

UNITED STATES CURLING ASSOCIATION

Directors Meeting

April 23-24, 2005

Holiday Inn Select Hotel, Bloomington, Minnesota

Final

Minutes

Present:

Mark Swandby, in the chair

Andy Anderson

Paul Badgero

Andy Borland

Geoff Broadhurst

Grayland Cousins

Bob Fenson

Peggy Hatch

Nicole Joraanstad

Art Jytyla

Warren Lowe

Judy Maier

Richard Maskel

Jack McNelly

Chris Moore

Bob Pelletier

James Pleasants

Donna Purkey

Leland Rich

Anne Robertson

Chris Sjue

Dick Urevig

Georgia West

Jon Wilson

Not-present:

Maureen Brunt

Suzanne Liapis

Jay Packard

Allison Pottinger

Paul Pustovar

Ann Swisshelm Silver

Bill Todhunter

Greg Volk

Also present:

Dave Carlson, chair, USCA Legal & By-Laws Committee

Melissa Keiser, USCA AAC wheelchair athlete

John Benton, guest, incoming USCA AAC rep

David Garber, Chief Operating Officer

Rick Patzke, Director of Communications

Bev Schroeder, Member Services Manager

Ed Lukowich, USCA Athlete Development Director

1. Call to order. **Swandby called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m.**
2. Welcome, introductions, welcome & ratify new directors. Swandby welcomed new AAC wheelchair athlete Melissa Keiser; John Benton, AAC guest; and David Carlson, chair of the USCA Legal/By-Laws Committee.
3. Roll call. Anderson took the roll, listed above, and announced there is a quorum.
4. Appoint parliamentarian. Swandby appointed Lowe as meeting Parliamentarian.
5. Additions to printed agenda. There were no additions to the agenda. Swandby moved the Nominating Committee report up to item #6.
6. Nominating Committee. McNelly reported. The committee had not sent out a slate with the 30 day notice required in the by-laws. Therefore, all nominations will be from the floor. McNelly commenced the nomination process at 1:10 p.m.

**Nomination by Moore, West second, for Mark Swandby as President.
There were no other nominations. McNelly closed the nominations.**

**Nomination by Anderson, Fenson second, for Chris Moore as Vice President.
There were no other nominations. McNelly closed the nominations.**

**Nomination by Anderson, Fenson second, for Georgia West as Vice President.
There were no other nominations. McNelly closed the nominations.**

**Nomination by West, Maier second, for Chris Sjue as Vice President.
There were no other nominations. McNelly closed the nominations.**

**Nomination by Maskel, Jytyla second, for Grayland Cousins as Vice President.
There were no other nominations. McNelly closed the nominations.**

**Nomination by Moore, Badgero second, for Albert Anderson as Secretary & Treasurer.
There were no other nominations. McNelly closed the nominations.**

**Nomination by Urevig, Wilson second, for Albert Anderson as Director (board-elected).
There were no other nominations. McNelly closed the nominations.**

**Nomination by Maier, Pleasants second, for Grayland Cousins as Director (board-elected).
There were no other nominations. McNelly closed the nominations.**

**Nomination by Jytyla, Borland second, for Bob Fenson as Director (board-elected).
There were no other nominations. McNelly closed the nominations.**

The nominations below were made to replace Warren Lowe for the remainder of the two-year term as World Curling Federation (WCF) Representative. McNelly distributed each candidate's written submission of interest in the position.

Nomination by Wilson, Jytyla second, for Robert Fenson

Nomination by Pelletier, Badgero second, for Geoffrey Broadhurst

Nomination by Joraanstad, Wilson second, for Grayland Cousins
Nomination by West, Pleasants second, for David Peck
Nomination by Purkey, Wilson second, for Don Barcome, Jr.
Nomination by Purkey, Wilson second, for William Forsythe, III.
Nomination by Purkey, Wilson second, for Norman Reinhart
There were no other nominations. McNelly closed the nominations.

The second election for a WCF Representative is for a three year term. The expiring term is held by Peggy Hatch.

