

Northeast Region Ringette Association
Annual General Meeting 2015
Saturday, May 9th, 2015
10:00 am – 1:00 pm
Naughton Community Centre,
Naughton, ON

AGENDA

- A) Call to Order at 10:05 am by Moved by Sue Weiskopf, President seconded by Timmins. Approved.
- B) Reading and adoption of the minutes from the 2014 Annual General Meeting. Moved by Valley East, Seconded by Iroquois Falls. Approved.
- C) Approve Agenda with 3 additions. Moved by Timmins. Second by Sudbury. Approved.
- D) Reports

- Coaching – Bruce Graham.

First year as coordinator. Learned many things about the admin side of ringette. Held 6 clinics in NE, CSI and CI. Thanks to the facilitators for their work in teaching our new coaches. They will also be re-trained at the end of May for a new program for coaching. We have added 2 more facilitators. Thanks to Harry Hirsimaki for his work over the years.

New registration system for coaches who wish to attend clinics. Coaches must register online so that coach is immediately added to the NCCP database once their attendance is confirmed by the facilitator. Bruce emphasized that coaches MUST pre-register in order to ensure that this works smoothly. It also ensures that the right number of books are ordered for each course.

Process documented in Bruce's report (attached). Recommend registration 10 days in advance of the course. Sue reminded associations to ensure they have someone who is responsible for checking coaches' certifications and then plan for clinics as needed.

Bruce wishes to plan the clinic dates in Aug/Sept with the facilitators so we can pre-announce the dates to the region to ensure that everyone has a chance to choose their date and plan for their training.

Bruce will send out a summary of the steps to register for clinics so that all associations know how it works. They will be able to give this set of steps to each new coach to make it easier to complete the registration process.

With the new process, all coaching facilitators will be trained to do both levels (CSI and CI).

New qualifications matrix in the ORA Coaching Manual for bench staff. All head coaches must check this matrix to ensure their staff are properly qualified. There is a specific

concern for Trainers and their qualifications. If you have doubts, contact Bruce for verification.

- G&T – Richard Spykerman. Absent. Report provided and read by Sue W.

See attached report for details. Reported that Sudbury and Regionals tourneys went well. Unfortunately, West Ferris tourney failed to happen due to lack of teams and qualified officials.

20 minute periods for U16AA, U19AA and 18+A (Jacks only) in 2015-16.

- Adult-Christine Spence

Remember to send 2-team forms for Adult to Christine for approval. Include her in TRF planning/reporting.

As a result of our greater numbers at Adult, make sure your TRFs are accurately defined as Rec/B/C to ensure balance of competition at tourneys.

For Regionals and our own tourneys, we may want to consider under-age players being allowed for Open 18+ teams to ensure we have rosters that are large enough and a proper balance, especially if we have younger players (eg U14, U16) that may result in safety issues.

Discussion revolved around various difficulties with mixed rosters (eg men, under-age players).

Be sure to involve ADP (Christine) when planning tourneys that include 18+ teams.

Adult Come Try Ringette is a new program that local associations should examine. Christine can help with planning – she will have a booklet available that speaks to this.

Discussion diverted into recruitment and retention. Good ideas shared between associations.

- Membership Services – Kim Pitz. Absent. She will forward a report for inclusion in the minutes and it will be distributed to all Presidents once received.

- Officiating – Susan Weiskopf

Have one ref involved in POD program from NE. Ran some level 1 and 2/3 clinics.

Need to make an effort to recruit new refs as we are short on refs in some levels.

- Treasurer – Jeff Francom

See attached treasurer report

- Vice President – Kelli van Buskirk – absent

- Sport Development – Daniel Wood-Salomon

Met 3 times this year. Reviewed skills matrix usage and fair ice policy. See attached report for details.

Only need 1 skills matrix for U10 and U12 – no need for second matrix in the same year.

- Elite – Laura Caldwell

AAA cuts in the past were allowed to try out for the United team. This year they can also try out for Central to help Central's numbers at AAA. University students may also tryout for the AAA team in the region that their university resides in.

