

UNITED STATES CURLING ASSOCIATION

Directors Meeting

April 3-4, 2004

Holiday Inn Select Hotel, Bloomington, Minnesota

Final April 13

Minutes

Present:

Bob Fenson, in the chair

Andy Anderson

Joanne Beckwith

John Beckwith

Diane Brown

Grayland Cousins

Phill Drobnick

Pam Finch

Leslie Frosch

Kathleen Harlow

Cassie Johnson

Suzanne Liapis

Warren Lowe

Judy Maier

Richard Maskel

Jack McNelly

Chris Moore

Jay Packard

Dave Peck

James Pleasants

Frank Podoll

Allison Pottinger

Leland Rich

Anne Robertson

Chris Sjue

Mark Swandby

Ann Swisshelm Silver

Jane Thompson

Dick Urevig

Greg Volk

Georgia West

Jon Wilson

Not-present:

Paul Badgero

Andy Borland

Geoff Broadhurst

Craig Brown

Stacey Fuchsgruber

Peggy Hatch

Dave Hill

Nicole Joraanstad
Art Jytila
Dayton Neill
Paul Pustovar
Lisa Schoeneberg

Also present:

Kent Beadle, guest, President, Minnesota Curling Association
John Benton, guest, Member, St. Paul Curling Club
David Garber, Executive Director
Rick Patzke, Director of Communications
Bev Schroeder, Member Services Manager

1. Call to order. **Fenson called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m.**
2. Welcome, introductions, welcome & ratify new directors. Fenson commended retiring USCA directors Barcome, Giedt, John Beckwith, Finch, D. Brown, Thompson, Schoeneberg, Peck and Frosch. Effective May 1, 2004, under the new By-Laws, McNelly and Hatch will remain as “voice but no vote” directors on the USCA board, and remain U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC) and World Curling Federation Representatives, respectively. Fenson welcomed a new director Podoll, who has replaced Don Barcome, Jr., and Joanne Beckwith, who has replaced Kathy Giedt. Fenson commended McNelly for his service as a voting member of the USOC board, which has been reduced to 11 persons. McNelly will remain the USCA representative to the USOC National Governing Body Council. The directors gave a round of applause for all.
3. Roll call. Moore took the roll, listed above.
4. Appoint parliamentarian. Fenson appointed Lowe as Parliamentarian for the meeting.
5. Additions to printed agenda. Fenson announced he had moved the Nominating Committee report up to #9; the report of the Governance Task Force is added as item #11. The vote on the Nominations will be held early in the session Sunday morning.
6. Approve minutes of previous board meetings. **Motion by Silver, Lowe second, to approve the minutes of the September 13-14, 2003, board meeting. Approved.**
7. Approve actions of Executive Committee Special Meetings. **Motion by Lowe, Maier second, to ratify the actions taken by the Executive Committee at its meetings October 8, 2003; November 21, 2003; January 7, 2004; and February 4, 2004. Approved.**
8. Strategic Plan update. Cousins reported that his goal is to include clubs and regions in the strategic planning process. To facilitate this, Cousins will ask clubs and regions to prepare input for the USCA addressing their challenges, needs and goals at their upcoming meetings. The current Strategic Plan is good, but the USCA must resolve to better focus its budgeting on the plan in future. The USCA will set up a special weekend meeting May 6-8 in Chicago for strategic planning for the next quadrennium (2006-2010).
9. Nominating Committee. Rich reported. The slate has been sent to the board. The By-Laws require an 18 hour time interval between introductions of the slate, nominations from the floor, and the subsequent vote.

For each office below, Rich reviewed the slate proposed by the Nominating Committee, then called for nominations from the floor.

The slate for USCA President is Mark Swandby
There were no nominations from the floor.
Rich declared the nominations closed.

The slate for USCA Vice President is Grayland Cousins, R. Chris Moore, Chris Sjue and Georgia West.
From the floor, Podoll nominated Don Barcome, Jr.
Rich declared the nominations closed.

