



**Wheelchair and Ambulatory Sports, USA
Board of Directors Meeting
September 4-5, 2013**

**September 4, 2013
7:00 – 10:10pm EST**

Present: Deb Armento, Ralph Armento, Gregg Baumgarten, Mike Burns (joined at 7:30pm), Melinda Chappell, Jerry Clayton, Amie Day, Paul DePace, Jessica Galli, Phil Galli, Darlene Hunter (left meeting at 9:30pm), Denise Hutchins, Paul Johnson, Glen O'Sullivan

Absent:

1. Call to order by Gregg Baumgarten, Chair

2. July 2013 Minutes: Glen moved to pass the July 2013 minutes. Paul J. 2nd. Motion carried.

3. Chair's Report: Gregg Baumgarten reported.

- a. **Development of Southern California:** Gregg heard through the grapevine of Clayton Fresh whose son is an amputee that lives in the LA area. Clayton is very interested in starting a sport program in his area. Gregg is working with Clayton, Cathy Sellers and others to help.
- b. **Inclusion Team Meeting in Washington, DC:** WASUSA was well represented in Baltimore, MD for the meeting. Gregg, Phil Galli, Cindy Housner, and Pam Carey attended. Gregg has been tasked with writing the policies and procedures for the initiative. There will be a follow-up meeting in early November. The group hopes to do a presentation at the Athletic Directors Conference in December.
- c. **Ruth Tankersley Charitable Trust:** Gregg met one of the individuals involved with this trust. Gregg has sent them a sponsorship package with various funding proposals.
- d. **DBA Initiatives:** Gregg would like the group to support the "Doing Business As" name of Disabled Youth Sports Initiative as a tool for marketing for youth programming and support. Denise motioned to a DBA of Disabled Youth Sports Initiative to be used as a marketing strategy. Paul D. 2nd motion. Paul D. asked for a copy of the DBA program proposal. Gregg said he will send a copy to the group by Friday. Motion carried.
- e. **Membership Initiatives:** Gregg has requested approval for \$20,000 to be put towards membership benefits. Jerry motioned to approve the use of \$3,000 for Challenge Magazine subscriptions for 500 members + 200 drop shipped to WASUSA office, \$1,000 for 10 ADF scholarships, \$500 for 10 ADF scholarships, \$2000 for WASUSA t-shirts and \$0 for a 40% discount to Sports N Spokes magazines not to exceed \$20,000. Jessica made a friendly amendment to change WASUSA t-shirts to WASUSA promotional material. Amendment agreed upon. Darlene commented that in 2014 she feels the budget should be better defined so that each committee has a line item on the budget. Currently, Darlene feels that things are approved on the whim. She thinks it would be better to have a more structured process. There was discussion surrounding this. Gregg suggested the Finance Committee take on this task and bring a recommendation to the Board at the NDA as to how to proceed with the budget. Gregg also requested that Darlene discuss with the Marketing Committee their projects for 2014 and create a budget for their projects. Gregg set a deadline for budget submissions of September 30th. Deb 2nd the motion. Motion carried.
- f. **USOC Olympic & Paralympic Assembly Attendance:** Paul D. gave background on the Assembly. Paul represents WASUSA, which is a registered multi-sport organization (MSO) within the USOC, at the Assembly. There will also be a SportsLink session also held in conjunction with the Assembly. It is set up as a "speed dating" type scenario for sports commissions and cities to meet with NGBs, MSOs, etc. to promote their cities as hosts for future sporting events. Gregg asked Deb to help him create an NJDC document or to provide him with this document if it already exists so that he can share it with prospective cities. Registration for both events is \$800 total. Jerry made a suggestion that an account be created where airline miles can be donated and pooled to support WASUSA at events such as this. Deb motioned to approve the \$800 for the registration fees as well as additional costs for airfare and hotel. Jerry 2nd motion. Motion carried.

4. International Liaison Report: Paul DePace reported.



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- a. **2013 IWAS Junior World Games:** Paul reported that attendance was down from what IWAS had expected. IWAS has noted that other major competitions are drawing athletes away from the Junior Games. IWAS plans to have discussion with the IPC to see if competitions can be scheduled better going forward so that this doesn't happen in the future. Gregg asked about the relationship between IWAS and the IPC.
- b. **2013 IWAS World Games, 14-22 September, Netherlands:** The numbers are down for this competition as well. The expected number of participants is 230. Gregg asked about US participation. Paul reminded the group that any US athletes will need to come through WASUSA. Gregg raised the question of whether US athletes could attend the competition individually or whether they had to attend as a team. Paul said that it would be within the rules as long as the WASUSA BoD approved and the athletes were members of WASUSA and had been approved to compete by WASUSA.