AAA NE cuts will be directed to go to U16AA or U14AA if they are in that age group. Only U19 cuts will be referred to the United or Central teams tryouts.

NE AAA team is looking good. Final tryouts this weekend.

U16AA tryout info will be posted on NE website. Info is also being sent to local Presidents.

The AA program last year was very successful. Great development of the players in a short timeframe.

For future AA, trying to link AA programs to AAA program so that player development works consistently from younger ages up to their AAA team year(s). Consistency through all elite programs across NE is the goal.

Lots of discussion about the need to coordinate tournament dates across the region so that there can be a couple weekends available for the AA teams, while still serving the local associations. Locals are asked to send their A coach contact info to Laura Caldwell so she can help coordinate tournament attendance with AA teams.

Side note: we need a volunteer to maintain our website and keep notices about tryouts etc current.

- President – Susan Weiskopf

See attached.

E) New Business

- ORA AGM – great opportunity for Association Presidents – Sudbury June 12th – June 13th, 2015. Radisson Hotel.
- Player levee fee from ORA

Proposal at ORA to increase player levee to cover expected shortfall from the province.

- West Ferris Tournament

Does officiating have a method to ensure we get sufficient officials for WF tourney to ensure that the A division stand? Sue has been working on this at ORA level.

WF Provincial level only so it does not compete with Sudbury. Sudbury will host as a regional event the following weekend.

We need to ensure our own teams attend our own NE tourneys so that we can ask other regions to attend our tournaments.

Side discussion – need a consistent format for both regional hosts so that Timmins and Sault Ste Marie run things the same.

- Number of A players on regional teams (B/C)

Discussion how the teams are created for A/B/C across the region and specifically Sudbury, as their B teams will not be recognized in ORA as B teams when they have more than 3 A players on the TRF. They will only be able to play in the Sudbury basin if they continue to have more than 3 A players on each TRF. Much discussion about how to solve the A/B/C mix to fulfill ORA and Regional needs so that regional teams are appropriately skilled and provincial teams are appropriately skilled, so that at tournaments, they play at a level that matches their skills and that the opponents they meet also have an appropriately skilled opponent.

Discussion ran into the need to recruit – “stop worrying about hockey and start marketing ringette”. Timmins and Sault Ste Marie have great recruitment programs – they will share their programs with the rest.

F) Election of Officers

- **President – 2 year term**

4.2.1 Shall preside over all meetings of the Northeast Region Ringette Association with the usual privileges of office. The President shall be an ex-officio member of all committees and Coordinator’s meetings.

Terry Ablett – moved by Sue Weiskopf, Seconded by Jeff Francom, Passed

- **Secretary – 2 year term**

4.4.1 The Secretary shall be responsible for recording the minutes of the Region. The Secretary shall receive all official correspondence and by direction of the Executive, handle all out going correspondence. The Secretary shall send all Association Presidents, Co-ordinators, Executive, and the Ontario Ringette Association the minutes of the previous meeting(s) and notice of time and place of the next full member meeting. The minutes and notice shall be mailed or hand delivered fourteen (14) days prior to the next full regular member meeting. The secretary shall also perform other duties as prescribed by the President.

Lynne Johnston – moved by Sue Weiskopf, Seconded by Daniel Wood-Salomon, Passed

Coordinator Positions up for election and associated responsibilities:

4.6.1. The Coordinators shall perform the duties as prescribed by Ontario Ringette Association policies for their particular program. The Coordinators shall be responsible to the Northeast Region Ringette Executive and shall attend each meeting of the Northeast Region Ringette Association.

4.6.2. At each meeting of the Northeast Region Ringette Association the Coordinator shall provide a written report for his/her program. It is the responsibility of the Coordinator to inform the Regional President if he/she cannot attend a Provincial standing committee meeting in sufficient time to allow the President to appoint a substitute.

4.6.3. The Coordinators shall inform the Regional Chairperson when he/she shall be absent from a Regional meeting and provide the Chairperson with a report at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the meeting.