Nomination by Maier, Rich second, for Peggy Hatch.
There were no other nominations. McNelly closed the nominations.

McNelly proposed the following procedure: The uncontested positions would be voted upon after 18 hours (as required by the By-Laws) in one block. The contested position would require a 51% majority of ballots to be elected. **Motion by Anderson, Urevig second, to require a 51% majority for election. Approved.** After discussion a further procedure was proposed: **Motion by Urevig, Jytla second, that the first ballot vote with 51% will be the deciding vote. If on a given ballot no candidate had 51%, the lowest vote-getter will be dropped along with anyone else with less than 10% of the vote. Approved.**

The candidates present for the contested WCF position were asked to leave the room while the board discussed the candidates. Anderson described the current and historical context in which a WCF rep serves, the current WCF organization, the general qualities needed, in his opinion, for an effective WCF representative. Swandby invited comments about candidates. There was discussion. The three candidates returned to the room, and were invited to make brief comments.

Nomination by Rich, Borland second, for Jon Wilson as member of the Nominating Committee, for a two-year term to replace Pam Finch. A nomination for Pam Finch by Chris Sjue, Robertson second, was withdrawn. There were no other nominations. McNelly closed the nominations.

Swandby announced that the election would be conducted at 8:15 a.m. Sunday morning.

7. Approve minutes of previous board meeting. **Motion by Moore, Pelletier second, to approve the minutes of the September 11-12, 2004, USCA directors meeting. Approved.**

8. Approve actions of Executive Committee Special Meetings. **Motion by Urevig, Wilson second, to ratify the actions taken by the USCA Executive Committee at its meetings held October 12, 2004; October 27, 2004; February 9, 2005; February 24, 2005; and April 6, 2005. Approved.**

9. Miscellaneous items: Strategic Plan update. Cousins reported. He chairs the USCA Strategic Planning Task Force. In 2004, the board has approved the priorities listed below for the period through 2008. Cousins will send a full updated version to the board next week.

Priority #1 Grow the Sport through Sustained Competitive Excellence
Priority #2 Grow the Sport through Increased Total Revenue from all sources
Priority #3 Grow the Sport through Support of Club/Curler Programs
Priority #4 Grow the Sport by Maximizing Stakeholder Satisfaction
Priority #5 Grow the Sport through Enhancing the Efficiency and Effectiveness of Governance

and Management

10/11. Finance and Treasurer. Anderson reported as Treasurer and interim Finance Committee chairperson. Anderson distributed the Balance Sheet. Anderson will distribute a detailed financial report next week to the board via email, which will include year-to-date actual results versus budget. Anderson described several Balance Sheet items, including the current \$14,000 accrual for Field of Play funds allocated from playdown entry fees. The Potomac loan is in good shape, the repayment schedule has commenced and the collateral remains strong. Total USCA equity is \$184,114 at April 21, 2005. Anderson highlighted current year budget variances. Donation Program revenue continues to decline. Dues revenue should be close to the target. Entry fee revenue is slightly under budget. Revenue from sales of the 2006 Olympic Pin is under budget. To continue with current program levels, revenue must be increased. The annual CPA audit has been concluded with a clean result. The USCA officers and athlete leaders will meet at the end of June to finalize a budget proposal for the USCA Executive Committee.

12. Legal/By-Laws. West reported. West thanked committee chair Carlson for his efforts. Several By-Law Amendments have been noticed to the board to provide penalties for non-payment of USCA dues.

As an adjunct to the amendments, committee member Pleasants presented possible procedural options as to a region's responsibility for unpaid dues if their club is suspended by them. The board can approve procedural policy separately from the amendments by majority vote and deferred action on procedures.

There was extensive discussion on various issues involved including impact on playdown eligibility of individuals.

