



AYSO Executive Board Meeting

May 1, 2025 @ 7:15pm PT

- I. Call to Order – 7:22pm PDT
 - Members in attendance: Brandi Lane, Terry Takahashi, Patrick Shopbell, Shanti Rao, Harry Plotkin, Shant Kamanjian, Rolf Mauermann, Luke Powers, Bret Nicely, Lauren Stevenson, and Christina Scott
- II. National/Sectional/Area Meeting
 - Patrick went to the area meeting. Was advised not to buy any AEDs.
 - The “age groupings” will be modified again to calendar year, instead of birth year. It will begin in MY26.
 - The EXPO will be back in Pasadena for the next two years (2026 & 2027)
- III. Discussion Topics
 - There are currently over 500 kids signed up for AYSO fall soccer so far!
 - Brandi is currently recruiting DCAs.
 - The master spreadsheet of players and volunteers was shared. The “campaigns” tab will give information about needed certifications or background checks that are coming due. There are also automatic emails that can be sent with reminders.
 - July 15th the registration will shut down, so that we can form teams. The waitlist may turn on sooner if there is an influx of players in a specific age group. (Ratio of players to coaches.)
 - Shant will have a treasurer’s report for the next meeting.
 - La Canada Fields
 - La Canada Parks and Recs voted to give all fields to baseball teams. AYSO appealed the decision to the City Council.
 - The appeal will be heard on May 20th.
 - Patrick has been approached to make a compromise with baseball where we will use the JV fields in La Canada, but not the varsity fields. In turn, we would withdraw our appeal to the City Council.
 - This would give us half the space, but the fields would be lit.
 - We were authorized to use lights on other unlit fields, but Parks and Rec can’t really give that permission. Neighbors would be unenthused.

- The Chair of the La Canada School Board said bluntly that they really want to keep their fields for their own residents. However, the city doesn't own the fields.
- Patrick pointed out that the JV fields are in poor condition and that may be hazardous for our players. There may be money to repair the fields, but that's not clear.
- The end result is that many people in Region 13 are very upset about this situation. Mark Windsor (attorney) is of the opinion that we should fight this.
- We get the sense that the City Council does not want to "air their dirty laundry" publicly in a meeting. However, Region 13 is still planning to move forward with the appeal.
- It appears that SURF will have to make their own negotiations.
- Unfortunately there are no city fields that La Canada can offer us.
- There are mixed feelings on whether or not to take the JV fields instead of continuing with the City Council appeal. We will verify that the JV fields are "enough space" and will have access to them for the foreseeable future, then we may be more likely to take the compromise. Still need formal acknowledgement that we did not cause the damage to the fields and we were wrongly accused.
- General Field Update
 - It was suggested that we sell the diesel lights. No one wants them and they make a lot of noise. We have nowhere to move them too, if we keep them. We have already lost Muir North, so there's no point to keep the lights there.
 - The servicing company we bought them from may be able to find a buyer for us.
 - Shanti made a motion to sell the diesel lights and Brandi made the second. We had unanimous agreement.
 - Juan is the PUSD gate keeper. Marco gave gifts of sports tickets. Should we continue to give Juan these gifts? Shanti has access to tickets and will give the tickets to Rolf to distribute.
 - Pasadena soil tests came back and there are no problems. Are the fields open again for use? We do not know the answer at this time.
 - Marco said we owe \$250,000 for field usage. This may not be an accurate estimate, but Brandi and Terry are aware of this and it will be "adjusted" with PUSD and then paid.
 - Patrick or Terry will follow up with Marco on the bill.
 - We may want to ask for Eagle Rock High School as we have several players from this area on Region 13 teams.

