

MINUTES OF THE
AMERICAN SOKOL
2011 DISTRICT DIRECTORS' CONFERENCE
Sokol Ft. Worth, Ft. Worth, Texas
OCTOBER 21, 2011

Meeting called to order at 9:10 a.m. on October 21, 2011, by National Director Sis. Maryann Fiordelis.

All District Directors, American Sokol Board of Instructor members and guests were requested to rise and introduce themselves. A sign-in sheet was also passed around.

PRESENT:

Sis. Maryann Fiordelis, Detroit/Northeastern,
ASO Physical Director
Bro. Bob Kucera, Naperville-Tyrs/Central, 1st
Assistant ASO Men's Director, Men's District
Director
Bro. Chuck Kalat, KHB/Southern, 2nd Assistant
ASO Men's Director
Sis. Barb Vondra, Stickney/Central, representing
1st Assistant ASO Women's Director
Sis. Jan Kalat, KHB/Southern, 2nd Assistant ASO
Women's Director
Sis. Allison Gerber, Cedar Rapids/Western,
Men/Women's District Director
Sis. Bev Domzalski, Chicagoland/Central, ASO-
BOI recording secretary
Sis. Kathy Barcal, Spirit/Central, Women's
District Director

Bro. Rome Milan, Fort Worth/Southern, Men's
District Director, representing Women's District
Director
Sis. Jane Wise, Greater Cleveland/Northeastern,
ASO-BOI
Bro. Howie Wise, Gr. Cleveland/Northeastern,
Men's District Director
Sis. Mary Cushing, Detroit/Northeastern,
Women's District Director
Sis. Donna Sbriglia, New York/Eastern,
Women's District Director
Bro. Todd Yatchyshyn, Sokol USA, Director of
Men
Sis. Chris Yatchyshyn, Sokol USA, Director of
Women
Sis. Mary Ellen Newsom, Chicagoland/Central,
Guest

VOTING RIGHTS

- Each District Director has one vote, 1st and 2nd ASO BOI Assistants each have one vote, and the National Director has one vote and will break a tie. Sis. D. Sbriglia, Sis. A. Gerber and Bro. R. Milan each have two votes for their Districts. Bro. B. Kucera has two votes, one as Central District Men's Director and one as 1st Assistant to ASO BOI Director. Sis. A. Gerber gave proxy to Sis. B. Vondra as 1st Assistant to ASO BOI Director. Everyone is welcome to participate in the discussions, present opinions and suggestions even though they have no voting power. Motions are restricted to those who have voting rights.

General Conference Plans

- Copies of National and District Director Reports and Committee Reports were sent to conferees prior to the Conference for review. Agenda was presented and will be followed.
- Vouchers were distributed and need to be returned at the end of the conference.
- For the Development Conference on Saturday, registration begins at 7:30 a.m., orientation at 8:00 a.m. and sessions begin at 8:30 a.m. All sessions will be held at Sokol Ft. Worth; lunch and dinner will be served there and a social will be held afterwards. Shuttles back to the hotel will begin at 9:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. On Sunday sessions will begin at 8:30 a.m.

ANNUAL REPORTS

- Physical Director's Report is attached. There was a correction on the first page, to the first sentence of the last paragraph: "We continue to use the "Action Item List" instituted by a previous regime . . ."

Fitness Challenge

- The Fitness Challenge report for 2011 was not available for this meeting.

Attendance

- The Annual Attendance Report – 2010-2011 is posted at www.american-sokol.org/boi/members.

American Sokol Instructors School

- 2011 American Sokol Instructors School Report, July 10 – July 24, 2011, is posted at www.american-sokol.org/boi/members under School Board Report.

National Skills Report

- 2010-2011 National Skills Report is posted at www.american-sokol.org/boi/members.

- Bro. Buddy Benak is National Skills coordinator. Sis. Juanita LoGiudice prepared the report.

- This program will be reviewed later in this meeting.

- Cards will not be mailed to units; they can be obtained through the BOI web site at www.american-sokol.org/boi. Updates are made to cards when routines change.

- Ribbons will be sent upon request. Pins are available.