BY-LAW AMENDMENT NOTICED TO BOARD

Section 6.5 of the By-Laws shall be amended by adding the following language:

Any Member in arrears in its annual dues at the end of the fiscal year in which the obligation was due shall be placed on probation status. Therefore it shall not be entitled to vote at any Members' Meeting, and its Directors elected by such member shall not be entitled to vote at any Directors' Meeting until the delinquency has been cured. Any Member still in arrears one year after the end of the fiscal year in which the obligation was due shall have its membership revoked.

Subsection 6.2(g) shall be amended to read

(g) ~~Shall pay an annual membership fee set by the Board of Directors.~~ To be considered a Member in Good Standing, the Member must abide by the By-Laws and the rules of the Corporation, including the requirements of this section, and must not be in arrears with respect to the payment of dues or any other obligations to the Corporation, as set forth in Section 6.5.

Motion by Badgero, Urevig second, to approve the By-law amendments as noticed. Motion by Moore, West second, to amend the motion to strike the word "its" (in the second sentence on page two) and replace "its" by adding the words "elected by such

member” after the word “director.” Amendment approved. Main motion as amended approved.

Wilson asked if the USCA By-Laws could be changed or clarified to allow change in director allocations on the board, based on growth in membership, sooner than every three years. Carlson stated the committee wanted evidence of membership consistency for two years and wanted to reward sustained growth. The committee is drafting an amendment to address this subject.

13. Chief Operating Officer. Patzke and Schroeder have emailed comprehensive reports to the board. Garber commended his staff for their continued dedication and efforts and expressed appreciation for the efforts of the volunteers in conducting USCA programs. Heavy work load remains a concern. In addition to handling playdown entries directly, staff works on two additional events, the Nationals and the split men’s/women’s worlds. Garber is working with Operations VP West to develop means to better match work to resources for staff and volunteers as well as to prioritize projects. Patzke reported that ESPN ratings for the recent curling productions had over a million viewers and had exceeded ESPN’s expectations. Schroeder briefly reported on new club activity in the Grand National region. Swandby complimented staff for its hard work and dedication. Applause.

Swandby announced a 10 minute recess.

Vice Presidential areas, reports:

14. Member Services. Sjue reported.

a. Youth curling. Pleasants chairs this committee. Bantam (age 17 and under) leagues are being developed in some areas. Junior Athlete Development Director Lynita Delaney, whose expenses are funded by a “DAP” grant from the World Curling Federation, has developed an ambitious schedule, including working through junior camps and clinics and establishing an elite junior “university” program. Seventeen U.S. teams competed in the Optimist Championship in Canada this season (also for curlers ages 17 and under). Sjue’s area will respond to a request by the Optimists to formalize team selection procedure. Cyndee Johnson will publish a new drills manual this summer. The periodic junior survey will be more web based.

b. Club/Member Development. Committee chair Wilson is working to increase participation in the USCA Club Marketing Seminars. To once again maximize the member-building benefits of the extensive television exposure for curling expected during the February, 2005 Olympic Winter Games, the USCA will distribute Open House membership-building packets to clubs in late summer/early fall.

c. Training and Instruction. Chairman Jon Mielke is adapting a Canadian club-based coach/instructor program for use in the U.S.

d. College curling. Rich Larko chairs this function. USCA support this season has consisted of publicity in the *U.S. Curling News* and on the USCA web site, plus media support from staff. Thirty-two teams participated at the college nationals. Participation at regional events declined slightly. The college sports cable network CSTV taped the national college bonspiel, as arranged by Patzke, for broadcast in May.

Sjue concluded by reporting that the annual summer USCA Member Services Conference, will focus on club operations. The seminar will feature guest Danny Lamoreaux of the Canadian Curling Association. Lamoreaux will introduce the CCA program, "The Business of Curling." The seminar is scheduled for July 14-15 in Bismarck, North Dakota, just prior to the Capital Curling Club's Summerspiel and a Level 1 Instructor's course. Regional presidents and selected clubs travel expenses are subsidized. All clubs are welcome to send participants at their expense.

