

TOMAHAWK EAST LEAGUE ANNUAL MEETING
THE DAWG HAUS BAR AND GRILL, SLEEPY EYE, MN
Wednesday, January 10, 2024

The annual meeting of the Tomahawk East League was called to order at 7:08 p.m. on Wednesday, January 10, 2024 at The Dawg Haus in Sleepy Eye by President Myron Seidl. Roll call was taken with all teams present.

The minutes from the Tomahawk East fall meeting were distributed by League Secretary-Treasurer Marty Brandl. A motion was made by Al Flor of New Ulm, 2nd by Zach Mickelson of Leavenworth to accept the minutes of November 29, 2023. Motion carried.

The treasurer's report was presented by League Secretary-Treasurer Marty Brandl. An ending balance of \$84.09 as of December 31, 2023 was reported. Note: the change from November was a correction of +\$0.45 from the cost of reordering checks. A motion was made by Al Flor of New Ulm, 2nd by Dusty Mangen of Stark to accept the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Myron gave a quick review of 2023. He thanked everyone for a good season, the league's partnership with KNUJ and minimal make-up games. Myron also congratulated the State Tournament teams: Courtland, New Ulm, and Stark with great crowds and good games at State. Marty reviewed the Region 2C Tournament, hosted by New Ulm and Springfield, which was again a big success. Free hotdogs for kids and other activities during the tournament pushed the overall attendance and game shares higher again in 2023.

There was discussion about the printed pocket and poster schedules for the league. The expense of doing them has nearly consumed all the profits from the sponsor ads and there are concerns about there being too many printed. A motion was made by Zach Mickelson of Leavenworth, 2nd by Dusty Mangen of Stark to only print 50 pocket schedules per team (650 total). Motion carried. By general consensus, the price for ads will remain \$50 and all sponsors will be placed on the pocket schedules.

After looking at the league treasury balance and expressing a desire to be sure the league is paying appropriate mileage and any other potential expenses. A motion was made by Scott Salfer of Sleepy Eye, 2nd by Steve Helget of Springfield to set league dues at \$100 for all members of the Tomahawk East League for 2024. Motion carried.

President Seidl reported that he had been in communication with KNUJ radio. They will again broadcast six games on Sunday evenings at 5:00 p.m. during the regular season with the goal of promoting amateur baseball. KNUJ is asking for a total of \$920 from the league. A concern was raised that KNUJ hasn't been providing much in terms of giveaways in recent years and attendance at the radio games seems to be down. A motion was made by Dan Reinke of Searles, 2nd by Dusty Mangen of Stark to collect \$125 from each of the six host organizations and \$25 from the other seven teams to cover this cost. Motion carried. The six teams to host radio games in 2024 will be Hanska, Sleepy Eye, Springfield, Leavenworth, St. James, and Gibbon.

Myron reminded teams to check out the MBA Handbook which is online. The changes for 2024 will be finalized at the February State Board meeting.

Al Flor reported that the South Central Umpires Association had not met yet. He asked for teams to understand the difference between having one umpire and two in their games and to let him know of their preferences. A motion was made by Dusty Mangen of Stark, 2nd by Scott Salfer of Sleepy Eye to have each team pay \$200 to compensate for umpire scheduling. Motion carried with Flor abstaining.

Teams of the Tomahawk East League were reminded to again come up with a \$25 TEL web site sponsor.

Secretary-Treasurer Brandl distributed sheets to all teams with the amounts owed for the 2024 season for league dues, KNUJ games, website ads, and umpire fees. Teams were also asked to verify and update their league directory information, website sponsor ad, caps, Twitter accounts and website addresses. Brandl will make necessary updates and distribute the league directory in addition to posting it on the league website.

Teams were reminded to use flat-seamed baseballs: Wilson A1010Pro, Diamond D-1 Pro LS, or Rawlings FSOLB baseballs for the 2024 season. Rawlings is the ball used by the MBA for the State Tournament.

A motion was made by Dusty Mangen of Stark, 2nd by Isaac Jenniges of Lamberton to pay Marty Brandl \$200 for maintaining the Tomahawk East League website: www.tomahawkeast.com and \$300 for the Secretary-Treasurer salary for 2024. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Dusty Mangen of Stark, 2nd by Isaac Jenniges of Lamberton to reimburse league officers \$100 per trip for gas and mileage for attending MBA Board Meetings. Motion carried. Carpooling is strongly encouraged if multiple officers attend.