The IWAS General Assembly will be held in conjunction with the Games. The election of IWAS Officers will take place at this time. There is no limit to the number of people that can serve on the IWAS Board. Paul expects all candidates will be elected to the Board. The IWAS Wheelchair Fencing Sport Assembly will also be held during this time.

5. **Vice Chair's Report:** Denise Hutchins reported. During the IWAS Jr. Games, Denise sent a request to the Executive Committee to help financially support Gregg to stay at the host hotel. Gregg had a previous reservation at a different hotel. The Executive Committee voted and agreed at the time. Gregg was able to change hotels and he feels it was a positive move. Paul D. noted that Denise and the classification team did a great job. Paul also noted that Phil did a great job assisting the organizing committee with logistics and meet management. Denise spoke with the Puerto Rico sports commission and they informed her that they are interested in hosting the 2014 WASUSA Adult Nationals. Denise will be attending a nonprofit fundraising webinar at the end of the month. She will report back to the Board.
6. **Treasurer's Report:** Mike Burns reported. WASUSA received the last installment of the Anita Lawrence Trust. The total WASUSA received from this trust is \$127,000. The investment account is up to \$204,000. Mike is working with Ralph to finalize the IWAS Jr. Team expenses and budget. Jerry suggested that any surplus funds from the trip be put into a fund for the 2014 team to help fund the coaches.
7. **Office Report:** Ralph Armento reported
 - a. **Office Administrative Issues:**
 - i. **Insurance:** It was a quiet August but Ralph anticipates the fall will be busy. WASUSA's broker has left the company and we haven't yet been assigned a new broker. Ralph has a meeting set up at the end of September with our insurance company to discuss needs going forward.
 - ii. **ADF Accounts:** Ralph would like re-educate members on ADF policies and procedures. He found that many account holders aren't aware of all the rules.
 - iii. **Summer Inter, Kaley Carpenter:** Kaley left to go back to school in early August. While working with us Kaley set up a WASUSA account with Café Press. She also gathered information on Virtual Warehouse so that WASUSA can accept credit cards. Kaley also began a networking database that Ralph can use to send WASUSA updates to various constituents. She also began updating the WASUSA tri-fold. Ralph feels it needs to continue to be revised.
 - iv. **Sanctioning:** Ralph is working on a new sanctioning document. He will send it to the Board for comment.
 - b. **National Delegates Assembly:** Ralph is working with Seann DeMaris to organize the host hotel for the NDA. The 2014 NJDC LOC will be paying for the conference room usage fees at the hotel for the NDA. Ralph is working on organizing the Awards Dinner that will be held at NDA. Gerry and Gwena Herman, Hall of Fame Inductees, are not able to attend the NDA. It has been proposed to present Gerry and Gwena with their award in November when some WASUSA Board members are in their area. Ralph asked if everyone would be amenable to a lunch awards ceremony rather than a dinner. The group thinks that is a good idea. Deb said that the Jan Elix Award will be presented at the NDA.



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8. Committee Reports

a. **Governance Committee:** Paul Johnson reported. Paul reviewed the proposed Bylaw changes. There was discussion surrounding the proposals. There was a discussion on RPO's and how they will function in the future. Melinda commented that as an RSO her region got a meet sanctioned free but as part of an RPO she will not necessarily have this benefit unless she registers as a Chapter for \$225. Phil said that the RPO's should discuss this issue and determine how many sanctioned meets each RPO gets from the National Office. Gregg asked whether the Bylaws should more explicitly state how RPO delegates are chosen/elected. There was discussion around this.

b. **STCs and NGBs:**

i. **NGB's**

1. **Track and Field:** Phil Galli reported. Phil noticed that four members of WTFUSA are not members of WASUSA. **Phil motioned for Board approval to approve a \$35 membership fee for 2013 for all NGB and/or committee members that are not currently members. Jessie 2nd the motion.** Ralph noted that prior to the NDA WASUSA offers an early membership for the following year. **Motion carried.** Phil proposed new fee structure for the NGBs and STCs. He sent his proposal to the Board. Phil said that once a membership fee for 2014 has been set he will bring a motion to the Board. Phil has spoken with Debbie McFadden, USATF Disabled Committee Chair, about making NJDC the USATF Junior Olympics for athletes with a disability. He will continue this discussion with Debbie and USATF.