- Sokol USA does not utilize a skills program; however, Lodge 306 in Chicago participates in the Central District boys' skills program.

Uniform Report

- Uniform Report – 2011 is posted at www.american-sokol.org/boi/members.

- Discussed deadline dates for ordering uniforms. Current ordering deadlines are October 1, 2011, January 1, 2012 and April 1, 2012.

MOTION made by Bro. C. Kalat to continue with October 1, 2012, January 1, 2013 and April 1, 2013, seconded by Bro. H. Wise. Motion failed.

MOTION made by Sis. M. Cushing to have new deadline dates of October 1, 2012, December 1, 2012, March 1, 2013 and May 1, 2013, seconded by Sis. J. Kalat. Motion failed.

MOTION made by Sis. J. Kalat for new uniform ordering deadline dates of October 1, 2012, January 1, 2013, March 1, 2013 and May 1, 2013, seconded by Sis. M. Cushing and passed.

- The uniform vendor is QRC.

- Boys and Junior Boys' shorts are \$1 less; Sis. J. LoGiudice will be asked to send out a list of sizes and prices available.

- Further discussion was held regarding issues with uniforms and whether there can be an even exchange for a new piece.

Educational Director Report

- The Report of the American Sokol Educational Director to BOI, October 21, 2011, is posted at www.american-sokol.org/boi/members.

- Several discrepancies in handling of merit award applications were discussed. It was not clear why certain signatures were required on merit award applications.

MOTION made by Bro. C. Kalat to recommend to Education Committee/Merit Award Committee that the approval of the education directors' signatures be removed from the merit award application, seconded by Sis. B. Vondra and passed.

- Requests for Merit Award Applications are found on the web site. Requests are monitored because there have been problems in the past where directors failed to return applications in a timely manner.

MOTION made by Bro. Rome Milan to recommend to Education Committee that applications be posted on web site, seconded by Sis. M. Cushing and passed.

- A suggestion was made that the National BOI should have one member on the Education Merit Award Committee.

MOTION made by Bro. C. Kalat that the National BOI have a representative on the Education Merit Award Committee, seconded by Sis. B. Vondra and passed.

- Several other suggestions were made concerning merit award procedures:

- Give applicants an explanation of why they were turned down; not just “thank you, apply again.”
- Helpful points for applying should be given to applicants.
- Let applicants know that only one per district is selected and that someone from their district has been selected.

- Discussion following suggesting that the education committee do more training, not just write articles. The Education Committee should recommend what we need to do educationally.

- It was suggested that online application be preceded by instructions and that there be online feedback.

MOTION made by Bro. R. Milan to recommend that criteria be included preceding application posted online, seconded by Sis. Kathy Barcal and passed.

MOTION made by Bro. R. Milan to recommend that there be feedback on rejection to applicant, unit and district director, seconded by Sis. Kathy Barcal and passed.

- The BOI is required to turn in a budget for money in Future Sokol Leaders Fund. The Educational Director needs to be informed that a formal request and budget needs to be made for the money from the Future Sokol Leaders Fund for the merit award. Basically, there needs to be more accountability to the Executive Board for the money taken from the Future Sokol Leaders Fund.

MOTION made by Bro. C. Kalat to recommend that the Executive Board work with users of the Future Sokol Leaders Fund to produce an annual budget, seconded by Bro. B. Kucera and passed.

- Discussion followed regarding goals to be proposed to the Education Director. Education should be geared toward going to outside educational seminars, i.e. gymnastic congress, to further our education from outside of Sokol. Education should provide training and leadership to our members. Education should hold sessions at the Directors’ Conference and at the Presidents’ Conference. Education should be providing the resources to the general membership of what is out there. Education should provide administrative training.

- Sis. E. Schnabl has asked Sis. Fiordelis to clarify the goals that the educational department needs to focus on from a BOI standpoint. Discussion followed regarding goals for the educational department.

- There is an overlap of BOI and Education. BOI does provide most of the education.

- Sis. Fiordelis has supplied to Sis. Schnabl a list of topics of interest from a BOI standpoint.

- Discussion followed. It was suggested that the Educational Department follow what is stated in the By-Laws. Educational should educate students, officers, instructors, administrators and volunteers. Educational should get members to attend Congresses outside of what is offered within Sokol.