Secretary-Treasurer Marty Brandl briefly discussed team rosters, contracts, and releases. He mentioned that things are on hold until the new MBA website rolls out. Marty will communicate additional details coming from the MBA with teams prior to roster moves beginning on March 15, including sending out each team's updated roster spreadsheet for 2024. The acknowledgement that used to be signed by managers is part of the team registration process.

There was a brief discussion about the possible options being looked at by the MBA for having 2 or 3 classes and State Tournaments. This would involve shifting the cutoffs in terms of criteria points and the number of teams in each class's tournament. One option would split our league between Class B and C in a three-class system. Team representatives were encouraged to share their thoughts with the State Board.

Region 2C Commissioner, Marty Brandl, shared the proposed plan for the 2024 Region 2C Tournament and asked for input from the league. Sleepy Eye and New Ulm will serve as hosts for the 2024 tournament. This is a change due to Fairfax withdrawing their bid. The bracket will be the same as 2023, with the addition of a pigtail, single elimination game between the #12 and #13 seeded teams. Brandl also shared written tournament rules and guidelines with the following changes: removed helmets for base coaches, changed collecting admission until the end of the 4th inning for the last game of the day, added "modified" to the 12-team tournament with 13 teams, added draft list players are the only ones who can be drafted. After input from several reps present, a roll-call vote was taken to accept the bracket and rules as presented. The bracket and rules were not accepted by a vote of 6 "yes" to 7 "no". A motion was made by Dusty Mangen of Stark, 2nd by Dan Reinke of Searles to accept the Region 2C bracket and rules for the 2024 tournament with the following changes: having the high seed as the home team throughout the tournament and that the draft list procedure will be determined at the roster meeting. Motion carried.

The Tomahawk East League will host the 2024 All-Star Game against the Corn Belt League due to their walk-off win in Searles in 2023. Essig will host the game on Saturday, July 13, 2024, at 5pm. The Tomahawk East All-Stars will be managed by Al Flor of New Ulm and Dusty Mangen of Stark. The managers were chosen due to New Ulm and Stark finishing first and second in the regular season in 2023. Before this year's game, teams will be asked to submit their top 3 players. Then Flor and Mangen will construct the All-Star roster with each team having at least one representative.

Teams have been working on the 16-game 2024 Tomahawk East League schedule. The season will begin on Sunday, May 12 and end on Friday, July 19. The setup of games is a 16 game schedule for the next 3 seasons, formatted as follows: 12 games (one each against the other 12 teams, 6 home and 6 road) plus 4 additional games (2 home and 2 road at the opposite site of the teams' other game, randomly drawn for 2024, then rotated with 4 different teams in 2025 and the final 4 teams in 2026, so each team will play all 12 other teams twice over the course of 3 years). Teams were asked to wrap up their final edits to the schedule by 3/1/24 so the printed schedule can be as accurate as possible. A reminder of who to contact in the event of changes during the season was given to be sure players, umpires, and fans all get to the right

place at the right time. Teams were encouraged to be active on team social media accounts to keep everyone up to date.

After the required number of nomination solicitations for Secretary-Treasurer were made, a motion was made by Terry Helget of Essig, 2nd by Dan Reinke of Searles to cast a unanimous ballot for Marty Brandl as Secretary-Treasurer for 2024. Motion carried.

After the required number of nomination solicitations for Vice President were made, a motion was made by Zach Mickelson of Leavenworth, 2nd by Scott Salfer of Sleepy Eye to cast a unanimous ballot for Dusty Mangen as Vice President for 2024. Motion carried.

Myron Seidl and Al Flor were nominated for President. The results of the paper ballot vote were: Al Flor over Myron Seidl, 8-5. Al Flor is President for 2024.

2024 Tomahawk East League Officers:

Al Flor - President

Dusty Mangen - Vice President

Marty Brandl - Secretary-Treasurer with a salary of \$300

The roster meeting of the Tomahawk East League was set for Sunday, July 21, 2024, at 2:30 p.m. at the site of the #12 vs #13 opening game of the Region 2C Tournament. Marty will send a calendar invite.

A motion was made by Isaac Jenniges of Lambertson, 2nd by Dusty Mangen of Stark to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marty Brandl
Secretary-Treasurer