15. Championships. Cousins reported. Cousins' sub-committee chairpersons and Championships Committee members met yesterday. Sub-committees include Event Site Selection (Maier), Field of Play (Maskel), Awards (Joraanstad), Format (Fenson), and Rules & Officiating (Cousins).

a. Format. No substantial championship format changes are planned for 2006. In response to lessons learned last season, playdown entry deadlines will be moved earlier to avoid time and travel crunches for athletes, staff workload, and draw development and publication. The suggested entry deadline for next season is November 15 (WCT points will be counted through the St. Paul cashspiel weekend), at which time the office must have playdown entry forms for four or five names per team or the team will be ineligible. To facilitate better draws, the number of advancing teams will be fixed at each Trials playdown level. For men, 20 teams to the qualifying round (four from World Curling Tour—WCT--list and 16 from preliminary round); of the 16, two will qualify from the western site preliminary round; five each from the two midwest sites; and four from the eastern site. There will be a 10-team round-robin at each qualifying round site. The Challenge round will have 8 to 10 teams, using a round-robin, including the top two WCT teams. Four challenge teams will to advance to Trials final. The Olympic teams will receive byes to their respective Trials final. Similar modifications for the women's rounds, with two rather than three WCT qualifiers and, again, no preliminary round. Four qualifying sites (one team qualifies from the west, one from the east, and two from each midwest site. Eight teams qualify for the Challenge round, one from the western site and two from the other three sites, plus any non-Trials-qualifying WCT teams. The board had an extensive discussion of the details.

It was agreed by consensus that the USCA office may post team entries (names of each player) on the USCA web site as received, to allow entrants to know their entry had been received and thus reduce the high volume of telephone inquiries prior to deadline time.

b. Rules and Officiating. The committee has approved three new USCA Level 3 officials: Herb Kupchak, Greg Volk and Jerry Paterson. A newly updated officiating manual will be made available on the USCA web site. **Motion by Cousins, Pelletier second, that the delivery device "the stick" cannot be used in play leading to and including the USCA Trials, the USCA Men's and Women's National Championships, the USCA Mixed National Championship, the USCA Junior National Championships or the USCA Senior National Championships. Approved.** Guidelines for use of the stick in league play are being developed. Hatch asked the committee to develop a policy on how to facilitate assignment of USCA officials to international championships.

c. Field of Play. The committee had discussed use of the portion of the Trials playdown entry fee that is allocated for Field of Play improvements. Last season, these funds were used to hire a professional ice maker for the Trials and (along with a USOC grant) to purchase sensor handles. The committee plans to purchase three more sets of sensor handles (to total five

sheets), for use at the Trials, and at other USCA events if timely shipping can be arranged. This would provide significant savings in volunteer needs for hog line officials. The committee would like to establish clinics for ice technicians at the site of, and immediately prior to, events at which the USCA hires a professional ice maker in order to facilitate further training for USCA volunteer ice makers.

d. Events. The National Championships were a great success according to all concerned. Cousins complimented the Chicago Curling Club for doing a great job on fairly short notice. In view of the enthusiastic reception by this year's participants, the committee hopes for full regional representation next season. Cousins thanked the USWCA for donating the trophies.

e. Event Site Selection. Maier has tried to spread sites around the nation to even out travel distances for participants and volunteers.

Maier distributed a paper including bidding sites needing board approval.

Wheelchair Paralympic Team Selection event (may be a competition or a selection camp). December 8-11, 2005. Utica Curling Club.

Junior National Championships. January 28-February 4, 2006. Duluth Curling Club.

Senior World Playdowns (M/W). February 2-5, 2006. Formal bid pending.

