



# Ohio Rugby Union

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## 2005 President's Report

January 23, 2005

Congratulations on another successful year of Ohio Rugby!

### 2004 ORU Fall AGM

This president was not present at the summer general meeting (chaired by Scott Whitney, Vice President). Minutes are available at the following link:

[http://www.ohiorugbyunion.org/docs/minutes/ORU\\_AGM\\_Minutes\\_9-19-04.PDF](http://www.ohiorugbyunion.org/docs/minutes/ORU_AGM_Minutes_9-19-04.PDF).

It has become apparent that we will need to revisit the referee clinic scholarship program. The research committee did not provide a copy of their amended and approved proposal and were not present at the summer meeting to discuss the matter. For those who entered into the program with the expectation of incurring no expense, I promise to follow through with the ORU's commitment to those candidates, whether the reimbursement is to be made to the recruit or the ORRS.

### Fall Competition

Fall leagues and pool play were strongly represented by ORU teams. Many teams are still alive in their quest for a national title! For complete results, please visit the ORU and MWRFU websites. Coordinators' reports will also be available at this meeting and online afterward.

The italicized paragraphs that follow are plagiarized from this president's report from one year ago. I cannot emphasize strongly enough how critically our ability to handle difficult players and officials affects the image of the sport we all love so deeply.

*There were several disciplinary issues. I believe that most of them were addressed swiftly and effectively. It is a great concern of this president that we have any disciplinary issues at all. This is a time when rugby is struggling to take its next step toward becoming a widely recognized sport in the United States. It is okay to exercise a spirit of tough competition. It is, however, unacceptable to allow emotion to overtake you and cast a negative image on the game. We are all ambassadors of our up-and-coming sport. Furthermore, I expect clubs to take their own actions regarding repeat-offending players. A consistently negative ruggar reflects poorly on our sport.*

It is the goal of this president to begin to implement stronger policies that discourage

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<b>President</b>	<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Referees</b>
Lynn Harvey 353 Tallowood Drive Westerville, OH 43081 614.895.7725 <a href="mailto:oldrugg7@aol.com">oldrugg7@aol.com</a>	Scott Whitney 137 Pierce Ave Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221 330.920.8467 <a href="mailto:rugby12ic@neo.rr.com">rugby12ic@neo.rr.com</a>	Chris Schreel 424 Ivy Crest Terrace Kettering, OH 45429 937.395.9948 <a href="mailto:Chris.Schreel@sbcglobal.net">Chris.Schreel@sbcglobal.net</a>	Lola Akinmade 111 Grafton Avenue, Apt 702 Dayton, Ohio 45406 937.226.1674 <a href="mailto:Lola_Akinmade@hotmail.com">Lola_Akinmade@hotmail.com</a>	Doug Kendall 3007 Forest Hill Drive Columbus, OH 43221 614.451.9402 <a href="mailto:ld_k43221@yahoo.com">ld_k43221@yahoo.com</a>

misbehavior. This is a very difficult road for me to travel, as I am firmly against “big government”! Rugby’s image in the USA is evolving daily; which image we emerge with is entirely in the hands of the “hot-heads”, on and off the field, and those who are bold enough to remove them from their position(s).

## Midwest Winter AGM

The MW Youth meeting was cancelled.

The Collegiate Committee meeting on the Friday prior to the meeting was expected to be a scorcher! The VP of Collegiate was able to hold control and reach amicable agreements without any incident of note.

The MWRFU Winter Annual General Meeting was fairly light-spirited. The current (and future) administration is comprised of very committed individuals who sacrifice much in their personal lives to help the MWRFU through this time of identifying goals and taking action.

By-law and policy revisions were presented and sent back to committee for final draft before being voted on at the upcoming Summer Meeting. Proposed by-law revisions can be viewed at the following link: <http://midwestrugby.com/template.php?sid=3&sub=14>.

Elections (for all positions) were held. The results are:

**President: Jeremiah Johnson** *Ohio nominated and voted for Tom Feeney, but supports the election of Mr. Johnson.*

**Vice President of Competitions: Rick Collins** *Ohio nominated and voted for Mr. Collins.*

**Vice President of Collegiate and Youth: Tom Rooney** *Wisconsin nominated, Ohio seconded and voted for Mr. Rooney*

**Treasurer: Chris Schreel** *Ohio seconded and voted for Mr. Schreel*

**Secretary: Tom Feeney** *Ohio nominated and voted for Mr. Feeney*

**USA Rugby Board of Directors Representatives: Anne Barry** *Ohio voted for John Mullet, but supports Ms. Barry*

**Sigrid Valk-Feeney** *Ohio nominated and voted for Mrs. Feeney*

**Tom Schmitt** *Ohio voted for Mr. Schmitt*

For MWAGM highlights visit the following link:

<http://midwestrugby.com/template.php?sid=3&sub=16&area=441>

For USARFU BOD notes, visit the following link:

<http://midwestrugby.com/template.php?sid=3&sub=53>

## Off-Season Happenings

Kenneth Ford has resigned as High School and Youth Coordinator. The ORU is actively in search of a competent replacement. I would like to extend my gratitude to John Wilhelm of Watterson HSRFC for his humble assistance during this vacancy. Please forward your suggestions of potential candidates to this president at: <mailto:OldRugger7@AOL.com>.

## President’s Goals for 2005

We should make every effort to make sure that all select sides are sent to their respective competitions this year and in the years to come. The ORU is currently looking for staff in EVERY select side. If you are interested or know of someone qualified to assist the select sides, please contact the ORU President immediately.

I will be active in my pursuit of a small change to the ORU Constitution. At this meeting, I will present the ORU membership with my proposed changes. In short, I believe the ORU should add one (1) Officer to the Management Committee. If adopted at the upcoming Summer Meeting, the office of “Vice President” would be amended to “Vice President of Competitions”

and an office of “Vice President of Collegiate and Youth Affairs” would be added. In so doing, the description of the current office of Vice President would change and a position of “Public Relations Coordinator” would be created to publish our newsletter, which is the current responsibility of our Vice President.

The purpose of the change is to better organize our competitions and coordinate them with those of the MWRFU and the USARFU. Each of the affected offices would have the authority to appoint and remove coordinators (subject to the approval of the Management Committee). Coordinators would still function as they currently do, but there would be an ultimately responsible Officer in place to take action if necessary, due to vacancy, misconduct, dispute, etc. Another minor benefit is that the ORU will realize a total of five (5) Officers on the Management Committee, in order to avoid split decisions on sensitive and urgent matters.

There would also be some minor rippling changes as well as a small language adjustment.

I will also be active in the encouragement of all ORU clubs implementing the use of athletic trainers at all competitions and tournaments. Trainers are *very* affordable! No matter the cost, no team can afford to play without a trainer on staff. There will be a copy of this proposal available at this meeting

A copy of the proposals mentioned above will be published on the ORU website after this meeting.

Above all else, my goal is to be the most accessible and involved president possible. It is my passion to develop the game efficiently at all levels and in all aspects. Please feel free to contact me at any time for any reason.

Lynn M. Harvey

ORU President  
353 Tallowwood Drive  
Westerville, Ohio 43081

Home: 614-778-1692  
Fax: 614-895-7725  
[OldRugger7@AOL.com](mailto:OldRugger7@AOL.com)