

Draft VLOA end of season meeting minutes 30 May 2016; Willy B's Tavern, Randolph

President Westbrook opened the meeting by addressing various chapter actions in the recent past; Matt Birmingham's resignation as vice president, and the appointment of Bill Powell to finish Matt's term, and the appointment of Paul Trono as Secretary/Treasurer, as Ben Marlow had tendered his resignation as well. Many thanks to Ben and Matt for their service.

Clay reminded members in attendance of VLOA's commitment to recruiting and training of new officials. He described various training processes, including USLacrosse training provided by Brett DiVenere, and the three man training under Eric Evans' auspices at various tournaments. Westbrook restated and reiterated the on-going support and mission of VLOA to attract and retain qualified officials statewide.

Rules Interpreter Evans has presented his training proposal and budget for the upcoming (2017) season, which the board of directors has accepted.

The issue of VLOA paying for a third on field official in the semi-finals and finals of the 2016 VPA tournament, was approved by a vote of members in attendance. This has been the practice for the past three years, and one that VLOA will continue to support. (scribe's note: this has been described both as "third on field official" and "fourth official"; herein "third on field official")

Assignor Terry Harlow announced his resignation, effective with the end of the 2016 season. The members gave Mr. Harlow their appreciation of his service to the chapter, both as an official and Assignor. Terry reiterated his appeal that the chapter needs to recruit and retain more officials, and offered his advice on making this outreach more effective, including required training and meeting attendance of prospective members.

Four members were inducted into Life Membership; Scott Cameron, Joe O'Brien, Gerry Gingras and Jamie Stewart. These candidates, along with any additional candidates proposed by members before the March 2017 business meeting, will be formally voted on then. The availability of these senior members to also become VLOA off field observers for evaluation purposes is something that will be pursued by the chapter.

In addition to the training program supported by VLOA, the "mentor/mentee" effort initiated by Assignor Harlow is another process VLOA supports to engage and retain new officials. With the pending replacement of the Assignor by the leagues, VLOA will continue to support this process going forward.

Clay stated the on-going need to provide a more thorough and integrated training and evaluation process. This sentiment was also endorsed and seconded by Jamie Stewart, George Cook and Rich Clark.

With those issues addressed, the meeting agenda turned to the Sportsmanship Award. As this year the VPA has created three divisions, the chapter nominated the third Sportsmanship Award to be named in honor of the third Vermont chapter member, Gerry Gingras.

The membership voted the team Sportsmanship Awards to:

Division I: Middlebury High School  
Division II: Burlington High School  
Division III: Stratton Academy

Various tall tales from the pitch were told. Some truth was stretched. Rich Clark won the Cup.

Submitted by Bill Powell