

Board of Director's Meeting

SGV BUA

11/2/2020 – Zoom meeting

Roll Call

Board Members:

Jim De La Torre - President – present

Jeremy Hamlett – Vice President - present

Tim Triplett — Secretary\Treasurer - present

Will Fortner - present

Mike Martinez - present

Open- instructional chair -

Phil Diprima – Assigner – present

Richard Ilizaliturri– present

Luis Ortiz –present

Jack Johnson – present

Kendall McCarthy – invited guest. Interviewing for IC position

Jim called the meeting to order at 6:06pm. **Will motioned to approve the agenda for today 11/2. Richard seconded the motion.** Jim had one thing to add as an action item. He will discuss more in his report it's regarding what other units in CBUA are charging for fees this year. **Everyone voted on the 11/2 agenda with the one added item of going over the CBUA list as action item A and it was approved.** Jim asked if there were any changes to the minutes from the 10/19 meeting. Richard said there is one change to the Sept 21 minutes. He asked who is Jack that is not coming back that is mentioned in the minutes. Jim said it is Jack Franson because he passed away. Jim asked if the 10/19 meeting minutes are ok. **Will motioned to accept the minutes for 10/19. Luis seconded the motion. No discussion on the 10/19 minutes. Everyone voted and approved. Richard made a motion to approve the minutes for 9/21 with the addition of Jack being identified as Jack Franson. Will seconded the motion. No discussion. Everyone voted and approved the minutes for 9/21.**

Open Forum:

- Jim asked if any unit members were waiting in the waiting room. Tim said no.

President's report – Jim De La Torre:

- Jim contacted all the units regarding their last season and current season dues. Jim sent everyone a PDF of the information he collected.
 - San Fernando - reducing dues from \$100 to \$85. They have some reserve. There is still a late fee of \$10.
 - South Bay – unchanged. \$95 last season and this. They have NASO group insurance which is an additional \$81. Total \$176 for dues and insurance.
 - Long Beach – Last year was \$90 and this year is \$75. They have no reserve either. They are holding a minimum of 2 fund raisers at a restaurant. They are going to ask the restaurant to give them 20-25% of the proceeds for a 3 hour period (or whatever) for people who come in and say there are supporting the Long Beach unit.
 - Foothill Citrus - \$110 last year and proposing \$80 this year (not approved yet). They have a little reserve.
 - Inland Empire – no change \$65 for early registration. \$80 a week before first meeting. After first meeting \$25 late fee. They do a group NASO insurance which is additional \$80. They don't pay IC.
 - Mojave – unchanged \$110.

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- Coachella Valley = \$110 last year and proposing \$70 this year. They don't pay the secretary\treasurer or the IC. They also don't have a banquet. Their operating costs are lower than ours.
- Victor Valley - \$80 last year, prior to first meeting it is \$90 and after that \$105. They have NFHS insurance with is about \$40. Haven't set dues for this season. They don't pay IC anymore.
- Orange County and Chanel Coast didn't respond.
- **Insurance** – NASO has gone up. It went from \$107 last year to \$116 this year. The NFHS is roughly \$40 (\$35 plus \$3.00+ fee). There are 2 major differences in the insurances. NASO covers you for up to \$3 million for liability coverage. The NFHS covers you up to \$1^{1/2} million. NASO covers no matter what you work – every sport and any level of play. NFHS only covers for high school and college sports, state recognized associations.
- Jim talked to Scott Tomlinson the new CBUA IC and got the information we missed from the first initial meeting that he held with the IC's. He is proposing doing away with the uniforms. He wants to open it up to where as long as you and your partner match, he doesn't care. He would like the old-school navy-blue shirt with the red, white and blue collar. Effective immediately, the certification exam and study guides will be done in house not online. We must come up with our own format. He has put together a committee of 5 that will put together the new certification questions. It should be completed by Nov 18 and sent to the IC's so they can prepare it for the individual units.

VP's Report - Jeremy Hamlett

- Nothing to report.

Secretary\Treasurer report - Tim Triplett:

- Tim sent out the financials. He has not renewed the BOD insurance policy yet. On the expenses, renewing BOD insurance costs \$575. Same price as last year. He can pay it tomorrow, but it will drop our balance. When our account is below \$1500, we are charged \$12 fee. So, all summer we have been paying \$12 fee for being under \$1500. He hasn't received a lot of payments. Tim wanted to ask the board whether he should pay insurance. Tim will confirm that the amount is \$575. Jim said Tim should go ahead and pay it. The unit insurance is due Dec 1 and we must pay Arbiter in Dec too. We will not have enough to pay one of the Dec bills. Phil asked the policy period. Tim said Oct 1 to Sept 30. Tim said the payment is online and he will make it tomorrow.
- Tim asked if CBUA is going to charge \$3. Jim said they are charging \$3 instead of \$25 for the CBUA membership fee plus whatever kits we need. The 2021 membership fees will be based on our 2020 roster. We will always be a year behind. We will get 5 free kits and they will go to new members. Anything extra we want to get; we pay what they cost. No more flat \$25 fee anymore. Tim will add this to the budget. Anything other than the rule book and case book, they will have to pay out of pocket. Tim has about 20 kits and members can pay for them – except new members which are free.