There was discussion on how many vice presidents the board wants. **Motion by Peck, Wilson second, that the USCA have four vice presidents. Approved.** As there are five candidates for four positions, a ballot vote tomorrow will be needed. Lowe advised that for all contested positions, in addition to consideration of highest vote totals, a candidate must receive a majority vote of those present to be elected. The board agreed to use this method.

The slate for USCA Secretary & Treasurer is Albert Anderson.
There were no nominations from the floor.

The slate for USCA Board-Elected Director is Grayland Cousins and Albert Anderson.
Rich noted that USCA officers must be USCA directors.
From the floor, Podoll nominated Don Barcome, Jr.
From the floor, Finch nominated Bob Fenson.
Rich declared the nominations closed.

The slate for the two board-elected members of the USCA Nominating Committee is Pam Finch and Donna Purkey. A USCA Nominating Committee member must be a USCA director or a member of a USCA Committee.
There were no nominations from the floor.
Rich declared the nominations closed.

The slate for USCA Representative to the World Curling Federation (WCF) for the term expiring in 2004 is Warren Lowe, who would succeed himself for a three year term.
From the floor, Peck nominated Jerome Larson. Peck asked for clarification of which WCF position was being considered, and then **Peck withdrew his nomination.**
There were no nominations from the floor.
Rich declared the nominations closed.

Rich stated that the Nominating Committee had offered no slate for USCA Representative to the World Curling Federation (WCF), for the term expiring in 2006, to replace Lisa Schoeneberg, who has resigned. He asked for nominations from the floor.
From the floor, Silver nominated Don Barcome, Jr.
From the floor, Peck nominated Jerome Larson.
From the floor, Pottinger nominated Diane Brown.
From the floor, Moore nominated Leland Rich.
From the floor, Silver nominated Grayland Cousins. Cousins then withdrew his name from consideration.

Rich declared the nominations closed.

Motion by Silver, Thompson second, to elect by unanimous consent Mark Swandby as President, Warren Lowe to succeed as WCF Rep. Motion by Silver, Pottinger to table the motion. Approved.

Rich facilitated a discussion for the contested positions, and for presentations by the candidates. The candidates present made brief presentations, Podoll spoke on behalf of Barcome.

The candidates and staff then left the room to facilitate further discussion. **The board decided that, based on the USCA By-laws, an officer must be elected “from the board,” which the board interprets as a “current director.” Barcome is not a current director and thus is not eligible to be nominated as a vice president. This leaves four nominees for four positions, so no written ballot vote for USCA Vice President is necessary.**

Rich noted that the By-Laws limit the board-elected USCA director positions to three, and there are four nominations, so a written ballot vote will be conducted. Each nominee present was given the opportunity to speak. Podoll spoke for Barcome. Each candidate for the 2006 WCF Representative position was given the opportunity to speak. Silver spoke for Barcome. The candidates and staff then left the room to facilitate further discussion. When all returned to the room, Rich described the election procedures to take place the next morning.

10. Finance. Anderson reported. The Finance/Audit Committee reviewed USCA financial results as of March 31, including major variances against budget. The Committee has no specific comments. The Committee has reviewed the USCA insurance program and believes it to be adequate. The Committee has reviewed the report of the USCA Auditors, which was a clean audit. The Committee has reviewed, and endorses, the request of the Nutmeg Curling Club for grant through the WCF loan program, as long as adequate collateral is committed. The Committee has reviewed the request of the Thief River Falls Curling Club for a grant related to new refrigeration equipment. The Committee notes that the request does not meet the specific guidelines of the WCF program, but the Committee endorses the concept of taking the grant request to the WCF. The Committee will propose a motion during the Treasurer’s report to take into income, this fiscal year, the deferred \$56,000 in Joint Marketing revenue. The Committee feels this is proper in view of the large deficit this fiscal year and the impact on next year’s budget. The Committee has reviewed a proposal from a region to reduce the level of USCA dues for first year curlers, but does not feel such a reduction is appropriate now in view of the current USCA financial status.