- Many handbooks have been introduced through the Strategic Plan. Members need to be informed of their content. The educational director should focus on one item, i.e. the volunteer handbook; implementation of four core programs; or instructor handbook. For example, this year the educational department would be instructed to educate the American Sokol on the Instructor's Handbook, not to rewrite it, but to further explain and educate the units and districts about what is already written in the handbook.
- It was suggested that the Education Committee create a body of people similar to the BOI and its directors. The Education Committee should not be a one-person committee.
- The BOI goal for the Education Committee is to grow the Educational Committee and to focus on education and proper implementation of the instructor handbook or four core programs or other programs already in place. Specifically, the BOI needs Sis. Schnabl to have the committee focus on an explanation of the instructors' handbook, training opportunities for members, including administrative and instructors, and educational items on wellness/nutrition.

A break was taken at 11:15 a.m. Meeting resumed at 11:25 a.m.

National Camp Reunion

- The 2011 National Camp Reunion Report is posted at www.american-sokol.org/boi/members.

Director's Newsletter Report

- The 2010 Report of the Editor of the Directors Newsletter is posted at www.american-sokol.org/boi/members.
- All officers should be getting the Director's Newsletter.
- It was noted that the Sounding Board section has been restarted in the Newsletter. Everyone is encouraged to express their viewpoints.

Gymnast Report

- The 2011 Gymnast Annual Report is posted at www.american-sokol.org/boi/members.

District Reports

- Central District Report is posted at www.american-sokol.org/boi/members. An explanation of the digital scavenger hunt was given.
- Eastern District Report was distributed during this meeting.
- Northeastern District Report is posted at www.american-sokol.org/boi/members.
- Southern District Report is posted at www.american-sokol.org/boi/members. A description of the vegetable Olympics was given.
- Western District Report is posted at www.american-sokol.org/boi/members.
- Pacific District did not provide a written report. No representative was present at this meeting.

School Board Report

- The 2010-2011 American Sokol National School Board Report was distributed during this meeting.

Congress

- The 2011 USA Gymnastics Congress and Visa Championships Report was distributed during this meeting.
- Following Bro. R. Milan's report a short discussion ensued regarding USA Gymnastics Handstand event.

2011 SOKOL USA NATIONAL TECHNICAL MEETING

- The Sokol USA National Gymnastics Department Conference Call Meeting of August 31, 2011 Report is posted at www.american-sokol.org/boi/members.

FITNESS CHALLENGE

- Bro. H. Wise and Sis. J. Wise oversee this event. Questions were raised as to whether this event should take place every year or every other year. The materials are sent out in October and are required to be returned in April. All scores from each Unit need to be sent at one time. MOTION made by Bro. B. Kucera to continue this event every year, seconded by Bro. C. Kalat and passed.
- A suggestion was made that a reminder be sent out in Spring; April 1 is the due date for scores to be turned in.
- The events for next year are the shuttle run, pull-ups, jump rope and long jump.
- Award pins cost about \$800 every year including mailing.
- Some individuals are looking for something other than jump rope.

ATTENDANCE REPORTING

- Discussion was opened as to whether we continue taking attendance reports.
- It was noted that attendance reports average enrollment and participation in programs. The attendance is used for strengths and weaknesses of programs through numbers of participants. MOTION made by Sis. B. Vondra to add columns on the attendance form for other activities, eliminate average column, and expand columns as specific for additional programs, seconded by Bro. B. Kucera and passed.
- Sis. Jane Wise will develop this new form.

Lunch break was taken. Meeting resumed at 1:00 p.m.