Assignor's report – Phil DiPrima:

- Phil reported that Raul Ruiz got into a car accident on the way to work a game. He suffered serious injuries – fractures to his back. He may not be able to walk again. Everything is preliminary. Please pray for him and his family.
- Phil suggested in order to save some money, transferring all our unit games and officials and schools to his personal arbiter account. There is a good number of current members that are already being paid for from his arbiter account and his license fee is a lot cheaper than the units. He would also give Tim and anyone else who needs it admin rights to his account. Jim asked if there would be a legal issue doing that. Tim said no, the only issue would be if Phil decided to walk away from the position, which he doesn't see

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him doing. The other issue would be the schools. Phil said he would have to setup the 63-64 administrators from our schools we service as contacts under his account and give them access to the current features that they currently have under our unit account. It is all doable. It is just legwork and explaining to our schools the change and why we are changing. Tim would be administrator so that if he walks away, Tim has access to everything. Jim said his concern is that anything received will have West Coast Umpires instead of San Gabriel Valley. Phil said when he sends an email to the unit it may say you have a new game from West Coast umpires. Jim said the coach or AD would see West Coast umpires. Phil said no, Arbiter sends it out from the individual sender, so it will have Phil's name. It says Arbiter sports or Arbiter messaging. Jim would like to test to be sure what comes out in the messages. Tim asked Phil to see if he could find out how much the cost savings would be so we can explore it a little more. Tim will also look into the legalities of it. We will get more information and discuss next meeting.

- Phil said we need to recruit people.

Committee Reports:

- Ratings & Evaluation committee chair – **Jeremy Hamlet** – nothing to report. Will look at it closer to the season.
- Assignors committee chair- **Jack Johnson** – hasn't gotten committee members yet. Waiting until we see where the season is going.
- Audit committee chair- **Mike Martinez** – hasn't reached out to anyone yet. Will reach out next month.
- Instructional committee chair -**Richard I.** – Richard said they are looking for IC's to assist with development of the questions. They are looking for IC's to assist with proofreading the study guide questions. Study guides will be given to each IC as a PDF by mid Nov. Study guides will not be online this year – administered locally. Answer keys will be provided to each unit. Classification exam will consist of questions directly from the study guide. Exam will be administered locally and provided to each IC as a PDF. Field clinics will be local only. They will revisit hosted clinics next year. This information is from Scott Thomlinson executive IC for CBUA. Jeremy asked how we are administering since we are not meeting in person. Richard said it is up to the unit to decide whether we mail it out, have a site where the IC would be there, deliver it via email, there are options we just have to decide. There is a way for us to put it online, but it will cost us. Jeremy said he thinks this is a bad look for us. Everything in the world is virtual right now and he doesn't know why we aren't doing online study guide and exam.
- Banquet committee chair -**Luis Ortiz** - hasn't contacted Steve yet but he will.
- Publicity and Recruitment chair – **Jim De La Torre** - Jim has a couple of new recruits. Frank Rivera is one and should be contacting Tim.
- Ethics committee chair – Jim is leaving blank until we need it.

Action Items:

- **Membership dues:** Jim said he thinks in order for us to reduce dues, even \$10 we might need to do fundraisers like Long Beach is doing. He thinks it is a good idea. We would have to make sure we get the word out to the unit that would we need their support and need them to tell all their family to come out to the fundraisers so we can make back some money. Jim made a proposal for a \$10 reduction in dues with the intent of having at least two fundraisers. Richard said he was appreciative of Phil for offering his Arbiter account to help save money. He said we don't have enough money to pay our bills or to keep our account at a point where we don't have to pay a \$12 fee – that's \$144 a year. He said we used to have 60 guys at our Banquets and now we are lucky to have 20-30 show up. It's good because we get to keep the \$20 for the banquet fee but he feels we need to take something out. Richard said we should not have a banquet this year. We can't afford to do one for free. Jim said he thinks we should still try to do fundraisers even if we cut out something. Will said he doesn't think we will get that much participation in the fundraiser. Jack wanted to