11. Treasurer. Moore distributed his detailed Treasurer’s report, which shows year-to-date results versus budget. Moore summed up the numbers by stating his opinion that :

- a. The USCA will lose about \$145,000 this year (vs. an \$11,000 budgeted loss), mostly as a result of the Ice 2003 television broadcast.
- b. The USCA can withstand this loss.
- c. The USCA must take action for future years to return its net worth back to at least \$250,000. The Finance Committee will propose policies to raise the net worth position over several years.

Major unfavorable variances for revenue items include \$25,000 in a WCF Development Grant, although these dollars will be available next season; and about \$13,000 for the Donation Program. A major favorable expense variance is \$10,000, because there was no U.S. team in the World Junior Men’s Curling Championship.

Moore agrees with the Finance Committee position to take deferred income one year sooner than planned. This will reduce the deficit to about \$90,000. **Motion by Anderson, Finch second, to direct the Treasurer to recognize \$56,000 in deferred income into income in fiscal year 2004. Approved.**

Motion by Anderson, Finch second, that the officers are directed to develop and execute budgets which will increase USCA net worth to at least \$275,000, via budgeted surpluses of a minimum of \$20,000 per year, by Fiscal Year 2009. Extensive discussion of the need for the USCA to plan carefully to handle the spike in spending in the Olympic season. McNelly noted that combining the Open with the Trials, and spring selection, will save \$50,000 to \$70,000 as compared to the 2001 and 2002 Olympic Games process. **Approved, with Silver and Maskel opposed.**

12. Governance Task Force. Anderson reported. The Task Force had reviewed several questions raised since the By-Laws Amendments approved last September. The Task Force supports the position that USCA officers should have a vote, except that the position of Secretary & Treasurer need not also be a director position, and should be an Executive Committee member with voice but no vote. The MOPAC region has proposed stronger representation for USCA members with lower membership totals. Rather than reduce the current 300-member threshold to receive a separate director, the Task Force favors reviewing membership totals annually, to allow an earned increase in representation, rather than re-allocating directors every three years. Reductions would still be done only every three years. This would reward growth immediately. The Task Force has reviewed the concern expressed about the legality of the voting action at the September, 2003, Annual Members Meeting, in the context of the requirement for athlete representation in the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act. Anderson has sought legal advice (although he has had no response from the USOC). He previously distributed a paper to the board with his opinion that the current system is legal, on the basis that the USCA By-Laws limit the actions that can be taken by the members and grant operating responsibility to the board, not the Members.

13. Legal/By-Laws. West reported. The Committee has formulated a definition for a USCA member in good standing, as a By-Laws Amendment, that will be Noticed to the board in advance of the September meeting. The Committee will provide guidelines and suggestions for USCA Member organizations who are now in the process of electing their directors under the terms of the new By-Laws.

14. Executive Director. Garber commended his staff for their efforts. He, Patzke and Schroeder have submitted detailed reports to the board reviewing their activities. He reiterated his suggestion that, in view of the board reduction and the additional new USCA events, and considering current fixed USCA revenue, the volunteers will need to evaluate the options of taking on more of the USCA workload or discontinuing lower priority USCA programs.