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September 5, 2013
7:00 – 8:15 EST

Present: Ralph Armento, Gregg Baumgarten, Mike Burns, Melinda Chappell, Jessica Galli, Phil Galli (joined at 7:15pm), Paul Johnson, Glen O'Sullivan (left call at 7:15pm)

Absent: Deb Armento, Jerry Clayton, Amie Day, Paul DePace, Darlene Hunter, Denise Hutchins

Guest: Barbara Chambers (joined at 7:25pm)

1. Call to order by Gregg Baumgarten, Chair

2. June 2013 Minutes: Glen moved to pass the June 2013 minutes. Mike 2nd. Motion carried.

3. Committee Reports (continued)

a. STCs and NGBs:

i. STCs:

- 1. Powerlifting:** No report given.
- 2. Table Tennis:** Jennifer Johnson submitted report electronically. Jennifer reported that NJDC went well. National Classification was done by Jim Beckford and Jeannie Senter. About 8 athletes received cards.
- 3. Archery:** No report given.
- 4. Swimming:** Glen O'Sullivan reported. Glen has agreed to be on the USP Committee. He will be working more with USP as a Coach. He will be coaching at Spire Institute in Ohio and Fred Lamback meet in Augusta, GA. He reported that the IWAS swimming went very well! Glen is working with Deb to finalize swimming events for NJDC 2014.
- 5. Shooting:** Gregg Baumgarten reported. Gregg spoke with Mike Welch from the VA Sports Department, Dean Nakamura from USP and Bob Foth from USA Shooting about incorporating shooting events in some of WASUSA's regional competitions, specifically targeting severely wounded vets, something that is currently lacking. PVA has focused on Trap and Skeet which is fine for Para's and other wounded vets but for severely wounded vets, air rifle with stand is about the only option. Everyone was very receptive and also interested in Gregg's idea of a junior shooting program (16 to 21) to compete in mentorship with wounded vets. Currently, the NRA has a crate full of air rifles, pistols, targets and stands in Washington DC that has not been used in 5 years. Bob has a meeting with the NRA next week and will seek permission for WASUSA to borrow the equipment and be involved with the Train the Trainer clinics and workshops. He is also going to attempt to put WASUSA in contact with potential sponsors such as Beeman, etc. Gregg is putting Tim Baumgarten in charge of this initiative for the time being as he has coordinated the Arizona shooting program since 1991, has a place to store the equipment at the Ben Avery Shooting Range owned by the Arizona Game and Fish and can conduct rolling clinics. Gregg would like to set this up as a national series with the highest point achievers competing in a national championship probably in Colorado Springs.

b. Junior Committee: Deb Armento submitted report electronically.

- i. NJDC 2013:** Deb had a phone conference call with Ben as a follow-up conversation for NJDC 2013. All medals have been sent to the coaches of each team. All of the WASUSA equipment was set back to Chicago and inventoried.
- ii. National Council of Youth Sports S.T.R.I.V.E. Award:** Deb applied for the S.T.R.I.V.E. award on behalf of the NJDC program. WASUSA has been chosen as one of five finalists for this award. The winner is chosen based upon the largest number of votes. Voting ends September 30, 2013. The LOC for NJDC 2014 helped create the video featured on the NCYS website.



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- iii. **NJDC 2014:** Deb has been in contact with Mike and Seanne of the LOC. The Junior Committee is working with the LOC on finalizing the competition schedule. The contract for these Games is also being finalized.
 - iv. **Cathy Sellers, US Paralympics:** Deb met with Cathy while at the IWAS Jr. World Games. They discussed the following topics: doping, instructional video on handling equipment, tracking elite athletes as they transition into adulthood, coaching workshops/clinics, and sport camps.
 - v. **Future NJDC:** Deb has sent out bid packages to Florida and Seattle.
- c. **International Teams:** Barbara Chambers reported.
- i. **2013 IWAS Junior World Games:** The 2013 IWAS World Junior Games were held from August 6–15, 2013 in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico. Competition was held in Athletics (Track & Field); Swimming; Archery; and for the first time in junior competition, Paratriathlon (swim, bike, and run/wheel). The USA Team consisted of 29 athletes (but we traveled with 30, which included an athlete who competed for Costa Rica). It was the nicest group of young athletes that Barb has ever traveled with in her many years of international competitions. Everyone supported each other and hung out together. We were 30 minutes from the venues and isolated from distractions. We had a fabulous pool with nice areas surrounding and a beautiful beach.

