

## **Tips for finding funds for your WBCA membership and the 2010 National Convention**

### **1. Consider paying out of your own pocket this year.**

Remember that professional development is an investment in YOUR career, and ultimately no one is responsible for that but you. Just because there is little or no funds offered from your college/university, it does not mean that your commitment to the WBCA and to your future needs to be put on hold. After all, your membership costs are the equivalent of night out for a nice dinner and movie or a single concert ticket. Also, note that over 30 percent of WBCA members pay for their own membership and convention costs, including the vast majority of high school coaches. Think of it as being “a pioneer” since virtually all women’s basketball coaches paid for their own professional development just a few years ago.

This also makes a statement to your administration that YOU understand the financial concerns of the institution and are willing to do your part to assist in tough economic times.

### **2. Evaluate each line item within your budget and see where cuts can be made.**

Start looking at your budget early and determine if you can identify places where money can be saved. Even the small things add up, so really take a look at how you can find \$50, \$100 or \$500 that may not be necessary in the upcoming year.

### **3. Take the money needed for WBCA membership and convention off the top of camp revenue.**

Many coaches look at camp revenue as a catch-all for expenses, including professional development. By taking WBCA membership and convention fees off the top, coaches can plan how to approach spending for the rest of the year.

### **4. Save some of your per diem each time to put towards convention.**

Your per diem may be one place that you end up with a little extra money. Putting back just \$5 – 10 from a few meals on the road can quickly add up and cover the cost of your WBCA membership dues.

### **5. Double or even triple up when on the road and especially at convention.**

Hotel rooms can be one of the largest expenditures for any coaching staff. So where there are lots of expenses, there is also lots of opportunities to save. Share accommodations (when possible) when you are traveling for recruiting and to games, and then put those savings aside for the WBCA convention.

Also, when booking hotel accommodations for San Antonio, remember to register early for the lowest priced rooms and then ask your staff to share them too. The savings can be \$100 to \$200 per night!

## **6. Stay at more cost-effective hotels when on the road for recruiting.**

Another way to save money on the road is to stay at hotels that are more out of the way and/or lower-priced than your standard. Sacrificing a little by commuting a little farther or choosing that economy hotel can mean big savings – and ultimately big rewards when finding that extra money for the WBCA National Convention.

## **7. Share rooms with coaches from other schools and/or conferences.**

When sharing rooms within your staff isn't possible (say only one person is attending an event or there are men and women), don't rule out a chance to save. Many schools are struggling with tight budgets, so look to coaches from other schools and/or conferences to share hotel accommodations. Going that extra mile will guarantee you a pat on the back from administrators for finding additional ways to save on travel costs!

## **8. Pay it forward?!**

There are a number of states that have been hit harder than others and this affects many in our coaching communities who are state employees. During natural, financial or personal crisis our coaches have always been able to rely on their peers for support. This might be one of those occasions when we reach out and sponsor a colleague or an entire staff.

**Do you have another idea for saving money for professional development? Share it with your colleagues by sending them to [tkendall@wbca.org](mailto:tkendall@wbca.org).**