TOURNAMENT RULES

- There are two recommendations for changes. One submitted by Sis. A. Gerber.
- Proposal is to change the number of awards handed out for individuals and teams at the National Slet. Currently, 1 award is given for up to 3 competitors/teams; 2 for 4-6 and so on. Proposal is for 3 awards for up to 4 competitors; 4 for 5-7 competitors; 5 for 8-10; 6 for 11-13 and so on.
- Discussion followed.
- It was suggested that this proposal be thought about and discussion continue through Yahoo Group with a vote being taken at the December ASO-BOI meeting. Bro. B. Kucera will take charge of this discussion/vote.
- Second recommendation submitted is a proposal to make an allowance for adult women to wear shorts over a leotard during competition otherwise they just wear their regulation uniform.
- Sis. M. Cushing will write out this proposal to be sent out for discussion through the Yahoo Group for women's vote only. Time frame will be the same as previous proposal. Bro. B. Kucera again will take charge of this discussion/vote.
- Further discussion took place regarding optional gymnastic foot apparel for competition; tennis shoes should not be considered as gymnastic foot apparel.
- Sis. M. Fiordelis made a request of all present to check over tournament rules for any other changes necessary.

SOKOL RESOURCE LIST

- There have been several discussions about what to have on this list or what to remove from this list. Sis. M. Fiordelis requested discussion about whether this list is valid or valuable and how to make it be utilized more. If we keep it, see what needs to be kept or taken off the list.
 - This is a valuable tool, but it needs to be maintained by someone. Some of the information currently contained on the list is outdated. It should be updated annually.
 - It was suggested that this list be assigned to a BOI member working with the education department to maintain, keep updated and distribute for information purposes.
- MOTION made by Bro. C. Kalat keep resource list active and to assign an ASO BOI member to maintain, seconded by Sis. K. Barcal and passed.
- Sokol USA should be contacted for their members to be placed on the list.
 - Sis. A. Gerber offered to maintain this list. Everyone should look at the list to add or delete items or offer other information. When Sis. Gerber updates the list it should be given to educational to keep updated.

NATIONAL PROGRAMS

- Discussed what is considered national programs in Sokol.
- Reviewed the National BOI program criteria list that has been distributed in a past BOI meeting.
- It was felt the Show Program is not an ongoing program and should not be on the list.
- Coordinators of national programs are listed on the web site at www.american-sokol.org/boi.
- Each coordinator should identify the criteria for these programs.
- Sis. M. Fiordelis will review the list to see who the coordinators are and get a criteria report at a date to be determined.

HANDBOOKS

- BOI handbooks should be shared, should be used and need to be updated.
- There should be a PDF online master copy that gets updated regularly.
- The index from the BOI handbook was reviewed. Sis. J. Kalat volunteered to revise the handbook and have the final copy posted.
- Any suggestions to be added or removed should be sent the Bro. C. Kalat for Sis. J. Kalat to include in the handbook. The deadline due date to accomplish this will be April 1, 2012. As each section is completed, Bro. B. Kucera will post on the BOI/member website for everyone to review and decide if anything needs to then be added or deleted.
- For anyone who does not have a copy of the BOI Handbook, it can be obtained from Sis. Juanita LoGiudice.

NATIONAL SCHOOL BOARD REPORT

- The school board will make changes regarding bid responsibilities. The new bid forms will be sent out to anyone who requests to submit a bid.
- Some inquiries have been received, but the bid form has not been sent out yet.
- The name of "bid" on the form will be changed to "application to host a national school."
- A staff application will also be implemented.
- It was suggested that Sis. M. Cushing review the rules and policies for the school.
- Districts give approval on the current bid form, but not the unit. Units should be included to give approval on the new form since the unit does most of the work.

- Sis. Cushing will work on new wording for the application.
- The District will be allowed to choose if two units within a District offer to hold the course.

WORLD SOKOL FEDERATION PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

- In the past, have participated in the WSF fitness testing and show program.
- WSF fitness testing recommendation is to stick with ASO fitness testing.
- WSF Show program gives ASO a chance to participate in a worldwide program. We should continue to participate with COS and encourage units to do so. The deadline is April 1 every year so anyone can participate and turn in a number prior to that date. Reminders for this program will be put in Director's Newsletter.

NATIONAL GYMNASTIC SKILLS MONTH – December, 2011

- Even though we call this Skills month, it does not have to be done in any particular month, it can be done at any time of the year.
- The skills ribbon does not use the word gymnastics on it allowing anyone to earn the ribbon with other skills, i.e. basketball, volleyball, rhythmic, etc.
- Only changes to senior skills was to add more repetitions to make seniors skills more difficult.

