of the Meeting of the  
Board of Directors of the United Soccer Coaches Association**  
Sunday, January 19, 2020 (Convention Meeting II)



Board Members in attendance: Lynn Berling-Manuel (non-voting, *ex officio* board member – CEO), David Carr, Jeff Farnsworth, Ashlee Fontes-Comber, Andy Haile, Haroot Hakopian, Greg Hubbard, Warren Mersereau, Rusty Oglesby, Missy Price, Sue Ryan (voting, *ex officio* board member – Advocacy Council Chair), and Kevin Sims.

Staff in attendance: Geoff VanDeusen, Beth Sullivan

Guest: Charlie Wright (by phone)

**Call to Order**

President Kevin Sims and Immediate-Past-President Jeff Farnsworth called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Sunday, January 19, 2020.

**1. Introductory Remarks – Jeff Farnsworth**

- Mr. Farnsworth welcomed our two new Board members, Rusty Oglesby and Greg Hubbard.
- Mr. Farnsworth remarked that he was pleased with the work put in by the Board during his year as President. He noted that the Board has moved into a more strategic role, while still attending to fiduciary responsibilities. Mr. Farnsworth thanked the Board members for their work over the last year and then passed the meeting to our new President for 2020, Kevin Sims.
- Mr. Sims thanked Mr. Farnsworth for his leadership over the past year and stated that two characteristics have pervaded the culture of the Association during his many decades of involvement, collegiality and integrity. Mr. Sims said that he plans to continue the emphasis on those characteristics during his year as president.
- Mr. Sims then invited each Board member and staff member present to give a short introduction of themselves and their experiences with the Association.

*Following these introductions and upon the arrival of Geoff VanDeusen, the Board went into Executive Session to hear about preliminary Convention results.*

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*Upon the conclusion of Mr. VanDeusen's report, the Board ended the Executive Session and returned to open meeting.*

**2. Audit & Finance Committee Report – Greg Hubbard**

- Greg Hubbard reviewed the audit report and Form 990 with the Board, answering all questions regarding these documents from Board members.
- Mr. Hubbard noted that the Association received a clean opinion from our auditors and that with one minor exception (explained by Mr. Hubbard) all aspects of the Association's accounting complies with GAAP.
- Mr. Hubbard also discussed the internal controls and reporting for the Association given his departure as CFO and Beth Sullivan's assumption of the interim CFO role.
- **Upon completion of this discussion, a motion was made and seconded to adopt the audit and Form 990 as presented to the Board. The motion was approved unanimously.**

**3. Charlie Wright – Certificate of Appreciation**

- Following the report of the Audit & Finance Committee, former Board member Charlie Wright joined the meeting by phone.
- Kevin Sims welcomed Mr. Wright and notified him that he had been awarded a Certificate of Appreciate from the Board for his many years of service to the Association and his unparalleled expertise as chair of the Audit & Finance Committee.
- Mr. Wright thanked the Board and noted that he was in good spirits despite recent health issues.

**4. Board Calendar – K. Sims**

- Mr. Sims reviewed the proposed Board calendar for 2020, which will include at least two in-person meetings as well as monthly Board calls.
- At present, the in-person meetings are scheduled for April and July in Kansas City. The Board will determine whether a third in-person meeting is needed prior to the 2021 Convention.
- The monthly calls are scheduled for the first Sunday evening of each month, subject to adjustment based on extraordinary circumstances (such as the Super Bowl in February, which will result in that call being held on the second Sunday).

**5. Board Duties and Responsibilities – K. Sims**

- Mr. Sims circulated proposed committee chairmanships and Board liaison positions for 2020 prior to the meeting. Mr. Sims requested Board members

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to provide him with any feedback on the proposed positions before the February Board call.

- Mr. Sims encouraged all Board members to complete the Convention survey in a timely manner.
- The Board also discussed the further development of the Board document repository, which allows for easy access to Association-related documents (bylaws, minutes, etc.). Lee Jarrell will grant access to this repository to new Board members.

**6. Board Appointments – K. Sims**

- Two Board positions were up for appointment for a three year term (2020-2023). Those positions are the At-Large legal position and the Advocacy Council Chair position.
- Andy Haile and Sue Ryan have held those respective positions from January 2017 through January 2020. Mr. Sims, as President and pursuant to the Association's Bylaws recommended the reappointment of Ms. Ryan and Mr. Haile for a second three year term. Ms. Ryan and Mr. Haile stepped out of the meeting to allow the Board to discuss that recommendation. **Upon a motion and second, Ms. Ryan and Mr. Haile were re-appointed for three year terms from January 2020 through January 2023.**

**7. Committee Updates**

- Strategic Planning Education Subcommittee – Dave Carr, co-chair of the Strategic Planning Education Subcommittee, stated that he would like the Board to consider whether to reconstitute the Education Committee of the Board. He requested that this matter be considered at the next Board meeting.
- Audit & Finance Committee – No update since the Committee reported on the audit and Form 990 earlier in the meeting.
- Nominations & Elections Committee – Missy Price reported that approximately 8% of the Association's membership voted in the election of the Fourth Vice President this year. Ashlee Fontes-Comber suggested that the Committee re-examine the possibility of using the Convention app to vote for the position. This was explored this year but rejected because of security concerns. Ms. Fontes-Comber said that she has contacts within the IT world and will talk with them about whether the security concerns can be overcome. The suggestion was made that the membership be informed that the election is for the "President-elect" position rather than Fourth Vice President, since many members may not realize that the Fourth Vice President eventually serves as President of the Association. Further consideration will be given to this suggestion.

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- Ethics Committee – Kevin Sims reported that Brian Crossman had completed his serve as Ethics Committee chair. Several candidates are currently under consideration for the chair position. The Ethics Committee has requested that the Chair have his or her expenses paid to attend the Convention. This issue will be discussed at the April Board meeting (or in July, when the annual budget is being considered).
- Foundation Committee – Warren Mersereau reported that the Foundation Committee is requesting that “giving back” or some other descriptor of giving be added to the Association’s pillars. In addition, the feasibility of the Foundation Committee covering its overhead administrative expenses may be considered at a future time.
- Awards Committee – Haroot Hakopian reported that the Awards Committee is asking for consideration of two matters at a future Board meeting:
  - The addition of a new award for a member of the media based on their long-term service to the sport of soccer; and
  - Clarification of the Awards Committee Handbook provision dealing with the frequency that certain awards may be won.

**8. Strategic Planning – Lynn Berling-Manuel**

- Lynn Berling-Manuel stated that next steps in strategic planning will be for the Association staff to take the broad ideas identified by the Boards various strategic planning subcommittees and converting these ideas into concrete action plans. Those action plans will then be submitted to the Board for consideration.

**9. Advocacy Council**

- Before adjourning, Mr. Mersereau requested that the Board recognize the significant steps that have been taken over the last few years to create a vibrant, active Advocacy Council. Board members agreed that the Advocacy Hour and the gatherings of the various Advocacy Groups were extremely vibrant this year.
- The Board acknowledged and praised the substantial time and energy that Sue Ryan has put into developing the Advocacy Council into a true representation of the Association’s membership.

*Upon conclusion of these remarks, a motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and approved.*