4.6.4. The Regional Co-ordinators shall perform other duties as assigned by the Regional President.

- Coaching Development – 2 year term, attend Standing Committee meetings
Bruce Graham. – moved by Laura Caldwell, Seconded by Sudbury, Passed
- Elite Development – 2 year term, attend Standing Committee meetings
Laura Caldwell – moved by Iroquois Falls, Seconded by Sault Ste Marie, Passed
- Adult Development – 2 year term, attend Standing Committee meetings
Christine Spence – moved by Sudbury, Seconded by Timmins, Passed
- Officiating Development – 2 year term, attend Standing Committee meetings
Marc Baril – moved by Sault Ste Marie, Seconded by Sue Weiskopf, Passed

H) Adjournment. Moved by Timmins, seconded by Iroquois Falls.

Name	Address	Email	Phone #	Assoc
Soft Fran Com	611 Vps-la st, N. Bay	Jeff Kistner@hstnw.com	705-495-1470	WE/WF
Vies Viel TRA	513 Lamminger Ave. Timrod, ON	Vies.viel@gmail.com	705-266-5013	TRA (Timrod)
Tammy Willis WRA	11 Dillon's Trail Lively, ON	willis.wira@hotmail.com	705-692-1742	WRA (Walden)
Dana Porter	487 Niemi Rd Lively, ON	dporter66@gmail.com	705-692-1273	WRA (Walden)
Ron Porter	✓	ron.danaportier@gmail.com	705-692-1273	✓
Paula Porter	319 Maple St Lively	portier@hstnw.com	705-692-3118	WRA (Walden)
David Tinkham	1038 Beverly Drive, Sudbury	dtinkham1@gmail.com	705-522-9291	SRA
Greg Tinkham	2820 Parkway St Sudbury	gshutz@newportHood.com	705-688-4686	SRA
Peter Tinkham (P. P. Gilchrist)	1489 Southview Rd Sudbury	gilchrist@paris147.com	705-523-0914	SRA
H. Hirsimaki	505 ESTER RD S.S.S	hastich34@hotmail.com	705-512-8771	SRA
MARTA MERLA	1135 Leedale Ave	ringette.mom@hotmail.com	705-522-2383	SRA
Kucie Paulin	Main St. Dowling.	chicken@cyberbeach.net	705-690-0588	SRA
Jackie Locking	3 Glen St. Copeland	jackielocking@me.com	705-718-6469	VERA
EDGAR HEARD	1452 WINDMILL ST HANMER	REUSATTEPRESTON@GMAIL.COM	705-529-3802	VERA
Melissa Lapierre	34 Bannington St Sudbury	ringette.mom19@gmail.com	705-507-0387	SRA
Christine Spooner	991 Tilly Street, Hesper	C-Spooner@dayhloos.com	705-929-6936	VERA
Marc Baril	9 Ayrle Rd, South Ste Marie	src.referencier@gmail.com	705-206-9025	South Bay
TERRY ABERT	445 Bezan Rd North Bay	tablett@windsorhills.on.ca	705-497-9559	West Woods
Laurie Caldwell	209 McNaughton Ave NB Bay	laura.caldwell@sympatico.ca	705-521-2897	WESTA
Bruce Graham	43 Indiana R. S.S.O.	bruce.graham35@gmail.com	705-975-3375	STAN
Daniel Wood S.A.M.	24 St. Michael's St	SPL-Pos@gmail.com	705-289-0758	St. Michael's
SUSAN WISKEYE	1888 Terrace Road	SUSAN.WISKEYE@windsorhills.com	705-357-2496	WIFE
Sue Cyr	988 Victoria Rd	CYR-Sue@hotmail.com	705-232-5646	IFRA
Sylvie Roy	200 Fyfe St, Redoubt Falls ON	sylvie.roy@cspre.ca	705-221-4600	IFRA

Pres

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Sport Development Committee Report – ORA Board Meeting – May 2nd, 2015

The Sport Development Committee has had a busy year. We have met three times this year, twice at the SCMs and one teleconference.

