

## AWSA – MIDWEST REGION 2025 SUMMER MEETING

July 24, 2025, 1pm CST

[Webex - Join from the meeting link](#)

1. Call to Order – 12:47pm by Darren
2. Housekeeping –
  - a. Cell phones OFF or ON VIBRATE!
  - b. “Raise” your hand to speak. (Online or in person)
  - c. MUTE when you are NOT speaking!
3. Introductions –
  - a. Thank you do Delaina, 15 years of service
  - b. Welcome to Amy Weber, new secretary
  - c. Attendance:
    - i. Daren Janzig, EVP
    - ii. Amy Weber, Secretary
    - iii. Delaina Downes, Past Secretary
    - iv. Jared Leutz, Treasurer (Virtual)
    - v. Peter Dahl, National Director \*
    - vi. Don Bucher, National Director \*
    - vii. Mike O’Conner, Midwest Director
    - viii. Roy Surdej, Midwest Director \*
    - ix. Christy Kingmill, Illinois Rep (for today)/Awards \*
    - x. Shane Bucher, Indiana Rep/Junior Development \*
    - xi. Grant Schipper, Minnesota Rep \*
    - xii. Eric Hatch, Missouri Rep \*
    - xiii. Jason, Weber, Nebraska Rep \*
    - xiv. Jim McClure, Ohio Rep \*
    - xv. Tony Drake, Wisconsin Rep \*
    - xvi. Maggie Cramer, Judges & Officials Committee
    - xvii. Jeff VanTreese, Safety (Virtual)
    - xviii. Cole Kalkbrenner, Announcers (Virtual)
  - d. Not in Attendance:
    - i. Reilly Reifstack, Iowa Rep
    - ii. John Anderson, Kansas Rep
4. Announcement of Quorum – 10 of 13
5. Appointment of Parliamentarian – Peter Dahl
6. Agenda Review – Motion to approve - Peter/Roy, None opposed

7. Approval of the 2025 Winter Council Meeting Minutes – Motion to approve - Jim/Jason, None opposed
8. EVP Report – Darren – See report
  - a. AWSA President Report
    - i. Back in CA for nationals
    - ii. Junior US Open held at Skyview, North Carolina; Midwest had six skiers.
    - iii. In discussion for possible new site for nationals next year (Minnesota)
      1. Changed % going to LOC to make it more lucrative for sites to be willing to hold it.
    - iv. IWWF rule updates noted.
    - v. Approved new 2026 Ski Nautique for tournament use
    - vi. Follow-Up on lost members, ongoing concern regarding membership decline.
    - vii. Looking for future sites for US Nationals and Jr. US Open
  - b. Midwest EVP /Regional Report
    - i. Removal of minimum age for officials at the last National Meeting
      1. Responsibility placed on Chief Judges/Test Administrators for readiness.
      2. Senior Judge vs. Chief Judge separation proposal discussed, but not approved.
    - ii. No Longer need a PanAm Judge to host an E/L/R tournament.
    - iii. Held 1st region-wide Judges/Scorers clinic in May.
      1. Higher registration then projected (90 registered, 75 attended), midwest region paid bill for clinic.
        - a. Motion to approve \$750 for Midwest Judges/Scorers Clinic, approved.
      2. When would be the right time to do it again? March?
      3. Feedback:
        - a. Different levels of clinic vs all inclusive? Who would it be geared for, someone who wants to upgrade or someone who is brand new.
        - b. To get credit for the clinic you must fill out the response survey. This year had 6 responses out of 75 people attending
        - c. Nice to do it every year, focus on what has changed (Delaina)
        - d. Assistant Judges/Scorers clinic, intent is to go to a clinic before a tournament, learn what it's all about and pass a short test.
        - e. Paper forms to become digital
    4. Assistant Officials Initiative
      - a. Proposal for entry-level Assistant Judge role discussed.
      - b. Focus on collegiate and new participant engagement.
      - c. Digital forms and simplified onboarding would be strongly supported.
    5. Collegiate Engagement
      - a. Lack of collegiate officials

- b. Incentives, leadership roles, fostering programs discussed as helpful ideas for collegiate engagement.
- 6. Nationals Scheduling & Regional Impact
  - a. Strong concerns raised about moving Nationals earlier into August.
  - b. Midwest and Eastern Region impact emphasized due to shorter season.
  - c. Consensus that Midwest should actively oppose future schedule compression.
- 7. Regionals Participation & Format Discussion
  - a. Participation down at Regionals and Nationals.
  - b. Importance of maintaining Regionals as a qualifier emphasized.
  - c. Elite Nationals concept discussed with caution.
  - d. Social and community aspects of tournaments identified as key to retention.