At 2:45 p.m., a 15-minute break was taken. The meeting resumed at 3:00 p.m. Bro. Todd Yatchyshyn led everyone in a short stretching drill for neck and back.

FUNDRAISING COMMITMENTS – PROBORTUNITIES

- Sis. B. Vondra distributed a sheet titled, Probortunity Challenge, which was reviewed.
- Sis. Vondra asked the group present to come up with ideas and work with directors of other districts with new ideas for probortunities.
- Many new ideas were presented: Sokol Detroit opened their facility to a new program working with a new youth center; Sokol USA Lodge holds a bowling tournament, does an open gym day and collects food to help the community pantry; holds a National Beer Pong tournament; Sokol New York collects coat donations.
- Suggestion was made to have Sokol memories posted online for \$5.00.

2013 SLET

- Visited potential Slet site in Milwaukee.
- Sis. Fiordelis asked for input on events/activities are to be included from BOI side.
- Reviewed Sokolfest events and chose events we might like to use at our Slet. Various favorites of Sokolfest were mentioned, i.e. Olympic events, decathlon, marching competition, text message voting with a fee, barbeque, morning walks, trolley tours, Sunday social.
- Artistic events will be open to outside organizations.
- Discussion and ideas were exchanged for types of competitions that should be held at Slet utilizing convention center space.
- Discussed rhythmic events. Numbers have been down during past competitions. It was suggested that there be closed sessions for Sokol and open sessions for USA Gymnastic competitors.
- Currently, sporting events we have at Slet are volleyball, basketball, fitness, bowling and golf.
- It was suggested we hold a 5K run. Sponsorship with a local radio station might help in the Milwaukee area.

- Other activities to include might be a soccer event or softball tournament.
- USA Gymnastics routines for males change in 2012 and for females in 2013.
- Discussed AAU competitions versus USA Gymnastics competitions and routines.
- Masters and Novice routines will be addressed at a later time.

UNIT/DISTRICT DIRECTORS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

BOI Development Conferences

- Discussed the benefit of holding a BOI development conference on an annual basis.
- Next year we may need one to have a track before the 2013 Slet. Holding a cal clinic only may not get people to come just for cal.
- The suggestion was made that a development conference be held every other year. October is too early to begin teaching cal. A Director's Conference should be held annually.
- Because next year will be prior to the 2013 Slet, there will be a Development Conference in 2012; however, development conferences would be held every other year after that.

Mentoring

- Tomorrow at the Development Conference, there will be mentoring sessions. Mentoring aspects will be encouraged from all district directors.

Goals

- Goals for directors were initiated last year and not all were very successful. Goals will be set again this year. There will be BOI goals as a team we will fulfill and will be filtered down to District Directors.
- Sis. M. Fiordelis asked all District Directors and Assistants to supply two goals of what to accomplish on a personal level this year. These goals will be due by December 1, 2011.
- Discussed simple smart goals for team effort:
 - Each unit to develop an education program for their staff.
 - Develop a mechanism to do what we mandate.
 - Every unit to have people that are safety certified.
 - To develop informational packets or encourage larger Sokol participation at Slets or find ways to entice participation.
 - Set goals for things to be done for Slet.
 - Get non-active units to become active in some way.
 - Find a protégé for officers and/or mentors.

At 5:30 p.m., a break for dinner was taken. Meeting resumed.

- Votes were taken to decide which team goal is most important to work on.
- Top two goals were: (1) participation at Slet; (2) figuring out a mechanism to reward people to do what we mandate.
- Goals for individuals will also be coming down.

Financial Assistance

- Discussion was held regarding financial assistance being withheld for non-compliance or giving rewards for complying.
- First thing to do would be to find out why they did not comply. District Directors should contact those units to get a report as to why they did not comply.
- Consider rewarding those who participated by publicizing those who did comply.
- Directors can mentor someone by having an assistant work with them.

- Sis. M. Fiordelis noted that if the BOI can make over \$3,000 through its programs, there would be money available to spend on something of value for BOI, i.e. sending people to a congress or to get people safety certified.