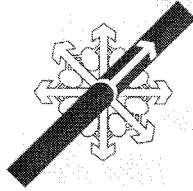
One of our first challenges was getting use to the smaller committee size. After that we had to set our focus for the upcoming year.

This year we reviewed the how the skills matrix was working out and some of the challenges face by associations in its implementation. Further we looked at how the Fair Ice Policy was being implemented and the procedures with how it was being monitored. We also took a look at how we can grow our sport in Ontario. This is a work in progress and we hope to develop a short term and long term plan for growth.

We would like to thank the Board, Staff and Associations for their support this year and we look forward to continuing our work next year.

Daniel Wood-Salomon
Sport Development Chair

NORTHEAST REGION RINGETTE ASSOCIATION



MAY 11, 2015

Dear [Insert player name],

Thank you for attending the Northeast Region 2015 -2016 AAA tryouts. The Region appreciates your hard work and efforts during this tryout process. This letter confirms that we are unable to offer you a position on the Northeast Region AAA Ringette Team this year.

For the 2015-2016 AAA year this entitles you to two additional options. Each player who attended their region AAA tryouts may attend the tryouts of one additional region plus the tryouts for the United AAA Team. It is not mandatory that you try out for both programs. A Region may select up to 4 out of region players plus an out of region goalie to participate on their Region AAA team. Elite players of Ontario are also needed to form a 6th team to attend the Ontario Winter Games 2016. This United AAA team will consist of Elite players from all over Ontario. These chances provide a great opportunity to pursue your Ringette endeavors at the highest level.

Information regarding region tryout opportunities and the United team can be obtained by emailing the contact names attached to this letter. You **MUST** register **AND** supply this invitation with you as part of your acceptance to these tryout opportunities. Please remember you have two openings available to you only; the United team and one additional Region.

Each Region has established their time schedule for team tryouts and notification and you must contact the Region directly that you would like to approach.

Deadline to register for the United AAA team is **Tuesday June 2nd**. Tryouts for United AAA will take place at the Ajax Community Centre (75 Centennial Rd, Ajax, ON) from *June 5-7*. **You will need to provide a copy of this e-mail in order to tryout for United.**

*** **NER Specific Information for players being released:** If you are of U19 age, you are encouraged to attend the opportunities noted in this letter as there is no AA program offered in NER. If you are U16 age or younger, you are to attend the NER U16AA tryouts, held at Countryside Arena in Sudbury, Saturday, May 23 from 11:30 – 1:00 pm, and 3:30 – 5:00 pm (you must attend both, if you cannot, please contact head coach, Bruce Graham).

If you have any questions please contact your home region Elite Coordinator for answers.

Sincerely,
Luc Delarosbil
Head Coach, NER AAA Team

Region AAA Elite Coordinators:

- Central Region – Christie Lindensmith - gcrh.lindensmith@sympatico.ca
- Eastern Region – Steve Welch - steven.welch@bell.net
- Northeast Region – Laura Caldwell - laura_caldwell@sympatico.ca
- Southern Region – John Voss - jwvoss49@gmail.com
- Western Region – Paula Richardson - elitewrra@wrra.ca
- Ontario Chair – Mary Kaiser - chair.elite@ontario-ringette.com

Coaches:

United AAA Team Coach: Jessica Crouch - unitedaaaringette@gmail.com

NER U16AA Team Coach: Bruce Graham - bruce.graham35@gmail.com

**Northeast Region Adult Report
2014-2015 Ringette Season
Prepared by: Christine Spence
Date: May 1st 2015**

Adult Ringette continues to grow in the Northeast. Minus a couple of minor hiccups, we had another good season. I continue to learn what exactly my role is and look forward to continuing to fill it next season.