15. Member Services. Swandby reported. Membership has increased again this season, much in new clubs but also in many existing clubs. The confirmed increase is over 500. The final number may be closer to 1,000. Swandby distributed a U.S. map which illustrates curling clubs in the United States, with clubs formed since 2002 highlighted.

a. Club Membership & Development. Swandby reported for Broadhurst. The annual Regional/Club Officers Meeting will be continued, probably this July in Bismarck. Regional presidents are invited, along with USCA volunteers and staff, and selected officers from new and established clubs, for information exchange. Clubs are being solicited to participate in the

next Membership Marketing Seminar. The "OXL" card program, which provides a USCA membership card along with purchasing benefits, has been successfully launched. Patzke coordinated a new 23 minute video *Sweeping the Nation* for use with local public access television. This was a request that came out of the last Regional Officers Meeting. Video tapes are available through the USCA office for \$25.00. Reception has been very good. One club is ordering several hundred for distribution to members and others (using a bulk duplicator service).

b. College Curling. Swandby reported for Larko. The USCA and the Illinois State Curling Foundation have for many years co-sponsored a successful program to promote college curling, with regional and national college bonspiels and intramural programs. Swandby distributed Larko's written report.

c. Youth Curling. Sjue reported. The junior camp program this season will include Cape Cod in July, Eau Claire in August and North Dakota in October. The Junior Merit Program tests youth skills and provides rewards for achievement. The USCA has been using the Canadian Curling Association "curling in the gym" teachers guide. Current stocks are exhausted. The CCA package is being revised. Interest in a USCA junior survey is way up from the past, with a third of the clubs responding to the current survey. About a thousand youth curlers are in some type of organized program. Over 1,200 kids have been exposed to curling through school physical education programs, church groups, etc. There is a continuing need to publicize the available programs. A new pamphlet including curling skills is in development. The most distinct survey result was the need to bridge the gap between youth and junior curlers. One suggestion is "bantam leagues," with subsequent championships. Six U.S. teams are competing in the Canadian Optimist Club championship this season. This concept could be expanded into the United States. The U.S. Women's Curling Association has funds available for youth curling equipment. Pottinger and Silver will develop an "internet corner" feature on the USCA web site, including a "Q&A" for kids.

e. Training & Instruction. Peck reported. The Committee reports successes from last season. There were three instructor clinics in Grand National. The Mayfield, Ohio, Curling Club conducted a club-sponsored program to teach curlers (the club pays instructors' expenses, the instructors teach curling to fee-paying members). The program will be publicized further. The Level III Instructor criteria are now on the USCA web site. The youth-junior bridge challenge is being evaluated from the instructional viewpoint.

16. Championships. Cousins reported. There is much work to do, including finalizing the new Open and National Championship system, sites and dates. A Format Implementation Task Force is handling details and developing clarifications as the need arises. The calendar is almost complete, although it is a tight squeeze. More information will be posted on the USCA web site next week. Cousins will propose five changes that require board approval later in the Championships presentation.

a. Awards. Cousins reported for Joraanstad. The new system requires new awards. The National Championships will retain the bulls-eye patches. The existing trophies will go to the Open event. New trophies and patches are being developed by the Committee.

b. Drawmaster. Cousins reported. There is no specific drawmaster, rather, producing draws for USCA events is a process. The system has not worked well yet, but Cousins believes the USCA is on the right track.

c. Field of Play. Beckwith reported. The Committee established the “4 by 4” standard goal for ice (24 second speed, 4 feet of curl, which is the world standard). This season the standard was met or nearly met most of the time. With the additional venues next season, the Committee will work with the host clubs to help assure continuation of the standard. The Committee is pleased with the contribution made by USCA ice technologist Dennis Tietge. For the 2005 Open in Madison, the Committee will try to get the same head icemaker and rocks as were used for the Grand Forlks Nationals this season, and the new hog line sensors will be used if possible. Long term, the committee is looking at further rock procurement, using the share of entry fees as funding. Once acquired, storage and shipping will be a concern. The committee favors using the Canadian Curling Association Ice Maker Certification program.