Men's Trials Preliminary Round sites December 15-18, 2005

East—formal bid pending

West—Fairbanks Curling Club

Midwest North and South—need bids

Women's Qualifying Round January 5-8, 2006

Midwest North—Mankato Curling Club

West—Seattle Curling Club

Midwest South and East, need bids

Challenge Round (M/W) January 19-22, 2006

Need bids (interest from St. Paul Curling Club)

National Championships (M/W) February 18-25, 2006

Need bids (interest from Detroit Curling Club)

Sites previously approved by USCA board:

Trials (M/W) March 4-12, 2006, Bemidji Curling Club

Mixed National Championship March 18-25, 2006, Fairbanks Curling Club

Motion by West, Jytyla second to approve the sites proposed by Maier and listed above in bold face. Approved.

f. Mixed worlds. Pleasants spoke in support of developing a Mixed World Championship, on behalf of supporters in the Seattle area. There is now a Mixed European Championship. Pleasants asked if there is an interest in pursuing a Mixed Worlds with the Europeans, the WCF, or with other parties. The supporters understand there are limited or no financial resources. Discussion followed, in which general support for the concept was expressed by

several directors.

16. Competitive Programs. Moore reported.

a. Coaching. Lynita Delaney is active as the Junior ADD and as chair of the USCA Coaching Committee. The committee has developed new Vision and Mission Statements with the goal to reach the point where every team that needs a coach gets a coach who is certified to the level of the team's needs. The committee plans a "Coaches Corner" on USCA web site; and a camp at Rice Lake September 15-18, 2005 for Elite Junior Curlers and Coach Development. The committee will solicit nominations for USCA Coaches of the Year next week, with a May 31, 2005 nomination deadline.

b. Elite Programs. There will be USOC-funded early ice in Bemidji, as most of the Olympic athletes reside there or near there. There may be limited funds for other early ice sites. This season, most funded teams performed well. Next season USOC team funding resources will be focused on the Olympic team. This season, two teams of each gender received Incentive Pool funding. The 2006 Olympic Team Coach and Team Leader Selection Procedures and selection process have been completed, with Extra Staff Selection process to come. The board applauded the excellent performances of the men's and women's world teams' this year.

c. Paralympics. The 2006 Paralympic Team Selection Procedures finalization are in process, with discussions aided with new addition of wheelchair athlete Missy Keiser. The Team Leader Procedures have been finalized, solicitations to commence next week, with selection in time for the May 16 USOC Team Leadership trip to Torino and Pinerolo. 2006 Paralympic Athlete, Coach and Extra Staff Selection Procedures are being developed.

d. Olympic team 5th players. **Motion by Moore (on behalf of the Elite programs committee, the Olympic team coaches and the USCA ADD), Jytyla second, to approve Olympic Team 5th Players Scott Baird for Team Fenson and Courtney George for Team Johnson. Approved unanimously.**

e. Assistant ADD. Moore reported that the committee approved extending the USCA relationship with Assistant Athlete Development Director Rob Meakin through the 2006 Olympic Games.

f. ADD report. Athlete Development Director Lukowich reported that the Olympic Team, Team Leader, Coaches and other support staff, plus Chris Moore will attend the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs next weekend for team training and planning through February, 2006. Lukowich reported that the USA is moving up the ladder on the world scene in its world, Continental Cup and Cashspiel performances. Both men's and women's Trials were close and tough competitions. The U.S. women ranked first in Olympic points over a three year period, with gold, 4th and silver results. The U.S. men tied for first in the round robin—this hasn't happened for at least 24 years. Team Fenson qualified at "slam" event—a first for a U.S. team.

*Swandby called for a recess at 5:40 pm
The meeting reconvened at 8:05 a.m. Sunday*

17. Election. Swandby asked McNelly to conduct the election. Ballots were marked and collected for the contested WCF position. **Motion by Badgero, Urevig second, that the board elect all the nominees for the uncontested positions by acclamation. Approved.**

18. Operations & Marketing. West reported. New USCA merchandise items sold through XP Apparel are displayed at the back tables for directors consideration.

a. ACF&M. Urevig reported on the current ACF&M management. Recently memorabilia in storage was better organized and inventoried. Display cases have been refurbished. The 8-end patch fulfillment program is now current. The ACF&M contributed \$5,000 this season to the USCA Verizon Ice 2004 production.

b. Athlete/Curler Recognition Committee. West noted that Athletes and Coaches of the Year will be selected over the summer.

c. Revenue Development.