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table the banquet until the end of the year. Jim asked if we were saying to charge \$95 instead of \$105 with no banquet? Jack said yes. Phil said the cost of the banquet is built into the membership dues and then we have a budget of \$600 to do our banquet. Not every member shows up so for the members that don't show up, that additional dollar amount that was built into the membership dues is revenue gained by the unit. Richard said we can't even pay our bills, so something has to give if we are going to do this. Jim asked who was in favor of leaving the dues as is. **Everyone voted and agreed to leave the dues the same.**

- **What if we don't have a season?** Jim said our members need to understand we are an instructional unit. Our job as the SGVCBUA is to instruct and make sure our guys get certified in the proper protocols and the rules we are supposed to administer. Whether or not we have a season, we have hard direct costs we have to pay – BOD and unit insurance, Arbiter fees, Secretary\Treasurer and IC fees. We also have to pay the \$3 per member regardless if we have a season or not. Jeremy said we need to come up with a figure of what its going to cost, regardless if we have a season or not. What are those bills it takes to run the unit. He said then we need a shared hurt where everybody chips in a little to keep that reserve going. How much per member whether its 10, 15 or 20 that we keep that minimum in reserve to make sure we can pay these bills. Then the remaining amount can be a credit towards 2022. Jeremy said we need to just be transparent and say we need to have a prudent reserve. Jim said basketball has \$18,000 in reserve. Jack said we needed to figure out what our fixed costs are, what we must pay, and divide that by the number of umpires and that is what we charge for the year. Anything after that would be reserve. Jeremy gave an example, we collect \$105. We find out the fixed costs are \$30. If you give me \$30 for fixed costs and we are also going to include a \$20 fee to keep a reserve that's \$50. That \$50 would be used to operate for 2021 and then the credit of \$55 would be towards 22 but then they would have to pay the difference once we get into 22 to get to the \$105. This would be nonrefundable. This will only be for 2021 if we do not have a season. They will get a portion after our hard direct costs and the cushion is paid. Jeremy said we are not doing a discount instead it is a credit applied to 22. Jim said we will rehash next meeting. Tim will come up with amounts and we will determine a number next meeting. Phil said he thinks we should offer members a payment plan or make a down payment that would cover our fixed costs and then give them a deadline to pay the remainder once we know we are going to play. We should be as flexible as possible. Other units are doing that in baseball and other sports. Jack said that is a great idea. Jim said we should try to get at least 50% if we are going to offer a payment plan.
- **Proposed Meeting dates:**
 - **Dec 7 mandatory**
 - **Jan 12**
 - **Feb 1 mandatory**
 - **Feb 8**
 - **Feb 22 makeup**
 - **March 1 mandatory**
 - **March 22 makeup**
 - **Field Clinic -TBD**

Richard made a motion to approve the proposed meeting dates with the blessing of the new IC when the board selects one. Will seconded the motion. Everyone voted and approved.

- **IC Interviews:**

Kendall McCarthy thanked the board for interviewing him. Kendall said he has always been a rules guy. He is retired captain from the Fire Department – 35 years. His mantra is competence breeds confidence. He attended numerous camps last year. He is really high on training. He loves rules and has a unique method of teaching rules. He feels you can't be a competent umpire unless you now the rules and mechanics that go with them. He intends to teach our unit very easily and in fun ways to learn the rules.

Will asked Kendall his plan for future field clinics and how he would incorporate the training via Zoom. Kendall said the dates that were proposed for training are fine with him. Even though we will probably be virtual, he is planning as if we will be meeting physically in person whether we do or not he plans to have many field clinics

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30 minutes prior to each meeting. Anyone that wants to come early to that meeting he will have an agenda ready to cover. We don't have a date set for regular field clinic. He did a field clinic in the parking lot last year and it was very successful, we don't need a field. He has a lot of free time. He could do clinics 10 at a time, physically do 10 at a time in hour increments. We won't have to have all 50 guys together. He wants everyone to know the rule book backwards and forwards. Tim asked Kendall if he plans to work a regular full season of umpiring or does he plan to go out and see umpires? What type of balance would he have? Kendall said he would do both. He said he would prefer to be assigned games with a new guy or a guy that needs to be looked at. He said he would do a game and then go watch an umpire at a game. Jack asked how Kendall would articulate getting information from the higher ups out to the umpires. Also, he asked what he thinks we did terrible last year that he would like to change. Kendall said as soon as he gets the information, he will get it out to everyone. Last year we did too much talking and less teaching in the classes. He wants to have a one-man umpire session. The newer guys are on an island by themselves. It is one page in the umpire manual, and it is very important. We all need to do a one umpire system properly. Luis asked what he would do to put the unit at ease about how he is going to deliver the materials? Kendall said he would be doing some things similar to Darren. He said he can do Powerpoint. He is a little old school because he feels some old technology still works. Phil asked how Kendall feels about having an IC committee, someone to assist with instruction and who might be more tech savvy, someone to help put together tests or go out and do peer evaluations? Kendall said he doesn't have an ego. He has no problem asking for help. The goal is to make sure everyone is the best umpire they can be. Phil said Kendall made a comment about talking to coaches and doing a presentation for them on rules. Phil thinks this is a valuable tool that we have gotten away from. Asked Kendall if he was willing to setup those meetings on his own time to make it happen? Kendall said absolutely. It is one of the main things he wants to do. There needs to be better communication between us and the coaches. They need to be trained – they need to know the rules and know what we expect. Tim asked if Kendall had a problem attending the board meetings that happen once a month? Kendall said he doesn't have a problem with that, and he is available any day.