Pleasants asked about officiating and ice making requirements for host sites. Cousins said that information is now being developed and will soon be communicated.

d. Rules and Officiating. West reported. An Officiating Coordinators Manual has been developed and sent to host sites. The USCA conducted five officiating clinics this season. 104 people attended the Level 1 courses; 61 the Level 2. There were 11 formal “Requests for Ruling” handled this season. A sub-committee will handle these RFR’s next season up to 48 hours prior to the event, after which the event On-Site Board of review will handle them. A change in end of game scoring: when a team concedes the game, the score in the house will be posted, as is done in WCF. The Committee will update the rules to prohibit use of both the stick and slide delivery in the same game. Use of the stick will be allowed at the National Championships. Guidelines to enable hosts to select a local or area event chief umpire are being developed, for the Open Qualifying and Challenge Rounds. Nothing new yet on the time-out rule for juniors. The Committee notes that the USCA Coaching Committee favors allowing coaches to call time outs.

e. Event Site Selection. Maier reported. In future, the USCA would like to use arena ice for the Open Championships for competitive, marketing and promotional reasons. The Committee has suggested a change in officiating language in the USCA-Host event contract for the Open Qualifier and Challenge rounds. The Committee feels that it will help secure sites if local club competition is allowed during these events as long as the USCA competition can be concluded on the scheduled time. Maier distributed a spreadsheet listing extensive site selection bid solicitation activity for the next several years. Maier noted that sites and dates need to be confirmed for the 2005 Men’s and Women’s National Championships.

Motion by Maier, Lowe second, to approve these host bids for USCA events:

Event	Date	Host Site
2004-2005 season:		
World Wheelchair Team Selection	Nov. 25-28, 2004	Utica Curling Club
M/W Senior World Team Selection	Feb. 3-6, 2005	Portage Curling Club
Men’s Qualifying Round 1--East	Dec. 15-19, 2004	*Utica Curling Club
Men’s Qual. Round 1--Midwest N.	Dec. 15-19, 2004	Bemidji Curling Club
Men’s Qual. Round 1--Midwest S.	Dec. 15-19, 2004	*Milwaukee & Wauwatosa CC
Men’s Qualifying Round 1--West	Dec. 15-19, 2004	Seattle Granite CC
Men’s Qual. Round 2--Midwest N.	Jan. 5-9, 2005	St. Paul Curling Club
Men’s Qual. Round 2--Midwest S.	Jan. 5-9, 2005	Mankato Caledonian CC
Women’s Qualifying Round 1--East	Jan. 5-9, 2005	Broomstones (Mass.) CC
Women’s Qual. Round 1--Midwest N.	Jan. 5-9, 2005	*Rice Lake Curling Club

Women's Qual. Round 1--Midwest S.	Jan. 5-9, 2005	*Medford Curling Club
Women's Qualifying Round 1--West	Jan. 5-9, 2005	Fairbanks Curling Club
Men's Challenge Round	Jan. 19-23, 2005	Curl Mesabi (Minn.) CC
Women's Challenge Round	Jan. 19-23, 2005	Curl Mesabi (Minn.) CC

2005/2006 season:

M/W Open Final	t.b.determined	Bemidji Curling Club
Mixed National Championships	Mar. 11-18, 2006	Fairbanks Curling Club

***pending Host board's confirmation of bid**

Motion Approved.

The board applauded Maier and her Committee for their great efforts.

f. Format Implementation Task Force.

Cousins presented motions for board approval:

1. Motion by Cousins, McNelly second, that a permanent calendar change be made for Men's Qualifying Round 1, originally scheduled for December 9-12, 2004, moving it one week later to reduce the number of conflicts with existing bonspiels. Cousins noted that some sites have bid based on the original dates, Maier would advise them of the new date and felt there was a good chance the bidders would accept the new date. The new weekend will overlap with the current junior playdown window, however Cousins will shorten the window on the front end to December 20. This should not be a problem since the only region that had previously used the front end of the window was the Grand National, which has now moved its junior playdowns later in the window. **Approved.**

2. Motion by Cousins, McNelly second, to remove the requirement for the defending men's national champions to play in Open Qualifying Round 2 in order to get their berth in the Challenge Round. Approved.