-Donation program. Pottinger conducted this program this season. West noted that 30 of 83 clubs who received pins and "sales" kits have reported back to the USCA (three clubs declined to participate). \$47,769 has been donated thus far. West described plans for next season's campaign.

-Sponsorship. The committee supports Patzke's suggestion that a demographic survey is an essential tool for sponsor solicitation. A source of funding for a survey is being sought.

-Olympic pin sales. 2006 Olympic pin sales are off to a slow start. West encouraged sales. USCA will provide unsold 2002 pins to clubs for use as fund raisers.

d. Human Resources. The USCA has developed new guidelines for family leave, disability, and harassment; has new director orientation, reference manual, and directors' duties and responsibilities information. Staff travel for this season has been tabulated and is extensive. While extensive travel goes along with staff jobs, West will work to better balance the travel calendar as possible. A committee volunteer recruitment program is being developed.

e. Merchandise. The USCA has a good relationship with merchandise licensee XP Apparel. USCA royalties from July 2004 to Feb 2005 total \$1,639. New Torino Team USA logo products are now available. Torino Olympic Winter Games logo products are coming out soon. A curling calendar product is under development. Schroeder invited suggestions for products, noting that XP Apparel can respond quickly to needs.

f. Governance. Anderson reported. The USCA Governance Task Force is reviewing the Executive Committee structure and revised directors' job descriptions. Material will be presented to the board at the fall 2005 meeting. Guidance regarding USCA directors' responsibilities will be sent to member regions in the next month or so.

Swandby announced the election results: Bob Fenson has been elected as a USCA WCF Representative on the first ballot.

19. Closed session. *Swandby called for a closed session to discuss a personnel matter. At the conclusion of the discussion: **Motion by Jon Wilson, second by Judy Maier, to support the Chief Operating Officer Succession Plan as presented by Warren Lowe. Approved unanimously.***

20. USOC. McNelly reported. The U.S. Olympic Committee, under its new governance structure, is urging that members select their executive director or president as their NGB Council member (as opposed to the former "rep" system). McNelly supports this as a practical matter. McNelly announced he plans to resign as the USCA USOC rep. McNelly expressed

concern with the lack of communication to National Governing Bodies from the new USOC board, to include budget information. He also expressed concern that small NGBs with little medal potential receive very little funding, although the USCA is in good shape at present in this regard, and that Joint Marketing and Base Funding have been reduced for small NGBs in recent years. McNelly is optimistic about the recently nominated NGB Council leadership, which is to be elected during next weekend's inaugural Olympic Congress. The Winter Sports and Team Sports Councils have little or no remaining role. Ann Silver has been honored with her election as an At-Large USOC Athletes Advisory Council director. The USCA will have a full delegation for both the 2006 Olympic and Paralympic events. The Olympic teams and support staff will attend the Olympic Training Center next weekend.

21. Athletes Advisory Council. Maskel reported. Several AAC long-time reps are retiring or, in Silver's case, moving on to other levels. Maskel thanked retiring AAC members Craig Brown, Pottinger, Silver and Pustovar for their service. John Benton and Caitlyn Maroldo will be new AAC members. Melissa Keiser was elected by the wheelchair athletes to represent them on the AAC. An AAC meeting is scheduled for the end of May. Maskel's sense is that the USCA is moving in the right direction. USCA alternate USOC AAC rep Joraanstad attended the January USOC-AAC meeting, at which the six at-large members were elected and an orientation took place. Competitive apparel definition is a current USOC AAC project.