The following athletes participated on the USA Team: Nicholas Badeau, Kristian Bellard, Stephen Binning, Mark Braun, Kristen Brogan Curran Brown, Sean Burns, Adam Cruz, Jim Cuevas, AJ Digby, Eric Doty, Brendon Driscoll, Garrison Hayes, Jessica Heims, Gian Iannotta, Desmond Jackson, Stephen Koziel, Cheyenne Leonard, Stephanie Marquez, Mitchell Miles, Nishan Patel, Bryan Powell, Jessica Rogers, Elizabeth Torres, Bryce Segura, Daniel Suero, Matthew Tohon, Melanie Watson, and Ahkell Whitehead. The staff included: Barb Chambers, Debbie Armento, Mike Burns, Isabel Cuevas, Ken Bagala, Glen O'Sullivan, Dr. Dave Driscoll, Ben Berg, Keri Serota (Schindler), and ex officio Gregg Baumgarten.

The facilities were outstanding. The track stadium was top-notch, with a mondo surface ("blemish free") and a 200m warm-up track. The 50m pool was at the University and was very nice, having great spectator areas. There were classrooms dedicated to staging and athlete rest areas (which was handy to have during the daily afternoon thunderstorms and torrential rains). The archery range was professional grade, albeit quite a distance from the rest of the competition venues. And Paratri featured an ocean swim. Parallel streets were used as a "down and back" course for the bike and run (wheel), with the finish being in the track stadium.

Barb discussed some concerns and issues the team faced while abroad. This included last minute decisions by the LOC, language barriers between LOC and teams, scheduling challenges, weather condition, and low attendance. Jessie commented that at NJDC the Jr. Committee does a good job of interacting with coaches and updating/completing the competition schedule. She thinks this is an opportunity for WASUSA to create a Best Practices Manual for large competitions.

Glen and Mike gave their perspectives on the trip. Glen said he hopes to see the swim team develop and grow in future years. He thinks that IWAS could be a good introduction to international competition for many swimmers. He is going to speak with Queenie Nichols at USP about the possibility of developing a talent pool for these Games. Gregg acknowledged that the staff was amazing. He is very proud of the outstanding people representing the USA Team.

Results: USA finished number one in the medal count. USA, Germany, and Brazil had the largest teams.



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COUNTRY	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE
 United States of America	27	29	24
 Brazil	23	20	4
 Germany	21	21	22
 Finland	14	5	4
 Russian	12	10	4
 Iraq	9	0	3
 Thailand	7	9	13
 Chinese Taipei	3	3	2
 India	3	2	2
 Bulgaria	3	1	6
 Denmark	2	2	0
 Puerto Rico	1	1	2
 Sweden	0	4	1
 Barbados	0	0	0
 Costa Rica	0	0	0

- d. **Membership Committee:** Gregg brought up the idea of a multi-year membership. This concept has been discussed previously with the Board. Gregg proposed a 3-year cycle. Jessie will send a proposal for fee structure in the form of a motion to Gregg. He will then share with the Board for a 2nd and a vote.
- e. **Marketing Committee:** Gregg Baumgarten reported. Gregg has been working with Darlene on an "I am WASUSA" campaign that will tap into alumni of the organization. Gregg discussed a marketing opportunity with Challenge Magazine. It would include an advertisement in the quarterly magazine. Gregg will continue this discussion via email communication.
- f. **Strategic Planning Committee:** Gregg sent a draft version of the Disabled Youth Sports Initiative to the Board. He would like feedback from the group.

4. Regional Point Organizations/Regional Sport Organizations:

- a. **Central RPO:** Paul Johnson reported. Paul has been in contact with the Central RPO. He has been collecting 2014 competition schedules from organizations and Chapters in his area. Paul said that he and Jessie were speaking and they feel that there are two types of Chapters: programmatic Chapters and insurance Chapters. Gregg asked if insurance Chapters could simply purchase an insurance policy without becoming a Chapter. Mike said Ralph would know whether the policy requires that the applicant be a member of WASUSA or not. Phil is hesitant not to call the insurance Chapters "Chapters" because this title provides an opportunity for WASUSA to market programs to the group. Gregg also brought up the idea that there are membership requirements for Chapters to apply for grants through WASUSA. There was discussion on what a voting Chapter would look like. Gregg requested that Paul J., Jerry and Melinda create a plan on how to distinguish voting and non-voting Chapters.
- b. **Western RPO:** No report given.
- c. **Eastern RPO:** Melinda Chappell reported. Melinda plans to schedule a meeting with her group next week.

5. **Phil motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mike 2nd. Motion carried.**

6. **Next Meeting: October 2, 2013 at 7:00pm EST**