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United States of America Deaf Basketball, Inc.

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Charter of Special Task Force of Inquiry November 5, 2008

Background

In 2006, the Far West Athletic Association of the Deaf (FAAD) decided to separate its softball and basketball operations, so they formed a new basketball organization called West Deaf Basketball (WDB).

As required by USADB, for a region to be recognized, WDB was required to submit its new bylaws. WDB was not able to submit their bylaws within the agreed timeframe. There were other issues surrounding these events such as WDB's refusal (by some of its teams) to pay for USADSF membership.

So, for the 2007 season, USADB hosted a temporary region tournament under the "USADB-FW" name. For the 2008 season, a new region FWDBA was formed and formally recognized by the House of Delegates.

During the transformation from WDB to USADB-FW to FWDBA, a number of things took place: adapted motions in the House of Delegates and a number of correspondences (via email or verbally) between the officers of WDB and USADB took place. There were plenty of disputes and disagreements. There are numerous challenges in the parliamentary procedures involved with this transformation.

As your commissioner, I serve our regions, their teams, and our members; I listen to the pulse of our membership, through their emails, personal contacts, and members (officers) at the Region Presidents Round Table.

So, I am chartering this independent Special Task Force of Inquiry to address their concerns. This task force is an "ad-hoc committee" that the commissioner may form at any time as defined by the bylaws. I believe in order to be fair and impartial to the process, I am removing the Executive Board from this task force.

I believe this charter for a special task force is in best interest of USADB and it falls in line with the themes of my administration: transparency and rebounding.

This Special Task Force shall report directly to me, and its findings and recommendations shall be shared with our membership.

Mission of the Special Task Force of Inquiry

The task force shall compose of two impartial persons that are not familiar with this turn of events. These two persons shall gather factual information from the House of Delegate minutes, bylaws, and a number of key people that were directly involved. They include, but are not limited to, former and current USADB officers, FAAD officers, FWDBA officers, parliamentarian, and other persons directly linked to the effect of this transformation.

They will limit themselves to gathering hard facts and information. Emails, memos, minutes, videos, bylaws, and other hard facts will be admitted. All other information (such as verbal, opinions, etc.) will not be accepted.

They will determine if any facts or information are incorrect, but its true intention are to remain regardless (e.g., an email stated an incorrect date, but the intention of the email remains true, or a memo had incorrect statement, but the purpose of the memo remains true, etc.)

The Special Task Force will construct a timeline and line up all facts and information chronologically. Then using that, the Special Task Force will evaluate and determine two possible outcomes. Regardless of the outcomes, all the findings and recommendations will be addressed to the House of Delegates.

- **Outcome 1:** USADB is correct. Our bylaws are to remain as is, or if needed, any recommended corrections will be provided. They will be remedied by the House of Delegates.
- **Outcome 2:** USADB is not correct. The House of Delegates will have to deliberate on this, its effects on our current operations. The House of Delegates may (1) vote to keep our bylaws intact regardless, or (2) make corrections to the bylaws which may affect the future of WDB and/or FWDBA.

Timeline

I will have a "kick off" meeting with the Special Task Force to ensure that we all are clear on the mission of this project. Then the Special Task Force may begin immediately afterwards. They would require 90 days to interview, gather information, and document them. They will provide status reports to me throughout. They will finalize their findings by January 31, 2009.

The Executive Board will review their findings and recommendations by February 28, 2009. I will present the findings and recommendations to the House of Delegates in April 2009.

Appointed Members of Special Task Force

In search for members that are impartial and not too familiar with the WDB issues, and are respected by our membership, I have appointed the following people:

- Scott Morrison of Maryland
- Marcia Nowak of Arizona

Closing

I ask that our membership, including FAAD/WDB, allow this inquiry process take its own course. Help our Task Force collect the information. Talk to our Task Force only when requested, and only after they contact you initially.

Regardless of the outcome, I ask that our membership support the recommendations from the Task Force, and the decisions made by our House of Delegates. I ask that after this process are all completed, that we put this issue to rest, put behind us, *forever*. I ask that we devote our energies toward the rebounding of the USADB organization as whole for many more years to come.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay Krieger". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jay Krieger
USADB Commissioner