3. Motion by Cousins, McNelly second, to change the format description of Open Qualifying Rounds 1 and 2 from the term "triple knock-out" to "modified triple knockout" when there are over 23 teams. Approved.

4. Motion by Cousins, Finch second, that the games in the National Championships be 10 ends. Approved.

5. Motion by Cousins, McNelly second, that the playoff process at the Open final be changed to the "Page system." In the Page system, round robin finishers number one and two play one game while number three and four play another. The loser of 3 v. 4 is eliminated. The winner of 1 v. 2 advances to the final game. The loser of 1 v. 2 plays the winner of 3 v. 4. The winner of 3 v. 4 advances to the final. This system advantages the top two round robin finishers, however there is still a chance that an undefeated team can lose in the final. **Approved.**

6. The National Championships are currently scheduled for a conflict with the USWCA National Bonspiel. Cousins presented options to eliminate the conflict: The USWCA moves their date; the USCA moves its dates to 7-12 March (which is a direct overlap with the Junior Worlds, and is a tight fit with the Mixed Nationals); or the USCA ask the USWCA to run a

combined USCA Women's Nationals/USWCA Women's National Bonspiel. The Chicago Curling Club is a potential Host for the 2005 Nationals. Their optimal date is February 27-March 5, 2005. **Motion by Cousins, Wilson second, that the 2005 USCA Men's and Women's National Championship be held February 27-March 5.** Silver suggested using an end of season, late March-early April, time frame. **Cousins and Wilson withdrew their motion.** Fenson requested Cousins' committee to discuss the options further, and to bring a recommendation back to the board the following day.

Cousins noted that a Task Force dedicated to address implementation of the Nationals will be appointed, and regional contacts will be established. Cousins encouraged each director to enter a team in the 2005 USCA National Championships.

17. Competitive Programs. Thompson reported.

a. Olympic Team Selection Committee. Garber has coordinated development of the 2006 Olympic Team Selection Procedure per the guidance established by the board of directors in September, 2003. Drafts have been exchanged with the USOC and the project is nearing USOC approval.

b. Athlete Funding. The Elite Programs Committee will prepare Athlete Funding Applications for spring availability.

c. Sports Science. Maskel had no report at this time.

d. Drug Education. The new World Anti-Doping Code will take effect in late April. USCA office staff supports administration of the In- and Out of Competition Testing Programs. The system is working.

e. Coaching. Rich reported. The Committee assumes little funding will be available next season. The Committee will conduct a Coaching Clinic at the 2005 Junior National Championships for the coaches who are present. A coaching library reference service will be established on the USCA web site. The high performance coaching plan purchased from the Canadian Curling Association is to be updated. Shortly after the 2004 World Curling Championships the Committee will make available Coach of the Year applications. The Committee spent most of its time discussing and evaluating the USCA World Team Leader program. With the advent of the Athlete Development Director, and with the presence of staff, the USCA president and USCA WCF representatives at Worlds, the Committee feels a Team Leader is not needed at the World Curling Championships. However, a Team Leader is needed at the World Junior Curling Championships. At that event, there is no ADD and few USCA volunteers and staff present.

c. World Team Preparation. D. Brown reported. This years Gavle world teams are both experienced teams. The men are all set to go; there are several arrangements left to be made for the women. Next year, the time gap between the Open and the women's worlds will be just 2.5 weeks, as opposed to six weeks this season, so the Committee will have to accelerate its process to get the prep work done on time.

Meeting adjourned until 8:00 a.m. Sunday morning.

Meeting reconvened at 8:06 Sunday morning.

