

SDHSAA leaders voted to steer ticket money to foundation

By Bob Mercer
State Capitol Bureau

The South Dakota High School Activities Association is under scrutiny over a change in ticket policy that took effect this fall.

One dollar from each ticket for sub-state tournaments now goes to the association's foundation. The association's board of directors adopted the new policy Aug. 29.

The decision came after a year of maneuvering by executive director Wayne Carney and some board members to find a source of money for the foundation, which Carney created in 2007.

Officials and others in some school districts are bothered by the move, as are some legislators.

On Tuesday several state lawmakers made clear at a meeting of the Legislature's Executive Board they're hearing complaints.

Rep. Charlie Hoffman, R-Eureka, asked why the Legislature doesn't have strong oversight of the association.

"We don't have any say over what they do with that money," Hoffman told

other legislators. "They're autonomous. It's a fiefdom."

The association was created in state law but there aren't any specific directives about how it should operate. The state Department of Legislative Audit looks at the association's finances annually.

School officials aren't happy with the \$2 increase, according to Sen. Larry Lucas, D-Mission. "So that message is being heard," Lucas said.

The groundswell against the \$2 increase prompted a response from Carney earlier this month.

He sent a letter to school districts statewide on Nov. 8. He promised that money from the foundation will eventually flow back to schools.

The Aug. 29 vote called for a foundation committee to be established. Until those people are appointed, the association board will oversee the foundation.

The foundation committee is supposed to make recommendations to the association board and the board will make recommendations to the

SDHSAA member schools for the April annual meeting, according to Carney.

Carney said in his letter that he's working with Stephanie Judson, president of the South Dakota Community Foundation. Carney and SDCF's then-president Bob Sutton signed the agreement in 2007 creating the activities foundation.

Records from the board's meetings in 2012 and 2013 show Carney and his staff presented options for raising money for the foundation on several occasions.

The meeting minutes however don't show any discussions or explanations about why the foundation needed the money or why the foundation should be used rather than the association's treasury.

On Feb. 27, the directors voted 5-2 to reject Carney's proposal that \$1 from each sub-tournament ticket sale be dedicated to the foundation for the next five years.

The board voted 8-0 to raise sub-state tournament ticket prices by \$2 apiece to \$5 for students and \$7 for adults on June 5.

Then the board voted 6-2 on Aug. 29 to dedicate \$1 from each sub-state tournament ticket to the foundation.

Three things happened between the February and August votes.

The association's general membership agreed at the April annual meeting to shift \$55,000 into the foundation. That was in addition to \$10,000 put into the foundation as the result of a refund to the association from its national organization.

Three directors changed from nays to ayes. They were chairman Darren Paulson of Rapid City Central, Jason Uttermark of Aberdeen and vice chairman Rick Weber of Flandreau.

And the board had turnover in three positions. Two new directors became ayes for the August vote: Dan Whalen of Pierre and Mike Miller of Aberdeen Central. The other new director, Eldon Marshall of White River, voted nay.

Two returning members remained true to their original positions. Mike Ruth of Miller voted aye both

times, while Todd Trask of Wall voted nay both times.

Of the \$2 increase, the other dollar is split between schools and the association. Of that dollar, schools receive 70 cents from district-level tournament tickets and 60 cents from regional-level tournament tickets.

Complete figures from the fall sub-tournaments haven't been reported yet to the association. But in 2012, for example, sub-tournaments overall generated nearly as much revenue for the association as did state tournaments.

In 2007, the Legislature approved SB 195 allowing school districts to raise money from one event in each activity recognized by the association for the purposes of school funding or interscholastic activities.

The final version of the legislation was both broader and more restrictive than originally planned by its prime sponsor, Sen. Cooper Garnos, R-Presho.

In its original form, the legislation would have allowed schools to remit

money to the association or to a local endowment for support of interscholastic activities.

The bill was amended in the House of Representatives by Rep. Mike Buckingham, R-Rapid City, after he failed to kill it at the House committee hearing. His amendment eliminated the provision to send money to the association.

The only witness to testify at the Senate and House hearings was lobbyist John Brown, representing SDHSAA.

Not long after the bill became law, Carney proceeded to establish the foundation.

Two days before sending the letter this month, Carney presented the association's with a financial report for foundation.

Carney said the foundation's contributions since its start total \$65,000 and the present fair-market value of the foundation's investments was \$67,980.63.

That \$65,000 would have come from the \$55,000 transfer and the \$10,000 refund.

Holiday season plants to enjoy year-round

During the Holiday Season, Christmas Cactus are on display in garden centers. David Graper, SDSU Extension Horticulture Specialist and Director of McCrory Gardens, shared some information about these beautiful plants as well as tips for extending their beauty beyond the season.

