Catholic Youth Activities Organization
Board Meeting
August 25, 2026

Agenda

6:30pm	Opening Prayer & Introductions	
6:40pm	- Opening Prayer - CYAO Club Participation & Season Review & Financial Reports o Volleyball, Softball, Basketball, Wrestling, Robotics - Credit Card Trial Program - Open Discussion	
7:30pm	Closing Prayer & Adjourn	

2026-2027 CYAO Board Members

Rick Ahrens, Athletic Director
Gregg Kavan, Booster Club President
Jessica Barger, St. Wenceslaus Representative
Eva Fujan, St. John Representative
Erin Todd, Cavalry Softball
Matt Coakley, Cavalry Softball
Rick Stava, Cavalry Wrestling
Jeff Codr, Cavalry Wrestling
Chad Palensky, Cavalry Basketball
Eric Baumert, Cavalry Basketball
Whitney Swanson, Cavalry Volleyball
Megan Haynes, Cavalry Volleyball
Brian Sanderson, Cavalry Robotics
Rick Stava, Cavalry Robotics
Fr. Steve Mills
Fr. Matt Vandewalle

Next Meeting – August 24, 2027

Notes – 2026 Board Meeting

1. Opening Prayer – 6:00pm by Fr. Mills

2. Attendees: Rick, Fr., Ryan, Brian, Chad Lanik, Eric Baumert, Whitney, Megan, Erin, Chad Palensky, Jeff Codr

3. Club Information Review:

- **Wrestling –** 11th year for the club, last year they had 2 high school teams and 3 middle school teams that qualified for the World Competition. They have 25-30 students interested this year, they will implement JerseyWatch registration and payment software, $320 fees for the older students who use VRC Metal Robots, $220 for younger students who use Vex Plastic Robots. The Co-op with Wahoo public continues to work well, approximately 90% of the Robotics teams are Neumann kids. 10% are Wahoo public, Wahoo provides one coach and has supported the club through donations of money and equipment, such as IPads, when they were replacing them, with the Robotics club getting the older ones, etc. Balance in the account is a -$2,800, this is due to new purchases and not collecting club dues for the new season yet.

- **Volleyball** – Several former members rotated off the Cavalry Volleyball Board and they gained 6 new board members. This year they have 91 girls signed up in 2nd-8th grade, they will have 12 teams which is one more that last year. They will have 2 Jr. High teams and 10 elementary teams. For the most part the parents are the coaches, but this year they also have two non-parents. They are using JerseyWatch for registration and fees, they are charging $5 if a family uses credit card. They will host the Cavalry Volleyball Tournament October 3, currently have 23 teams registered, (last year 27 total). $150 for teams for tournament, no parent fees. Charging a higher team entry fee and then have free admission has been well accepted. Using the Bound system that Neumann introduced this year, to get volunteers for tournament workers. Their account balance is $12,000 currently, after expenses and their $13K donation to St. Wenceslaus bleachers.

- **Softball** – This summer they had 57 girls, on teams starting with 8-U and up to 16-18 mix, no 14-U team this year. They are going to JerseyWatch online registration and fee payment next year. Each year their tournament averages $15K to 17K per year and without tournament (if it was cancelled due to weather, etc.) would be negative $2,500. With the tournament from this summer they have a balance $25,148. They keep their balance a bit high, in case their tournament gets rained out. (Had a rain delay this year, many helped to get the field in shape and did not cancel.) They reserve $5,000 per year towards uniform purchases. They donate 4 Registration Fees to GALA, they gave money for Neumann HS practice jerseys, and paid for the registration fees for the Neumann Freshman softball team to go to the Nebraska State Freshman tournament this year.