Total number of Adult Teams in the Northeast:

Association	Level	Number of teams	Number of players
Iroquois Falls	Regional 'C'	1	8
SSM	Regional 'C'	1	17
Sudbury	Recreation/House league	1	20**
Timmins	Regional 'B'	1	14
Valley East	Recreation/House League	3	38
Walden	Recreation/House League	1	17**
West Ferris	Recreation/House League	1	10
Nipissing University	Provincial A	1	17
Open A	Provincial A	1	17
		Total: 11	Total: 158 players -4 players
4 TT (Two Team agreements)			
Signed 6 TRF adjustment forms (5 of them were signed off by my Chair and G&T because of conflict of interest)			

****If we work together, we could have had an extra team (6) in the Nickel Basin?
(Easier scheduling, more competition, more ice time for the girls...)**

As a result of our growing numbers, I feel there are some things we have to address moving forward:

Goals for the 2015-2016 Season:

TRFs

- Ensure all TRF's are properly completed (deadline November 15th 2015)
 - **Standardize** the way we input our "**Levels**"
 - Motion was put forward by ADP committee to create a "DEV" level to replace Recreation
 - No more "Recreation/House league" permitted on TRF's
 - DEV, C, CC, B, BB, A
 - Ensure **proper seeding** - Example SSM Open C
 - Flag any Junior Belle or Belles on any Adult TRF – address that issue at the beginning of season and not right before tournaments.

- Make sure if they have underage girls playing with a team all season, that they be on separate TRFs to flag them and they create a proper substitution request for sanctioned events
- Reminder: No more than 22 player per TRF

Underage Players

- Issue at Regional's regarding a team that had Tween and Junior Belle players playing at Adult Level at our Sanctioned events with no prior approval. This was unfortunately not caught by me until the end of the Sudbury Tournament which I let slide.
- Should we consider a new bylaw that would address the "Underage Player" at the Adult level in the North East? Do we require something slightly different from the South?
 - There is nothing in the North East Bylaws for an Underage Player – only "Overage Player"
 - Current rule as stated in the Adult Manual
 - Section 4.3.7: "Open teams can call up from the U19 (belle) age group, and only those players who are 18 years or older on or after December 31st of the playing season, can be considered as a substitution." (or 3rd year Belles)
 - Section 4.3.8: " All substitutions must have prior approval from ADP Regional Coordinator"

ADP and tournament hosts

- A Motion was put forward by ADP committee to have ADP coordinator be invited or involved with tournament meetings to ensure proper seeding and that all rules are adhered to. → I will try my best to maintain open communication with all tournament hosts, coaches and Associations
- I will send an email to all Presidents and Open Coaches with my Pic, what I do, when they should be contacting me and how they can do so. I will attach the proper paper work to the email (Adult Substitution Form, Substitution Grid etc...)

Data Base

- I am going to create a data base to track the A players, Two team agreements, Independent players and Substitutions
- Should anyone need information, I will have it.

Meeting with Adults at Regional's

- I am considering doing a small informal meeting at Regional's for the OPEN representatives next season to help open the communication and relay any of their concerns and ideas to the ADP at the standing committee meeting in Toronto.

Adult Come Try Ringette

- Can we start to do this in the North East?
- Great opportunity to recruit our previous and new ringette players
- Potential to create a couple of Masters teams?
- Does not require much work → Example: SSM runs shinny nights where the parents/new players simply come out to play
- I am putting together the booklet for Adult Come Try Ringette



West Ferris Ringette Association
The Birthplace of Ringette

May 7, 2015

Dear Sue,

I hereby approve Terry Ablett as the delegate to speak and vote on behalf of the West Ferris Ringette Association at the Northeast Region Annual General Meeting on Saturday, May 9, 2015.

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kelli Van Buskirk".

Kelli Van Buskirk
President
West Ferris Ringette Association
president@westferrisringette.ca

NER Treasurer's Report

NER AGM May 9, 2015

The bills got paid, cash flowed and we roughly broke even this year. See the attached spreadsheet that shows how the money was spent. A couple points I wish to draw attention to:

- we paid travel expenses comprising almost 9% of our budget (\$1903.20). This was exclusively travel expenses for instructors for various clinics (mileage, hotel, meals).
- we collected \$6500 for clinics, of which \$4570 was for books.
- we collected \$515 from one tournament, of which \$118.78 went out to the ORA for their piece of the pie (we also had a credit with them, hence the funny number)
- our player levee collected \$1232, which helped cover the extraordinary travel expenses.