**\*\*discussion only; no motion made\*\***

- 9. Treasurer's Report – Jared Lutz – See report
  - a. Current Year to Date deficit is typical for this time of year
    - i. Revenue \$36000, Expenses \$18000
  - b. Junior Development expenses paid ahead of revenue
  - c. Sanction revenue expected to increase in Q3
  - d. \$750 distributed for scholarships
  - e. Bank transition pending.

**\*\* Motion to approve - Roy/Jim, none opposed\*\***

- 10. State Council Reports (Brief overview of what went well and concerns)
  - a. Illinois – Christy Kingsmill for Kelly Zoellner
    - i. All tournaments had C and L, 4 L level tournaments this summer
    - ii. Have a “kids clinic” for kids starting out
    - iii. Significant need for training of trick callers, and more trick callers
    - iv. Senior worlds next year, and how it will affect regionals/nationals
    - v. Active state website maintained.
  - b. Indiana – Shane Bucher
    - i. Participation down year-over-year.
    - ii. Participation heavily dependant on small number of skiers
    - iii. Skiers are prioritizing record capable tournaments, and focus on qualifying scores for regionals/nationals/international events.
    - iv. Active state website, overseen by Dan Reed
  - c. Iowa – Reilly Reifsteck
    - i. No report Submitted
    - ii. Representative status unclear
  - d. Kansas – Delaina Downes for John Anderson

- i. Doing great
  - ii. No website, had one at one time - nothing right now
- e. Michigan – Brent Overmire – See report
  - i. Mi will host two 3-event tournaments in 2025, Entry fee for those two tournaments will be \$75.00 - \$80.00
  - ii. Midweek and weekend tournament fees are between \$50.00-\$80.00.
  - iii. has no special tournaments to be held in 2025.
  - iv. continues to keep up on clinics for our judges and drivers as needed. MWSA held a driver's clinic this past April.
  - v. held a 1-day junior development clinic for 2025.
  - vi. most of the tournaments held throughout the summer contain some type of grassroots/novice event(s).
  - vii. have found that new skiers are attending our midweek events to give tournaments a try and then end up attending the weekend events to compete.
- f. Minnesota/ND – Darren Janzig
  - i. Everything staying about stagnant, level to slight decline
  - ii. Yes website, not sure who runs it - Dan Larson/Steve Weber/Hannah& Sophie/Emma Wakefield
  - iii. Marketing identified as a key improvement area, earlier outreach so people can get tournaments on calendars.
  - iv. Not many skiers attending the C class tournaments
  - v. With the change in date for State, it did affect our numbers a little.
- g. Missouri – Eric Hatch
  - i. 3 three-event multi round tournaments prior to state
  - ii. 1 round state tournament, all tournaments are 1 day
  - iii. Low on boats
  - iv. Several kids interested in becoming officials
  - v. Push back with green buoys - 10ft in from orange, should be in F class (grass roots)
  - vi. Yes website, out of date... still active but noone is currently using it.
- h. Nebraska – Jason Weber – See report
  - i. Normal tournaments - 4 AWSA, 1 Collegiate
  - ii. A lot of college kids are skiing and motivated to become officials.
  - iii. Boats continues to be an issue, use personal boats
  - iv. Membership is stagnant, need more safety and judges.
  - v. No website
- i. Ohio – Jim McClure – See report
  - i. Had to cancel a couple of tournaments due to jump issue
  - ii. 16 kids attending junior clinic