Richard Ilizaliturri said he has been with the SGVU for over 30 years. He has served on the boards in the past. He was IC for 3 years after Ron Sours. He has done 2 CIF finals in baseball and been involved with instruction as an IC for Ron Sours and Darren Winkley. Will asked Richards plan on fields clinics and how he would bring today's technology with Zoom in the 2021 season? Richard said he proposes a virtual type of field clinic. Classes would be virtual – he would create 10 lesson plans. Members would go thru a 30-45 minute class, there would be a short review and then they would complete a test and at the end they could printout something they could give to the secretary or IC. You could do it anytime you want – you could do all 10 classes in one night if you want. Those would be your 10 hours of class. He would like to get a virtual study guide session which would be another couple hours. He would also like the classification exam online. Members can get credit for them - 16 hours and if you include mechanics lessons as well it basically comes to 18 hours. Field clinics would be virtual so more videos. Tim asked if the instruction dates are open. Does he not plan to use the dates setup for instruction? Richard said the dates would still be used for various things. For example, one, two and three are due by Jan 12 at 11:59. Tim asked about the 18 hours of instruction. He asked if he was combining all those hours. Richard said yes. Tim asked what kind of balance he plans to have as far as working games and going and watching umpires work. Richard said he is flexible. He hopes to get on the field this season but since he had hip surgery he might not can. He would work with the assignor to go see who he wants him to see. Tim asked if it would be 50/50. Richard said it is up to the assignor. If he needs him to umpire, he will and then go out and watch umpires when he is not working. Tim asked if he would be able to put together some type of group or observation team to go out and watch officials work. Richard said yes, he has done it in the past. Jack asked if he could change one thing from last year what would it be? Richard

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said he would rotate in instructors more. Every 30 minutes the instructor would change classes. It shouldn't be the same guy every single week. It is better with variety of ideas and thoughts.

Luis asked if he plans to use electronics and PowerPoint for instructions. Richard said yes. Phil asked how Richard feels about reaching out to the high school coaches in our area to setup and run rules meetings for their coaching staff, players and parents. Richard said he would be willing to do that. Phil asked how he feels about having a committee to help him. Richard said he has no problem with it and likes the idea. A committee spreads the wealth and the talent. Jim asked Richard how he would ensure that he got information out that came from the state and needed to get to everyone immediately. Richard said he would ask Tim or Phil to send it out through Arbitrator.

Both interviewees were put into a breakout room. The board went into Executive Session.

Meeting reconvened. Jim announced that Kendall McCarthy was voted the new IC. He will be notified. He agreed with our proposed meeting dates. Jim thanked Richard for his interest in the position. He said we are going to ask Kendall if he would be opposed to teaming up, whether it be as instructor or helping with his committee. Everyone felt it would strengthen the unit to have Richard and Kendall working together. Jason Plourde was in attendance and asked about instructional materials. He said Tim sent out an email to keep our books because nothing has changed. That is a cost that you have as a unit. Jim said CBUA changed how we pay our membership. It was a flat \$25 per man – that included instructional materials. Now they are charging \$3 per man and includes rule book and case book, plus whatever each book costs. Anything additional that you want, will come out of your pocket. Jason asked why we are paying for books if the email from Tim said to keep our old books. Jim explained the plan we are working on to have a credit for 2022 if we don't have a season since Jason came in late and missed it.

Jason said he agrees there shouldn't be reimbursements for last seasons. He asked if there isn't a season, is there a possibility of reimbursement for if we pay dues. He understands there are operating costs that must happen. He asked when things like insurance needed to be paid. Does it need to be paid? Jim said they are due now. Everything is due before we start the season. Jim said all the hard costs, insurance and arbitrator have to be paid before we even step on the field. Jason asked what happens if there isn't a season. Jim said we still have hard costs. Jason asked if insurance would be prorated. Jim said we asked them last season and they didn't budge. They didn't give us a penny back. It is a blanket coverage for an entire year. It isn't like car insurance.

First unit meeting is **Dec 7th**.

Next meeting will be **Monday, November 30th at 6:00pm**.

Jim adjourned the meeting at 8:51pm.