Current Bank Balance: \$4955 one outstanding payment to come

Current GIC Balance: \$5638.46 (earning 0.80 %).

In my first year as Treasurer, I discovered a number of 'methods' for clinic billing. Some favoured the region, some favoured the Host. I would like to introduce a common method for clinic billing that will save money for those local associations that have local instructors, and only ask the Host to pay the region for the materials they consume (plus any other ORA-imposed fees). Travel costs will be borne equally by the Host and the Region.

This will encourage local associations to train their own facilitators as it will reduce the costs of their clinics if they have their own instructor(s). Although it will reduce Region income, it will also reduce Region costs, specifically travel costs for instructors. Lastly, having one method for all clinics will reduce confusion in volunteer-run organizations.

My proposed changes:

Proposal 1: That all travel expenses (mileage, hotel, meals) for clinic instructors be shared 50/50 between NE Region and the Host of the clinic. Hosts may re-capture a portion of their costs by billing attendees a standard fee per attendee (see Proposal 2 for fee structure). Exceptions may be requested by the Host before hosting such an event. An unusual expense for required training may be approved by the Region to bear a higher amount of the travel cost. Such a request must be made to the President and Treasurer of the Region in writing (email is acceptable) at least 2 weeks before the planned clinic.

Proposal 2: When a coaching or officiating clinic (or related clinic) is held in the region, NER will only bill the Host for the costs that NER must pay to ORA. This includes books/other required handouts as well as any clinic fees charged by ORA. There may also be special instructor fees charged by ORA for certain clinics. See section 8.5 in the ORA Coaching manual for explanation of these fees.

Honorarium costs will be paid to the instructor/facilitator directly by the Host. See section 8.5 in the ORA Coaching manual for explanation of these fees.

All other costs (eg room rentals, ice rentals, etc) are also borne by the Host.

Hosts may re-capture a portion of their costs by billing out-of-association attendees a standard fee. If a Host wishes, they may also charge their local attendees a standard fee (as opposed to associations that pay for their own attendees). This is a decision made by each local association as they see fit.

The standard fees charged to attendees may not exceed the following:

- \$150 for a coaching clinic or \$90 for an officiating clinic. These are the current fees in use for NER.

Examples of how this is different:

CSI Clinic in Timmins in 2014 with 14 attendees: (no travel costs for instructor)

Attendees were 'charged' \$150 per participant for a total cost of \$2100.

A calculation was done, deducting books, honorarium, ice cost, room cost, ORA clinic fees to give a 'profit' of \$731.85.

Timmins sent the region a cheque to NER for \$1348.02, which represented half the 'profit' plus books plus ORA fees.

Honorarium = \$150 paid by Host

Ice and room cost = \$236.05 paid by Host

NER makes a profit of \$365.92, Total cost to Host: \$1734.07

Using the new method:

Total book costs plus total ORA clinic fees = \$982 paid to NER by Host

Honorarium = \$150 paid by Host

Ice and room cost = \$236.05 paid by Host

NER makes no profit (flow through of our costs), Total cost to Host: \$1368.05

Savings for Host = \$366.02

Officiating Clinic in Sudbury in 2014 with 6 attendees: (significant travel costs by instructors)

Attendees were 'charged' \$90 per participant for a total cost of \$540.

Hotel costs for instructor were covered by registration fees: \$97.17

Ice and room costs were covered by the Host

Honorarium = \$150 paid by NER

Travel costs for instructors = \$599.60 paid by NER

Region received $\$540 - \$97.17 = \$442.83$

Total Cost to NER = \$306.77 ($\$442.83 - \$599.60 - \150)

Total cost to Host: \$ice and room (I don't have the numbers)

Using the new method:

Total book costs (\$135.60) plus total ORA clinic fees (\$70+18) = \$223.60 paid to NER by Host (flows through to ORA)

Honorarium = \$150 paid by Host

Ice and room cost = \$unknown paid by Host

Mileage split between host and NER (\$299.80 each)

Total cost to Host: \$673.40 + ice and room

Total Cost to NER = \$299.80

No real change to NER but increased cost to Host due to travel costs. Host is allowed to bill attendees if they wish to recoup some of their costs.