- **Basketball** – They had 84 students participate, from 4th to 7th grade, they have had no 8th grade last two years. Two years ago they started 3rd grade boys teams for Civic Center league which seemed to go well. They are going to discuss adding a 3rd grade teams to Cavalry, as there is much interests (3 teams this year in the Civic Center league). Fees are $225 (5 years in a row), donated $10,000 for St. Wenceslaus Bleachers, $4,300 for the hoop and $11,000 for painting the gym. Jaxson Simons runs the academies for younger students, including K-3rd and 4th-8th, there were 80 students in the fall (4-8) and about 40 in spring (K-3). Their balance is $26,762 after expenses and donations. All of their income is from fees, they do not host a tournament. Teams play in a minimum of 3 tournaments but can go to more. They joined the Conquerer League, as there are no admission fees and families enjoy having their relatives attend, without paying an admission fee.

- **Wrestling** – 67 students out last year, 58 in K-6th, 9 on Jr. High team, including 11 girls. Finished 36th out of 200 teams at the state tournament. 8 total wrestlers placed at state including 3 state champions. 4 girls qualified for state and 2 won matches. They purchased new singlets this year for $2,500. Upped the price $25 per wrestler at the Cavalry Wrestling Tournament that they host and they ran their own concession stand this year. Wrestling Tournament Date for this season is Friday, January 15. PreK – 6th grade, they had 292 wrestlers last year. 8 mats, started at 5:30pm and finished by 10pm. Their account balance is $14, 844.

4. Discussion: Cavalryclubsport.com website now has links to the Cavalry Clubs FB pages, they can do registration, fee payments, link to Rivalry clothing site for each club, and coming soon practice schedules, volunteer signups. This is all through the new Bound application that Neumann introduced this year.

5. Meeting Adjourned - 6:50pm with a Final Prayer from Fr. Mills

Notes – 2025 Board Meeting

1. **Opening Prayer** – Eva Fujan opened the meeting with a prayer at 6:40pm. All teams had representatives at the meeting, along with Eva Fujan, Mike Wiese, Jennifer Benes and Ryan Mascarello.
2. **Volleyball** – 85 participants, 2-8, 16 coaches. Hosted a tournament, 2023 - $75 per team, with gate,2024 $150 per team, no gate, netted $3800, $150 - $4,000 total, no gate. School families run concessions. Had 24, 23, 29 teams per year, respectively. They have decided they will continue the tournament with no gate. Brought in $15k with registration and rental fees. Expenses were $12K. Ending balance $12,500. $10K donation for bleacher update. Fees range from $50 to $165 per student.
3. **Basketball** – 76 participants, somewhat low (90 average), some teams had small numbers so they combined a few teams. Will have younger teams (2nd grade) register with Cavalry and run through Civic Center, will need new uniforms next year. Jill Divis made a registration management system, with forms, concussion forms, etc. - Jersey Watch software for $350 per year. Other teams are considering using it as well, the other teams are already set up. Participant Fee went from $200 to $250, to add team gear for participants and offer acadamies with Mr. Kreikemeier/Jaxson Simon with the extra money. Ended with $32K in the account - $10K will go to the bleacher update.
4. **Softball** – 65 participants, should have this number again in the coming year, 5 teams. Income was $40,898, expenses were $51K including temporary fence, new uniforms, etc. Balance $37,917. Fees $150 for under 8 and $250 for the other teams. Tournament brought in about $5K less due to poor weather (windy), so their income is a bit down from previous years.
5. **Wrestling** – Upped registration fee last year, but will be the same this year. 67 participants last year, should be the same this year. Tyler Russell, John Myer joined the board. Registration fees - $125 pre-K 2nd-Red Team, Gold Team was 3-6 $160, Jr. High $100. Had 8-9 participants on each team. 28 went to districts, 17 qualified for state, 16 participated, scored 35th out of 178 teams at state. Fr. Mills reached out and discussed the possibility of including girls in the club, the Diocese said there are 3 schools that include girls. The request was based on parent interest. The club is sending out a survey to all three schools to determine parental interest. Ended with $11,864 in account, will order new singlets this year. May need to address girls uniforms for junior high, if there is participation by girls. Wrestling tournament dates are under discussion, still trying to determine if they will include girls. Parent Informational meeting October 22, practices start first week of December.
6. **Robotics** – 41 participants, introduced IQ Robotics last year for 3rd grade, still have VEX for older grades. Have 4 high school and 4 middle school teams, several younger teams. $300 registration for VEX, IQ $200. Balance is $8,148.
7. **Insurance Discussion** – Each team should have liability waivers, parents supply insurance for sports injuries. The schools have insurance for students within the school facilities for injuries other than sports injuries. The new JerseyWatch software has a waiver within it that the teams can use, along with other forms, including the concussion form, etc.
8. **Credit Card Trial** – Discussed the credit card trial that is being done for basketball, through JerseyWatch software to Neumann. Jennifer Benes is waiting for the first report to come through to see if it is something that the other clubs could also use for online payment. If the report is clear and the payments identify the club that the payment is for, then the other clubs should be able to offer online payments, as well.
9. **Prayer & Adjourn** – Mike Wiese led the group in a closing prayer; adjourned the meeting at 7:32pm.