NATIONAL SOKOL SUMMER CAMP

- This agenda item was postponed until later in the meeting when Bro. Tom Pajer arrives.

2012 TRAVELING SUMMER CAMPS

- Hardly any units/districts are utilizing this program, besides Central District, who has regularly taken advantage of this camp program. Central District did not hold a camp in 2011 as they opted for instructors' course to be held in the Central District. Central District is interested in hosting a traveling summer camp in 2012.

- It was noted that those who attend traveling camp become interested in attending national camp. Traveling camp is a weekend camp; National camp is a week long camp.

2012 COS SLET

- Everyone needs to encourage all units to participate.

- At this Development Conference there will be a session on Sunday for the COS cal. Sis. Ellie Babka will be teaching it.

- There are some issues with calisthenics disk which need to be resolved.

- Participation in the COS Slet is encouraged because this is the 150th Anniversary of Sokol.

- Discussion followed on what to do to acknowledge the 150th anniversary from the American Sokol BOI. Some suggestions were to present a plaque similar to the one given to Canada; or possibly a bronze statue; or a painting as described by Bro. R. Milan; or an embroidered flag.

NATIONAL SOKOL SUMMER CAMP

- At this time, Bro. Tom Pajer gave a brief report on the National Sokol Summer Camp and its plans for 2012.

- There are plans to migrate towards a leadership-type camp. At this time, there are no plans, dates or venues chosen. The age group would still be 12 to 18 years old. The camp would be call a youth leadership camp.

- Sis. M. Cushing will contact Sis. L. Laznovsky to see if and when a camp will be scheduled.

DISCUSSION

ASO Budget Review

- This budget is for the period 7/2010 – 6/2011. We are \$30,000 under budget, but there is no budget for National Camp or Instructors School.

- We are under budget in almost all areas.

- BOI secretary salaries were not raised because of a cash flow problem; raises are not automatic, they need to be earned.

- Budget for next year is pretty much the same.

- The School money is taken out of the Future Sokol Leaders Fund. What money is left goes back to The Future Sokol Leaders Fund to replace the money taken.

Unfinished or Postponed Agenda Items

- Discussed the walking challenge. The information goes out in May or June and it can be done at any time from then until the results are turned in during the Fall.

- Sis. D. Sbriglia explained a walk around the world event. BOI should think about doing something similar for Slet, i.e. a walk to Milwaukee.
- Next year's Development Conference was briefly discussed. January would be too late to hold it because units will already be teaching the cal and a cal workshop needs to be held earlier.

Calendar of Upcoming Activities

Districts announced their calendar of upcoming events:

- Central District: IPEGC Park District tumbling conference; Central District Boys Skills in December, 2011 and the next day is the Central District Rhythmic Competition; in January a Progression/Skills Clinic will be held; on April 14, 2012 is the Central District Special Number Competition.
- Eastern District: volleyball tournament in Washington DC.
- Northeastern District: Sokol Detroit's Winter Exhibition is January 26, 2012. Sokol Greater Cleveland's Exhibition is February 28, 2012; competitions are the 1st weekend in June, 2012, with Sokol Greater Cleveland as host.
- Southern District: On November 12, 2011, BOI and Annual District meeting; January 28-29, 2012, is 100 year anniversary of Sokol Ft. Worth; 1st or 2nd week in June will be Slet.
- Western District: Sokol South Omaha Skills Clinic on November 5, 2011; Sokol Cedar Rapids is hosting a judging clinic on November 19, 2011; Western District Slet weekend I April 28-29, 2012; Sokol Cedar Rapids will initiate instructors in training for 11-12 year olds throughout the summer.
- Sokol USA: August 18-19, 2012 is National Golf Tournament in Hershey, PA; volleyball invitational in May, 2012.
- ASO: Administrative Conference, January 14-15, 2012.
- Briefly discussed youth membership. It is a reasonable expectation that it will be better than last year.

Everyone was reminded about tomorrow's schedule for the Development Conference: breakfast at 6:00 a.m., buses leave at 7:00 a.m., orientation begins at 8:00 a.m.

- Sis. B. Vondra thanked everyone for attending.
- This meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Beverly R. Domzalski, BOI Recording Secretary