Another issue NER is encountering is our lack of cash to support our Regional AAA team. The families pay a lot to participate and the region has no cash set aside to help out. The players pay for their own sweaters, which they get to keep as a souvenir, but their pants are in poor condition and we should be replacing them every 4 years, yet we have no money to do so.

Proposal 3:

That NER charge a yearly AAA Levee of \$0.75 per non-bunny player, which can be used to defray the costs of new ringette pants for the Regional AAA team every 4 years. This money will be accounted for separately in each year's budget report, although it will reside within the general NER bank account.

Northeast Region Officiating Report – Season End 2014-15

As the interim representative for our region the main focus was to ensure that we continued developing officials to higher levels through hosting clinics. Wayne Spencer was able to run two 2/3 clinics (Sault and Walden) – 9 officials in total, and also start off 9 new officials in level one clinics in the Sault and Walden.

It is great to read about Christina Meyer's progress in the POD program. Yes, there is a great challenge to get to tournaments for evaluations and I applaud her tremendous efforts.

I should have a new representative to the officiating committee in place for the August meeting – someone who actually has an officiating background and seems quite interested in developing officials in our region.

Thank you for your support through the past season.

Susan Weiskopf,
NER

President's Report
May 9th, 2015 NER AGM

The past 4 years as president of the region have been very interesting for me and hopefully there have been some advances made in inter-association communication in our region during that time. There is always room for more but with the geographic challenges we have, it isn't always easy.

After almost 15 years of being an executive member at the local association level and subsequently at the regional level, I am "resigning" from any roles for the coming year or more – I have a major personal project that I am undertaking that will take up any spare time I have over my regular day job and family responsibilities.

I want to thank all of the people who have been both supportive and creative in the past years in working towards the growth of our sport. There has been exciting movement with the elite programs and a very special thank you goes out to Bruce Graham and Laura Caldwell for their dedication to this area. AAA enthusiasm is running high under Luc's program development as well.

My wish is for this exceptional and exciting sport to grow exponentially in coming years. I encourage everyone to contribute a small portion of their time to help this happen.

Susan Weiskopf,
NER President

NER G&T Report for 2015 AGM

Sudbury's tournament went well. West Ferris had to cancel their tournament due to lack of officials for the level they had attending. Regionals held in Sault Ste. Marie went off well.

The Timmins U16 team represented Northeast well at the A Provincials championship winning Gold and Silver in the Easterns Ringette Championships. The Timmins U19 and West Ferris U16 teams both received the Sportsmanship award. At the U12 Provincial Event Sault Ste. Marie won Gold in the Gough division.

Changes from the G&T Committee that have passed

- The exposure factor be removed from the wild card process at all levels.
- The top four (4) tournament selections submitted by the coaches must include two options from out of region.
- The dates for the 2017 Provincial Events be as follows: AA – March 9th – 12th; A - March 16th – 19th; U12 – April 6th – 9th.
- At the "A" level, a team withdrawing from a tournament will receive four (4) losses in addition to any other sanctions already in place.
- The Bunnyfest Remittance Fee will be a maximum of \$45.
- **All U16AA, U19AA and 18+A Jacks divisions at tournaments will have twenty (20) minute periods.**

Also I was going to talk to Yves Viel to encourage him to have the Timmins U16 Provincial team register as a AA team instead of an A team. While talking to him before he was mentioning that the U16 team for next year will be the same team that was U14 in the 2013-2014 year. When I took a look back at that year that team won Gold in the Jacks division and combined with some of the players staying back from this year's team that again won Gold in the Jacks division and won Silver at the Easterns it looks like the team is ready to make the move to AA.

Richard