Although it is often sold labeled as Christmas Cactus or Holiday Cactus, Graper said there is actually a difference between the true

Thanksgiving Cactus and the true Christmas Cactus.

"Often times we will see hybrids of these two different plants. Both of these plants have flattened specialized stems that are actually part stem and part leaf, called cladodes. Here is where some of the differences show up," he said, going on to explain that the Thanksgiving Cactus, *Zygocactus* (*Schlumbergera*) *truncatus*, has wider flattened stems with a few pointed

projections or serrations to the tip of the cladodes.

"The flowers are usually bright pink, purple, white—often edged in pink or a golden yellow color. The true Christmas Cactus, usually *Schlumbergera bridgesii* have somewhat narrower stem segments with more rounded tips to the cladodes," Graper said, adding that there is also an Easter Cactus, *Rhipsalidopsis gaetneri*, with wider cladodes, tipped with a

fringe of several hairs.

Graper said all of these plants are photoperiodic, which means that they perceive the length of the night.

"When the night or dark period gets long enough, they initiate flower buds and bloom," he said.

According to Graper, the Thanksgiving cactus usually flowers earlier than the Christmas Cactus followed later by the Easter Cactus, as the nights start to get

shorter again. In order to have them ready in time for the holidays each year, Graper explained that producers of these plants control the length of the dark period using either lights to shorten or shade cloth to extend the length of night.

"These holiday plants are members of the Cactus family, but they usually are associated with habitats that are more like jungles than deserts," he said.

"They are native to South America where they are often found growing on rocks or tree trunks and branches."

He went on to explain that jungle cacti like these prefer to have regular watering as opposed to long periods of drought. However, probably the most common problem in growing these plants, Graper said is watering too frequently or letting the plants sit in water.

■ JFK

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impressable time."

Kennedy had traveled to Minneapolis during the 1960 presidential campaign.

"We always had, in the Midwest anyway, what they would call 'bean feeds,' and of course we were students and we were really interested in that, and we followed it."

"I was teaching a math class on the third floor of Slagle (Hall)," Powell said. "When the news came out, we just canceled the classes. Somebody must have had a radio on in one of the offices and had come out in the hall and announced it."

Powell had to break the news to his students.

"After the usual gasps, and things like that, it was just a matter of (saying) 'we're not going to hold class now. Let's just take off.' It just was amazing, unbelievable,"

he said. "Of course, we didn't have TV in the lounges and things like that at the time, so it was strictly people listening to the radio."

Powell said he can't recall specifically what university students did after hearing the news and leaving the classroom. Faculty members of the math department, which at the time was housed on Slagle Hall's third floor, gathered in the main office, "shaking our heads and trying to catch the news on the radio," he said.

"I'm like everybody else — everybody seems to remember where they were when they heard," Wilson said. "I was a freshman in college down in Oklahoma, and I was walking past the tennis court on my way to take an exam, and somebody said, 'Hey, did you hear the president's been shot?' And I said, 'Nah.'"

He was attending Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee, OK,

and soon learned the news was true.

"I got out of class and a pall had fallen over the whole place. That's my direct memory," Wilson said.

The breaking, tragic news didn't immediately change the day's routine. He remembers arriving at class and taking the exam, as scheduled.

"A little bit later, one thing I remember that impressed me was this was a Baptist university in Baptist Oklahoma," Wilson said, "and I remember when Kennedy ran for president, there were a fair number of Baptists who said, 'You can't elect a Catholic.'"

"I had some of those ideas in the back of my head, and to my surprise, the Baptist university held a special chapel and a memorial service," he said. "It impressed me that not all Baptists believed we needed to take someone's religion into account before we voted. I learned something from that. It was a small thing, but to

me, it was important."

Mrs. Fuhr, the fourth grade teacher at Vienna Elementary School in Vienna, SD, broke the news to Froke and his classmates.

"There were only two elementary classrooms left in the school ... and I can remember the teacher coming in that afternoon and telling us President Kennedy had been shot, and that he had died," he said. "Even at that age, I can remember the sadness that I felt from the loss of the president."

Froke remembers that Mrs. Fuhr had been called out into the hallway.

"She had left the classroom, and had left us

for awhile, and then she came back in," he said. "I can see her walking through the door, and I remember that she told us then that the president had been shot. I can actually still envision her telling us — the classroom was very rustic, with hardwood

floors and the black chalkboard.

"And I remember talking with classmates after school about it, and how everybody was really shocked at what had just taken place," Froke said.



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