- Clubhouse cleaning day will be on May 17th or 18th. Shanti has furniture for the entrance room. Shant has requested not the 18th.
- There is a new U.S. Soccer Referee Abuse Policy – it includes serious sanction for serious abuse. We should share this during coach and referee training.
- Donations and grants
 - Region 12 is eager to share five large boxes of uniforms, but we are doing to decline the offer.
 - LA Trial Lawyers Charities would like to donate to the EPIC program.
 - United Soccer Coaches - \$15K of coach supplies. We will replace equipment people lost that was beyond what AYSO provided had provided them such as chairs, wagons, etc.
 - Sports Matter (Dicks) would like to support youth sports. Perhaps they can help with registration fees?
 - Maybe we should have someone focused on “advancement” as a role – getting grants, etc. Brett has done work in this space. Shanti has done a lot. Proposal that maybe someone should have this role.
 - Shanti – the play equity story has been very powerful – brought in \$30k from that over the last few years by showing through data that we are increasing diversity/allowing kids to play that otherwise wouldn’t be able.
 - We need an auditor to review and make our financial reporting a little more sophisticated to go for bigger grants. Brett says Coach Daniel Robinson’s wife does grant writing a bit, maybe we could engage her.
 - Terry thinks we should try to get more grants this year due to the fires as we have fields needs and will need money to resolve those needs.
 - Shanti had reached out to the orgs that had raised money after the fires to see if we could get allocations and did not get any receptivity from them to talk to us.
 - Rebooting the Sisterhood of Soccer with Womens’ Coaching Alliance - formal mentoring. R13 would need to promote the opportunity to alumni, school athletic directors, and UD players.
 - WCA would train and provide volunteer coaches for 8U, 10U, and 12U teams. AYSO National has approved the use of youth coaches paid a stipend through this program.

- We will do it. We have some potential nominees – younger/minor female coaches that might be interested.
 - Shanti will connect with Louis. Brandi and Shanti to connect to respond and get it going. They are also working with some other local AYSO regions
- New secondary logo for the arm patch, which includes a Phoenix.
 - Shanti would like to propose a new Region 13 logo. Not a significant increase in cost.
 - Make & sell T-shirts? Alumnus David has offered to get sponsorship from local businesses to defray production cost, and then we could sell them.
 - Note that AYSO is exempt from collecting sales tax to sell merch. He volunteered to ask businesses to sponsor this program.
 - We could do this as a fundraiser and promote the AYSO brand.
 - Patrick got a quote from Sports Pins.
 - Why sponsors? Shanti wants to leverage to help get more sponsors in general... some social pressure... get those that don't sponsor the shirt to get their name on the banner... For next meeting can we get a mockup to get an estimate from both Ellens and Sports Pins.
- Upper Division U16 –Upper Division. Last year, 16U was basically a Core league merged with South Pas.
 - South Pas did enter a G16U team into Area 1C competition, consisting mostly of 214's returning all-star players and a couple from R13.
 - The coach hand-picked the players for that team. None of the R13 coaches wanted to enter a team into Area 1C Upper Division.
 - Suggest that this year, R13 has a 2-tier system for 16U: up to 1 girls' and 1 boys' teams enter the Area 1C Upper Division (2 practices a week, games any day, any time, like 8:30 pm on a Monday), and everyone else plays Core-like (1 practice a week, and a game on Sunday morning at SPHS or Blair) in cooperation with South Pas.
 - The Area-level coaches would be allowed to recruit players specifically for the team, because the other regions do that.
 - At Area we voted recently that teams must be created based on registration date.
 - Shanti doesn't think that would work out well for Region 13 teams if that's the case so we should just do a core league then.



- We could propose this approach, but not sure Rolando would be amenable to that. Could do a skills assessment/tryout to select – we did this last year when we partnered with 214 but with a focus on balanced teams. We need to think about it and decide.
- 6U & 8U Coaching Courses - accepting online only for the fall? With optional 1 hour field session?
 - Some agreement but acknowledgement of the benefits of some things in person.
 - Brandi will put down details in writing and circulate to the group via email for final alignment.

IV. The meeting was adjourned at 9:06pm PT and the next meeting was pushed back to June 12th. Christina will be out of the country for the June and July meetings and humbly asks if someone would please take minutes in her absence.

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Scott (with assistance from Brandi Lane)