- iii. Collegiate skiers, seems to be the growth of the sport but was a little low this year.
    - iv. Officials, several working to upgrade in all 3 events. Working with youngsters on becoming officials
    - v. 1 weekend 2 L tournaments, well attended
    - vi. State tournament registrations were up, 2 rounds only 1st ski counts towards placement
    - vii. Yes website, Kelly Kearns updates.
  - j. Wisconsin – Tony Drake – See report
    - i. Only 1 lake hosting tournaments, so we are having to close registration because reaching max # of pulls.
    - ii. Numbers are holding steady
    - iii. Had a state website, but not currently active
11. USA Water Ski Director's Report – Don Bucher –
- a. Thankful that we still have Melanie Hanson at HQ, they have added Matthew Leach to assist Melanie.
  - b. Sandy has retired but remains available in an advisory capacity
  - c. No recent activity reported on SafeSport
12. Committee Reports
- a. Judges and Scorer's – Maggie Cramer
    - i. Update on officials -
      - 1. Eliminated minimum age for officials, with the exception of chief and appointed officials (must be 18+)
      - 2. Now only requires a person to ACJ to advance, in lieu of needing to chief a tournament to advance to a senior official.
        - a. Actions voted on by the committee, but Pending Board approval
          - i. Reduction of ELR requirement from 3 to 2
          - ii. Candidates testing for senior judge/scorer can test twice in the same year
          - iii. Active military personnel will receive a pause on time sensitive requirements.
      - 3. Trying to make becoming an official more standardized, not easier
        - a. regional/national tournaments have officiating that is not up to par
      - 4. Idea for 1 and done assistants clinic (video based), take a test (also video based), you are an asst.
        - a. Less tournament training, more structured training that gives everyone the basics needed to learn/advance.
          - i. Video based training for S/T/J
          - ii. Video based testing for S/T/J
          - iii. Focused on standardized instruction for slalom, trick, jump

- iv. GOAL - faster onboarding with higher-quality baseline training.
- b. Rules –Erin Kalkbrenner
  - i. No Report, See packet
- c. Skiers Qualification – Mike Patterson
  - i. No Report
- d. Technical – Peter Dahl –
  - i. No Report
- e. Towboat – George Lindy -
  - i. No Report, See packet
- f. International Activities – Larry Downes, Jeff Smith – See National Packet
  - i. No Report,
- g. Junior Development – Shane Bucher – See report (recording 3, 43 minutes in)
  - i. Pickos, early summer
  - ii. 2 skiers canceled, brought in 2 alternates
  - iii. Fundraising update
    - 1. Pushed to get sponsors vs. selling tickets this year - significant success
      - a. 13 sponsors this year
      - b. Over \$5,000 raised
  - iv. Regional PB box - requested to return
    - 1. If they get a PB, put their name in a box.
    - 2. 6 names drawn for gift cards of varying amounts
    - 3. All remaining participants will receive \$5.
  - v. Application Clarity Improvements
    - 1. Requirements are now clearly stated in bold print
    - 2. Applicants will receive a detachable reminder of requirements at submission
    - 3. GOAL = reducing confusion regarding obligations.
  - vi. Requests to States
    - 1. States are encouraged to consider donating to Junior Development, typical past contributions range from \$100-\$500, average \$200
    - 2. Funds would support
      - a. 8x8 backdrop for photos and awards
      - b. Midwest Elite flags/banners for camps and events
  - vii. Questions?
    - 1. Can an email be sent to states to request a donation - yes, send out before state tournaments, late June/early July
    - 2. What would suggested donation be - Anywhere from \$50-\$500
- h. Safety – Jeff VanTreese – See report
  - i. National Safety updates reviewed
  - ii. Clarification on fast-track certification