18. Operations & Marketing. Finch reported.

a. Legal & Bylaws. West reported earlier.

b. Human Resources. Lowe reported. He commended the staff for doing an exceptional job.

c. Finance. Anderson reported earlier.

d. Athlete/Curler Recognition. Maskel reported. The Committee invites USCA Hall of Fame nominations.

e. ACF&M Liaison. Urevig reported. S. Liapis has resigned as Committee Chairwoman in favor of Urevig, who resides near the Museum. John Roche is Curator, with Jim Miller an active volunteer worker. The American Curling Foundation & Museum is a separate federally tax-exempt organization. The ACF&M can be used to solicit donations, including bequests. Urevig would like to add one or two people to the committee. He encouraged interested people to contact him.

f. PR/Media. Patzke reported that the ratings for March NBC nationals show were competitive, although overall TV viewing was low at that time. NBC has indicated continued great interest in furthering the "Ice 2003" concept in 2004, and will help to facilitate a program in any way it can. Due to the excess investment in 2003, an Ice 2004 show will be possible only with pre-sold advertising. ESPN has contacted Patzke to express interest in curling programming at favorable times and on favorable financial terms. Patzke continues extensive coordination with the World Curling Federation staff to facilitate continued WCF support for USCA TV broadcast efforts. In the past four years, the WCF has provided about \$750,000 in financial support for USCA TV programming. There was a curling show on the CSTV (College cable network) showing parts of the JVC Skins Game.

g. Donation program. Pottinger and Beckwith asked for board support for the Donation Program. Beckwith distributed a summary to date report. The Donation Program will not meet its goal. Help is needed from all. The committee has expanded the number of clubs with Donation Program chairpersons. Beckwith appreciates the efforts of all involved in working to turn around the trend of declining revenue from the program. The Committee will redesign the program to provide more sense of donor ownership by providing donors with choices. New marketing tools will be developed to enhance growth in donation revenue, to meet the challenge of changing attitudes about program benefits. Therefore, the Committee is optimistic for the future. Former pin chair Lowe provided some observations on campaign timing, and best practice in the use of the pins.

h. Merchandise. Finch reported on the USCA merchandise program. Eighteen products are now available, with new products coming on line. Product display and ordering information is available in the *U.S. Curling News* and on the USCA web site. USCA merchandising revenue is growing steadily. Current year royalties are over \$1,400 and growing. The USCA has a productive relationship with its licensee XP Apparel (also a USOC licensee). A club merchandise program is available through XP Apparel. A retailer-based program with winter sports products may commence after the Summer Olympic Games.

i. Sponsorship. Patzke summarized extensive sponsor solicitation efforts underway.

19. Voting and election results. Lowe explained the mechanics of the voting process, and reiterated that a majority of votes will be required for each individual to be elected. Written ballots were distributed. Fenson appointed Patzke and Schroeder as tellers, and McNelly as head teller.

Anderson, Cousins and Fenson, each receiving a majority vote, were elected as board-

elected directors.

Rich, being the only candidate to receive a majority vote, was elected as World Curling Federation Representative (fills the 2006 term)

Motion by Lowe, Urevig second to destroy the ballots. Approved.

Motion by Silver, McNelly second, to bring from the table her motion to elect by unanimous consent Mark Swandby as USCA president, Warren Lowe as WCF Representative. Approved. Motion by Silver, Wilson second, to amend the motion to also elect by unanimous consent Vice Presidents Cousins, Moore, Sjue and West; Secretary & Treasurer Anderson; and Nominating Committee Members Finch and Purkey. Approved.

20. USOC. McNelly reported.

a. USOC operations. Operations are going well at the U.S. Olympic Committee, with good morale and high marks from athletes and the media. USOC revenue for next quad is on target. USOC governance restructuring continues. There is to be an 11 person board with nine votes, however the Congressional Commission on Reform was to have named one member of the USOC Nominating Committee but has not yet done so. The current board will become a "Congress." The new board will be small and will resemble the old USOC Executive Committee in function. Athletes will have more influence. The National Governing Bodies, including the USCA, will exert influence through the NGB Council, on which the USCA USOC Representative will sit.

b. Paralympic curling. McNelly asked D. Brown to give a brief report on the Sursee World Wheelchair Curling Championships. (Brown has submitted a written report.) Brown was Coach and Team Leader of the U.S. team. The event was very well done. The team finished a strong fifth. Next year, the Worlds will be held in Glasgow. Qualifying points are earned at the two events. The U.S. must qualify as one of the eight nations at the 2006 Paralympics, which should be doable in view of this year's finish. Many U.S. clubs may be wheelchair accessible now. Even if the standard entrance is not, check with your ice maker for other level routes to the ice. Brown encouraged clubs to inquire about how to start a wheelchair program or about integrating wheelchair curlers into regular club leagues.

