



WASUSA Jr. Committee's Annual Report 2013

I first would like to thank my committee who are all key members and whom I have great respect. They give tirelessly of themselves to WASUSA and especially to the Jr. members of Wheelchair and Ambulatory Sports USA. Please take the time to thank them during this year's NDA.

Debbie Armento- Chairperson
Trisha Yurochko -Vice Chairperson
Secretary- Kathy Hickey
Athlete Representative- Tommy Chasanoff
Archery- Mike Burns
Classification/Educational Training- Deanne Fay
Demonstration Sports Coordinator- Dan Humphreys
Equipment Manager- Bob Fischer
Field- Pam Carey
Pentathlon- Tom Southhall
Meet Manager- Charlie Sheppard
Swimming - Glen Sullivan
Table Tennis- Jeannie Senter
Transition Advisor- Cindy Housner
Track- Jerry Clayton
Weightlifting- Mary Stack

This year as the Jr. Chairperson and members of our committee have been reaching out to other sport organizations. We are offering to collaborate with them, joining our expertise with theirs. This past year we spoke with USABA, USP, DSUSA, and the American Association of Dwarfism. We are also working on reaching out to the USA T&F disabled chairperson as well. This year Cindy Housner has agreed to work with me to continue our communication with each of these groups to open dialogue as to how service more disabled youth across the country.

I have had the pleasure of meeting and working with our 2013 - LOC committee lead by Ben Bolt from the Rochester Amateur Sports Commission in Minnesota. Ben and his committee were an amazing group of dedicated people to work with. I feel the highlight of this year's NJDC was the, "Giving Back" by our Jr. athletes. Several teams from across the country met and shared their sporting experiences with children in the Mayo-Clinic. It was such a success that we needed to add an additional session. Many thanks, to the Mayo Clinic for their support at our championships as this year. Also to the hundred's of local people who donated their time and talents helping our Championship to be a success.

This year we increased the number of registered athletes from the United States by approximately 35%. It was wonderful to see a large number of athletes from Minnesota and many first timers as well. I also would like to thank the regional meet directors for supporting us by passing out save the date postcards and talking up NJDC to the Jr. participants. It was our first year to have an Amateur Sports Commission as the Local Organizing Committee. It was proven to be very a wise decision.

This year we had some changes in our schedule. After listening to ideas/suggestions from coaches, parents, and athletes we were able to adjust the schedule to try and meet their needs. First we had online registration that was through our SAMS program. Being the first year we know there are still changes to be made but we are on our way. Next, we had three days of classification. We had a mid-week session so that athletes who only compete in track and field events could arrive mid-week to compete. The committee also was able to have a long and short course swimming competition this year. This allowed athletes to complete on their level and enable advance swimmers to have times in a 50-meter pool. All swimmers were able to complete their competition by Tuesday night as well. The meals were served in the same venues as the competitions for each day. The food was excellent and affordable. We thank everyone for their input and will continue to listen to our participants, as our goal is to make your experience meaningful for our members.

This year we also had many more athletes with IPC licenses attended. At the USA Social the LOC had special guest speakers who inspired the athletes and then introduced the 2013 Team USA traveling to IWAS. This evening really sent a patriotic message to the athletes, teams, families, and officials. A team of 30 athletes and staff of 8 members celebrated with everyone and all were proud to represent our country. Another social everyone enjoyed was the Sing-A-Long. Having a panel of judges and prizes was so much fun for everyone. Not to mention the amazing talented athletes we have across the country.

Mike Boone and Seann DeMaris from Iowa, will be our co-directors for NJDC 2014. They will be supported by their the Adaptive Sports Iowa Association and the Ames Convention and Visitors Bureau. They have a great team of workers who are already busy working at making this year's NJDC even bigger than in the past. First they already developed a video that highlights the sports and talented athletes who competed last year. The exciting news is that our track and field events will be taking place on a brand new Bieden track, which is considered to be one of the fastest tracks to race on. They also have a new facility for us to use at the track that is fully accessible with a parking lot directly attached. Again, we will be able to provide two swimming level competitions. There will be a 50-meter pool and a 25 yard pool for competitors to compete in. This allows the grass-root swimming program to continue to develop, while the higher-level swimming competitions are also available. Archery is the next sport that we are working on offering new opportunities to for our athletes. This summer I had the pleasure coaching our archery athletes in Puerto Rico. I realized this summer, that we need to provide two level competitions for our archers. There will be longer distances provided for international level competitors.

I am in the process of having open communications with four sporting for visitor groups who are interested in hosting the 2015 NJDC. Ralph and I have had phone conferences and have passed several email filled with information on Hotel, budgets, equipment, and venues. Gregg has sent out several other packets of information along with a bid packet to other interested groups as well. A follow up contact will take place during the next few weeks. A deadline has been set for February 28th for all Bids to come in. The Junior Committee will then meet and send their recommendations to WASUSA Board members.

The Jr. Committee would also like to thank GLASA for continuing housing the WASUSA equipment. Many thanks to Bob, Tom, and members of GLASA, for keeping the equipment organized. It is a huge task. Having this housing available to us has also allowed us to keep an accurate inventory of our equipment for all of our sports. Again, we would like to thank, William Gilbane for his generous gift from the Gilbane foundation. This year he provided a \$5,000 grant to all the athletes who attended IWAS. He will be acknowledged during our luncheon this year. Another strong supporter of our Jr. program is AbbieVie. This company has donated supplies building material either at cost or free for us. The AbbieBie, corporation will also be acknowledged this year during our annual luncheon. As with all non-profit organizations we depend on corporations, companies and donators to meet our goals each year.

As you see the Jr. Committee members over see much more then just NJDC. Their active participation is very important and greatly appreciated. If we can all support Jr. Athletes across the country all year we are providing a service to disabled youth. We also need to support our regional meets across the country weather they are large or small in numbers. Each one provides a service to individuals in the United States. We have members who just want to compete for fun and to be healthy and then we have members who compete on the international level. It does not matter which group you are in because we are working hard to provide opportunities for all.

A new task force has been formed to work together to build up participation in our National Junior Championship. Together members of WASUSA and USP will work together to support each other to develop young disabled athletes across the country. Some of our goals are to reach out and welcome new members, to provide training opportunities, and educate our coaches. There are too many disabled youth out around the world sitting home not involved in a sport or experiencing success. Let's work together and keep reaching out to the schools, doctors, and friends informing them of our wonderful programs that are available to all people with disabilities.

Respectfully Submitted
Debra Armento
Jr. Chairperson WASUSA
WASUSA Board Member

