

**USWCA Fall Meeting
Stamford, CT
September 19, 2009
First Vice President**

The New Reps' Meeting was held in the President's Suite on Friday, September 18th, 2009 at 8am. Nancy Seitz, 1st VP greeted the four new reps who were able to join us for orientation and discussion: Gayle Durnbaugh of Belfast Curling Club, Donna Pearson of Grand Forks Curling Club, Cathy Westphal of Chicago Curling Club and Majik Jones of Chesapeake Curling Club. Welcome additions to the meeting were 2nd VP Maureen Guay, Mary Ann Hulme of Cleveland Skating Club, Eastern Area Liaison Dawn Gutro, Webmaster Casey Kraemer and the On-site chair for the 2010 National Bonspiel, Charlene Fitzgerald, of the Schenectady Curling Club.

After introductions, they began by touching briefly on the history and traditions of the organization. Discussion then focused on how the USWCA is structured, what new reps could expect of USWCA meetings and how to make the most of the time together here in Stamford – both personally and as representatives for their clubs. "Responsibilities of a Representative" was reviewed in detail as the document that clearly outlines the critical roles a rep must play in facilitating communication between the USWCA and its membership of individual clubs. As too many new reps have discovered, there was a lot about USWCA opportunities that came as new information.

Reviewing the USWCA events and programs and the procedures for taking advantage of them, the group considered the challenges of making sure everyone actually learned of the opportunities, which brought up the subject of the redesigned website and, with Casey on hand to address questions and register suggestions, there was great enthusiasm for this new tool.

Armed with at least a little information about resources they could depend on and an understanding of the ways the organization depends on them, the new reps were sent off at 9am; ready to explore first hand committee meetings, the liaison lunch and impromptu opportunities for networking before reconvening with all the attending USWCA Reps for the day's final meeting.

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The Reps Meeting was convened in the Grove Room of the Stamford Hilton shortly after 4:00 pm. Twenty - nine reps were present for this meeting. Also in attendance were eleven Committee Chairs who had motions or announcements to present to the assembly.

Robust discussions accompanied motions coming from the committees for All American, Five and Under, Membership, Promotions and Women's Curling Development. Questions and suggestions were also plentiful on the subject of the new website. Since the purpose of the Reps meeting is to present such information and allow questions and debate in the interest of allowing all reps to understand fully the issues addressed and recommendations made in individual committee meetings, presentations continued for the full allotment of time.

For that reason, no formal presentation was made on the topic of "Building on the Bubble" a step by step outline for the creation of Club Cultivation Events taking advantage of the expected surge in interest for curling generated by the 2010 Olympics. Instead, brief encouragement was given to plan events, prepared handouts were distributed and everyone was invited to call on the 1st Vice president to further discuss possibilities for applying these ideas to individual clubs.

Nancy Seitz 1st Vice President