22. World Curling Federation. Hatch reported. The WCF reps and COO met Saturday morning.

a. World events. Hatch reviewed the upcoming world championship events, including the men's in Lowell next April (women's, Grand Prairie, Canada; juniors, Korea; seniors, European site to be announced). Curl Mesabi will host the world juniors in 2007 (women, Amori, Japan; men, site in Canada). The men's will be in Grand Forks in 2008.

b. USCA Breakfast. The USCA Breakfast held during women's worlds and WCF meetings was successful with excellent attendance in the new Tuesday morning time slot. Costs were assisted by a grant from the USOC International Relations Division.

c. WCF elections. 2006 WCF elections are important in view of the expiration of Roy Sinclair's six-year term as President. Lowe has been well-received as WCF Director of Finance.

d. Torino report. Torino Olympic Curling Manager Lisa Schoeneberg made a presentation at the WCF meeting in Paisley in March regarding Pinerolo. The junior worlds test event went very well. The venue is considered excellent.

e. WCF Grants. Patzke made a presentation during the WCF meeting regarding television projects. The WCF has granted the USCA about one million dollars for television projects in the past four years. Hatch reviewed other ongoing WCF funding programs, including club building loans and the Development Assistance Program (DAP). The USCA received DAP grants as follows. \$10,000 for traveling kit for new club development; \$8,000 for junior camps; \$5,000 Fussen camps; \$10,000 for junior ADD; \$2,000 for promotional video; \$2,800 for adult instructional brochures, total \$37,800.

f. Singles curling. It is possible there will be a new singles curling discipline on the Olympic program for 2010. Anderson noted that the singles format has not been specified, and reported the WCF is preparing plans for an annual world competition as a qualifier for the 2010

Vancouver Games. Lowe noted WCF rationale that singles could be an event to provide easier access to Olympic qualification for smaller/newer nations.

g. Challenge possibilities. Under the new WCF zonal qualifying system for world championships, the Americas Zone has two berths at men's and women's worlds. Mexico has been removed as a WCF member for non-payment of their subscription. Brazil is a member. It is not known if Brazil will challenge.

h. Miscellaneous. Rich noted the Swiss have produced an excellent video all about curling.

23. U. S. Women's Curling Association. Purkey reported. Florence Springstead is the incoming USWCA president. The USWCA sponsors teams to tour Scotland (20 women) and Canada (16 women on the Friendship Tour). There is lots of interest, many applications. Selections will be made at the fall USWCA meeting. Purkey expressed disappointment with the attendance at the 2005 women's worlds in Paisley. Canada will host the 2006 women's worlds, and Purkey understands the seats are sold out and hopes this converts to spectators filling the seats. Purkey noted the USWCA marketing efforts for pins and merchandise items.

24. Open board action items. There were no open board action items.

25. Unfinished business. There was no unfinished business.

26. New business.

a. Lowell 2006. Hatch spoke about the Lowell 2006 men's world championship event. The host committee is working hard, including hiring a marketing agency to promote attendance and to solicit sponsors. The 2006 WCF Annual General Assembly will be held during the event. Hatch encouraged Americans to attend, and noted committee efforts to draw local spectators. Hatch suggested that the USCA go beyond endorsement of a worlds bid by providing some type of oversight and sponsorship support, to help produce a world class event. Hatch invited USCA to have its 2006 spring meeting at Lowell during the event. Robertson noted that volunteers are invited to contact the Lowell committee—there is a 24 hour minimum for work assignments.

b. USCA Hall of Fame. Maskel asked that nominations for the USCA Hall of Fame be sent to the USCA office by the June 1 nomination deadline. Maskel (a participant) complimented the Potomac Curling Club on conducting an excellent Mixed National event in a fine new curling facility.

c. Timing of USCA fall meeting. Robertson requested a later fall meeting to allow regions to meet after labor Day but prior to the USCA meeting. The GNCC preferred to meet first so as to prepare for the USCA meeting. Other directors noted that their regions preferred to meet after the USCA meeting to be able to report USCA actions to their regions. Swandby announced that the fall USCA directors meeting will be held September 9-11, 2005, at the Minneapolis Holiday Inn Select.

27. Adjourn. **Motion by Anderson, Moore second to adjourn. Approved at 10:22 a.m.**

Respectfully submitted,
David Garber
Recording Secretary

Reviewed and authorized,
Albert Anderson
Secretary