21. Athletes Advisory Council. Maskel reported. AAC had annual election to AAC in December and January for four positions. Good news is the work that AAC members do on their USCA and AAC jobs. Bad news is that no one ran for the four positions. Annual meeting in May will deal with this shortfall. Maskel encouraged input from all directors. Maskel commended Silver's work (and workload) over the past three years

USOC-AAC Representative Silver reported that she is completing her USCA AAC term, but hopes to continue with USOC responsibilities. Status of USOC-AAC: one rep from each of 45 sports, plus one winter, one summer and six at large. Current work is on athletes commercial rights and anti-doping issues. Silver commended USOC governance structure and current state of USOC health.

22. World Curling Federation. Lowe reported. Lowe has distributed a report. He highlighted the new zonal qualifying system starting in 2005, which allows two teams from the Americas in both juniors and worlds, and expands the WCC field to 12 teams of each gender. WCF has a new provisional category for new member nations in which new nations must participate in World Curling Championship playoffs and at WCF meetings to become full members. At the

upcoming April meetings in Sweden, the Management Board is running unopposed (including Denis Fox of the USA). Anderson observed there will be big elections in two years.

23. USWCA. No report. Maier noted that the USWCA National Bonspiel dates for 2006 are February 9-12. Purkey reported that the USWCA will pay expenses to expand the existing USCA women's championship trophy, which the USWCA donated to the USCA, and will evaluate whether to also pay for all or part of the new trophy for the Women's National Championship.

24. Open board action items.

a. National Championships date. Cousins reported that the Format Implementation Task Force had re-discussed the subject of Nationals date. The Task Force still feels the original date is best. He asked again if the USWCA would move its date, and asked opinions about the option of setting the date immediately after the Open Final, Monday February 28-March 6. The Task Force feels the end of March date is not viable next season. Swandby stated he is not in favor of a date change that would reduce participation. **Motion by Cousins, Urevig second, to keep the original date if the USWCA agrees to Feb. 10-13 for the USWCA National Bonspiel. If the USWCA is unable to change the date of the USWCA National Bonspiel, then move the Men's and Women's National Championships to February 28-March 6.** Maier had phoned USWCA officials overnight, and does not think the USWCA can move the event date next year. Anderson urged that a date be set now, to facilitate site selection and planning by the site. **Motion by Cousins, Finch second, to amend the motion to eliminate part one of above motion. Amendment Approved. Motion by Cousins, Urevig second, to move the Nationals date to February 27-March 6. Approved, with Pottinger, Silver, Maskel opposed.**

25. Unfinished business. There was no unfinished business.

26. New business.

a. Next USCA Board of Directors meeting. Swandby set the fall board meeting date for September 10-12, 2004, to take place in the Minneapolis area, preferably at the same location.

b. Commendations. Swandby lauded Fenson for ably leading the USCA through great change in past year. Swandby presented Fenson with his USCA Past President's Shield. The board responded with standing applause. Fenson thanked all the directors, and lauded the USCA staff, without whose help the USCA operations could not be maintained.

c. Transfer of the gavel. Fenson presented the USCA President's Gavel to Swandby. Swandby accepted the gavel and stated he looks forward to continuing the good work of the association.

27. Adjourn. **Motion by Anderson, Maier second to adjourn. Approved at 10:00.**

Respectfully submitted,
David Garber
Recording Secretary

Reviewed and authorized,

R. Chris Moore
Secretary