**Town Hall Meeting Notes – Summer Games**

**Friday, May 20, 2016**

**Attendees:** Rob Wagner, Ray Strekal, Dawn Criss, Paul and Shirley Moffitt, Erin Birkenholtz, Katie Rasmussen, Bruce Wilson, Sherry Grahams, Kathy Blazek, Matt Perkins, Dave Weaver, John Kliegl, Gary Harms and Nancy Shannon.

1. **What does SOIA need to do to help you (as coaches and Delegation Managers) to make your job easier?**
   1. **Feedback:**
      1. **Online sport specific trainings that are free:**
         1. At this time, Gary Harms has reached out to other states to see how they do this.
         2. We understand there is a need for this and we are working on it but know it will take some time before it happens.
      2. **Weather Policy Plan:**
         1. To ensure the health and safety of all athletes involved.
         2. To also help Area Directors make these decisions when weather is questionable.
      3. **Conflict with Deadlines:**
         1. For example: One area had a different deadline than what the state deadline was.
         2. Regional Directors can work with Area Directors to ensure dates are accurate.
      4. **Time trials for events:**
         1. One suggestion was to do them in the Fall so you at least have a time to submit. However one mentioned a downside to this is that the athlete gets better.
      5. **Physicals:**
         1. Needs to be an easier and more streamlined process
            1. There was discussion of getting the physicals into a cycle on a yearly basis.

For example: In August, all physicals are due

1. **What can we do to improve communication with everyone?**
   1. **Feedback:**
      1. **Some managers/coaches have had troubles opening documents on their phones and computers:**
         1. Example: PDF files.
         2. It was suggested that if you cannot open them on either the phone or computer to email the staff member who sent it so we can work to get the issue fixed.
      2. **Website:**
         1. Most seemed to like the new format
         2. Names of tabs are simple
         3. It was suggested to have a drop down of events where you can click on each sport you want information on.
            1. For example: Athletics page, Basketball page, Bowling page, etc.
            2. Consult: Rob, Dawn, Kathy and Matt on this.
      3. **Survey Monkey:** 
         1. Identified the need of getting those who are key volunteer’s emails and accurate ones.
            1. Includes but is not limited to: Class A Volunteers, Delegation Managers, etc.
            2. This will help us get more feedback on events/competitions that are held.
2. **What are the Top 3 Priorities in 2016:** 
   1. **Numbers behind the topics are the given number of votes:**
      1. Physicals (3)
      2. Fundraising (4)
      3. Succession Planning (4)
         1. For example: Teachers in schools have to take a personal day in order to attend a Special Olympic event. It has become hard to recruit new teachers because they don’t want to have to use their personal days for this.
      4. Communication (9)
      5. Training (Leadership Conference, last one was 2005) (4)
         1. Outreach: School Boards
      6. Volunteers/New Athletes/Outreach (6)
      7. Competitions (3)
   2. **Top 3 Results:** 
      1. Communication with 9 votes
      2. Volunteers/New Athletes/Outreach with 6 votes
      3. Fundraising and Succession Planning and Training resulted in a tie with 4 votes each
3. **Miscellaneous Information:**
   1. Polar Plunges:
      1. Kathy Blazek and Dawn Criss would like to learn more about Polar Plunges and how to have one in their areas.
         1. John Kliegl will follow up