Previous Meetings

Notes – 2024 Board Meeting

1. Fr. Mills – Started with a Prayer
2. Review of CYAO
3. **Volleyball** – Volleyball held a tournament last year, hosted at Neumann, St. W., & Civic Center which was successful. They plan to have one again this year on October 5. They have a balance of $9700 in their account. 100 student participants last year, about 90 this year. They will have 15 Coaches. Fees will remain the same as last year - $60 for 2nd grade, $160 3th-6th, and $100 for Jr. High.
4. **Softball** – Balance of $29,147 at the end of the fiscal year in June 2024. The earnings from their softball tournament were $13K, down from last year $17.5K. They believe this is because they had one team that cancelled at the last minute and they offered senior discount. 58 students participated last year. They are adding a 16-18U team, participants should be about 65 this year. Fees will remain the same, $250 for 16U, 14U, 12U, $150 for 8U. Expenses will increase this year as they are planning for new uniforms for the new team and they made a donation to the high school team. All income is focused on the annual softball tournament, if there is a rain out then they would have no income, so they like to keep a certain amount in their account to cover the next season, if they need it. Softball donated to Neumann Weight room renovation.
   Basketball – 81 student participants last year, down from 90 from previous year. Their ending balance was $26K in June of 2023 and $31,058 in 2024. Switched leagues for better competition, better refs, and no admission fees for parents at UBT. Gate Fees vs. Should all clubs consider increasing team fees for tournaments and eliminating admission fees at the gate? Experience has shown it takes less volunteers and the club earns about the same money. Parents/family members like it better.
   Jackson & Aspen Simons hosted a skills camp last year and will do it again this year. They plan to do a three-year rotation for uniforms/equipment – in 2022 they bought new uniforms and equipment, will do again in three years. They also donated $11,780 to St. Wenceslaus for upgrades to gym and $1,500 to St. John's. When they end up with too many students for one team but not enough for two teams, they try to do "flex" teams. Fees will be the same at $240 for students to participate on a team and the Academies, or $40 for students who only participate in the Academies.
5. **Wrestling** – Balance at the end of the year was $9000, they had 65 student wrestlers participating last year, the fees were $100 for under 3rd grade, $150 for all older students. This year 2nd grade was large so they moved some to the 3rd grade team. They donated $5500 to Neumann for the weight room renovation last year. Last year they had 14 students who qualified for state, 3 were district champions. They pay one coach for his expertise - Coach Eric Coufal. This year they may order new singlets as the current ones are 5 years old. 7th/8th grade is in wrestling at Neumann, but Cavalry also offers other options for them. They host a wrestling tournament in late January, the day before the Neumann invite. There may be a conflict with the date since the Basketball Conference Tournament may conflict with their wrestling tournament, since the first-round games will be home games.
6. **Robotics** – Team participants: 5 middle school teams (5th-8th grade), with 14 participants, mostly Neumann, 4 from public. High School – 4 teams, 1 Public/3 Neumann, 16 participants – 30 total participants. $300 fee for VEX Metal, $200 for Vex IQ, same as last year. Wahoo Public is offering Robotics in Jr. High, may offer a quarter class at Neumann using Vex IQ. Balance $12K. 4H club feeds into Robotics as a class, utilizing the Lego based robotics program in the K-4 grades. Kick off is September for this year.
7. **Discussion** – Planned meeting for next year, determined there were no additional topics and/or issues to discuss.
8. **Closing Prayer** – Fr. Mills closed the meeting with a prayer.