1. Physicians and medically trained personnel may fast-track
2. Still required:
  - a. On-water training
  - b. Clinic attendance once every four years.
- iii. Efforts underway to:
  1. Identify states with trainers
  2. Increase number of certified trainers region-wide
- i. Awards – Christy Kingsmill –
  - i. Midwest Scholarship
    1. Couldn't get a hold of Scholarship Committee in a timely manner - can we change it up? May need to change due date, or committee members.
    2. Winners this year (not announced), neither will be competing at regionals so will not be announced at the banquet, keep watch on social media.
  - ii. National Awards
    1. Reminder all are due on August 1st for lifetime achievement, Hall of Fame, Award of Distinction,
  - iii. Kevin Klingbeil Award
    1. 4 nominations received, will be given out this year.
    2. will there be a traveling trophy made for this or will we just present a plaque to the winner. **Motion for plaque every year: Darren/Jim - none opposed**
  - iv. Mentioned Jeff Surdej received a national award and minimal midwest people were there, how can we put this out there more??
- j. Drivers – Chris Kosek –
  - i. Driver Portal updates reviewed:
    1. Drivers are required to log into the portal, this information is used to select drivers for larger events, and advancement
    2. Jump driving will now be part of the surepath portal
  - ii. Online drivers clinic last spring, regarding surepath changes
    1. will try to implement to have it available to use for drivers clinic credit.
  - iii. Hardship credit requests for drivers under review.
  - iv. Committee activity limited due to lack of recent meetings.
- k. Seeding – Mike O'Connor –
  - i. Regional recommendation... we might need a "Dave (Allen) gets hit by a bus plan".
  - ii. Couple of comments in the national packet,
    1. process isn't working as it usually does.
- l. Bylaws – Bill Murbach –
  - i. See National Packet
- m. Nominating – Emily Dammeyer has stepped down, looking to replace her –

- i. Not on ... no report
  - ii. Sophie Janzig Nominated to replace Emily Delaina/Christy, none opposed
- n. Announcers – Cole Kalkbrenner – See National Packet
  - i. Not much to report from national meeting
  - ii. Idea of needing to purchase/supply needed stuff for the Region
  - iii. Would like to have 2 announcers at all tournaments, but is sometimes hard to get one.
  - iv. Please be more engaged, inform the skiers/spectators what's going on.... Need to practice to get better
  - v. Modified the code on check registration status, to click on the bio from check reg status.
- o. Waterways – Dan Connelly
  - i. Not on - no report

### 13. Other Reports

- a. USAWSF – Don Boucher
  - i. It is time for nominations... due August 1.
- b. 2025 Regionals – Dennis Downes
  - i. Event preparation reviewed
  - ii. Officials dinner logistics announced
  - iii. Sponsorship support acknowledged: Liquid Edge, Ski it again, MasterCraft
  - iv. Numbers are substantially down, approx 50 skiers lower (\$10,000 down in registrations)
    - 1. Importance of regionals participation
    - 2. Financial sustainability concerns
    - 3. Need for future planning and potential surveys - do we need a committee
    - 4. IDEA - July 1 - Secretary sends out an email to state council people to re-emphasise having their state to support regionals
- c. Regional Records – Jill Smith
  - i. Not on - no report
- d. Regional Website – [www.awsamidwest.org](http://www.awsamidwest.org)
  - i. Dean and Christy
  - ii. State social media list to Christy
  - iii. Let Christy know when cool things happen!
  - iv. Regional Newsletter - send in your stuff!
- e. NCWSA – David Huisman – See report
  - i. See report
  - ii. NCWSA Alumni Nationals
  - iii. Hall of Fame: Cale & Jim
  - iv. NCWSA Nationals 2025 - Imperial Lakes, CA
  - v. All Stars 2026 - Bel Aqua
  - vi. Splitting midwest into 2 separate regions, more information to come



- vii. Possibility for women's waterskiing to become an official collegiate sport
- viii. Collegiate Alumni Nationals at Bennet's - Fall 2026

14. Other Old Business

a.

15. New Business

a.

16. Regional Recommendations to AWSA BOD

- a. 1 and done clinic
- b. Standardized education for judges
- c. Make sure the national dates are correct
- d. World events that are affecting our season and our largest events
- e. Push nominations/approvals for Midwest for next year Regional Officials to winter meeting **Shane/Jason, none opposed**
- f. 2026 Regionals - Minnesota **Shane/Jason, none opposed**
- g. Winter Meeting Time & Date - Friday January 9, 4pm central - Virtual Meeting

17. Adjourn – **Motion Roy/Grant 3:56pm**