Notes – 2023 Board Meeting

1. Fr. Mills started the evening with a prayer.
2. Wrestling – Dan Hoss reported that fees will stay the same this year for wrestling, they have 50-60 participants each year. Practice 2 nights a week and will have a tournament again this season the Friday night before Neumann's tournament. The season lasts from the week after Thanksgiving to March. They are under pressure to allow girls wrestling but will follow the Diocesan guidelines, Fr. Jirovsky has been aware of this issue. CYAO Board Members – Dan Hoss & one other - TBD
3. Volleyball – April Hoss reported that they have 101 girls out in 2nd through 8th grade with 21 coaches. Fees are the same as last year, they will be running a tournament this year and may try a 4X4 league this year for teams in the area. The teams would be from towns around the area and Cavalry players could participate as well as other players from the area. They made a significant donation to St. Wenceslaus renovation, to Neumann and to St. John's. The volleyball season lasts from August through October. CYAO Board Members – April Hoss & Karla Lechtenberg
4. Basketball – Chad Palensky reported that they had 90 participants last year, the fee was $200, which was the same as the previous year. Their season starts after volleyball (late October) and goes to March. They work with Wrestling to avoid overlapping during the season. Only two boys participated in basketball and wrestling. There was a mix up and they charged $250, but reimbursed parents for the overage. They also made a significant donation to the St. Wenceslaus gym renovation. CYAO Board Members – Eric Baumert & Jessica Schutt
5. Softball – Bryan Stuhr reported that they had 50 students on 4 teams this summer, from 8-U up to 14-U. Fees will remain the same as last year. Their season goes from March to end of July, they hosted a tournament in the summer and had 38 teams participate. They purchased new uniforms this year. They may host the Burger Bash every other year, as they make enough at the tournament to cover their costs. CYAO Board Members – Laura Choutka & Jon Brabec
6. Robotics – The robotics teams have 45 kids, 15 in High School, 30 in Middle School, and for students in K-4 they can join the Lego League. The Coop partnership with Wahoo Public is going well, they have provided funds, coaches and helped with grants. They have had other students from towns around Wahoo want to participate, but have decided it isn't possible at this time, due to insurance, coaching, costs, etc. They practice at the fair grounds and their season goes April to April, but kids participate as much or as little as they want. Tournaments go from August to February. CYAO Board Members – Marv Wiese & Rick Stava
7. Issue Discussion – Overlapping seasons was on the agenda and it has caused some concerns this year, between volleyball and softball. Softball was planning on having some optional practices and possibly signing up for two tournaments, in October, which overlaps with Cavalry Volleyball. Their rational was that they wanted to offer something in the fall for players that wanted to participate and were trying to schedule around dates that would conflict with volleyball, dance and all other in-season sports. Volleyball stated that this has caused an issue with girls feeling like they "need" to participate in both, so they aren't left out and one of the softball tournaments conflicted with a volleyball tournament.
8. Issue Resolution – After the discussion it was decided that having optional practices, open gyms or academies that overlap seasons was acceptable to all members of the board. But tournaments that overlap seasons should be avoided in all instances, so that students can participate in each sport during that specific season, fully. Clubs can work together to determine "end of seasons" for scheduling purposes, as some of the tournament dates are fluid and are determined by the hosting organizations.
9. Fr. Jirovsky closed the meeting with a prayer.