



Wheelchair and Ambulatory Sports, USA
Board of Directors Meeting
January 14, 2014
7:00pm – 9:35pm EST

Present: Deb Armento, Ralph Armento, Gregg Baumgarten, Mike Burns, Melinda Chappell, Jerry Clayton, Jessica Cloy, Amie Day, Paul DePace, Phil Galli, Denise Hutchins, Paul Johnson
Absent: Darlene Hunter, Glen O'Sullivan

1. **Call to order by Gregg Baumgarten, Chair**
2. **December 2013 Minutes:** Jerry motioned to approve the minutes. Amie 2nd. Motion carried.
3. **Chair's Report:** Gregg Baumgarten reported.
 - a. **Inclusion for All Initiative:** Gregg was contacted Kirk Bauer of Disabled Sports, USA about a proposal to support a grant writer for the Initiative. The proposal for this grant writer is \$2500. Gregg committed WASUSA to contributing \$500 to this Initiative's proposal. The funds will be deducted from the Chair's budget. Denise asked if WASUSA would be listed as a supporter for the Initiative and the grants received. Gregg said it is his understanding that WASUSA is a member of the Initiative but it would be the Initiative that receives credit for any grants received. Gregg listed the other members of the Initiative. Phil stated that each member should give an equal amount towards the proposal. Gregg said that Kirk has gone to the other members making similar requests.
 - b. **Adult Nationals and Reunion Update:** An event page has been created for this event on the internet. There will be three nights of activities plus competition events. The sponsored Reunion event will take place Friday evening. Ralph noted that World Sport Chicago helped support the 2010 NJDC. He asked if this group has been approached to support the Reunion event. Sports N Spokes has offered to put together a program at cost for the event.
 - c. **"The Compensator":** Gregg is holding off on distribution of the first issue of The Compensator until discussions on the Executive Director position have been finalized.
 - d. **Future BoD Meetings:** Gregg would like to hold full Board meetings every other month with the Executive Committee and other working committees meeting during the month in between each full Board meeting. Gregg proposed dates to the group. There was discussion on how often an updated budget should be presented to the Board.
4. **International Liaison Report:** Paul DePace reported. Paul shared the agenda for the upcoming IWAS Executive Board meeting to take place January 24-26 in Sharjah, U.A.E. Libya has approached IWAS for membership in the organization. This will be discussed at the Executive Board meeting. The 2014 IWAS Junior World Games will take place in Stoke Mandeville, UK and the 2015 IWAS Junior World Games will take place in Netherlands. Cities under consideration for future IWAS World Games include Khanty-Mansiysk, Russia for 2015 and Puerto Rico and Olomouc, Czech Republic for 2016. IWAS is still in discussion with CPISTRA to merge the two organizations. Paul commented that there is a vacancy on the IWAS Sports Science and Medical Committee. The IWAS Executive Board will review the job description for this position and Paul will then share it with the WASUSA BoD.

Paul has approached Bill Gilbane about the possibility of the Gilbane Building Company supporting WASUSA in 2014. Paul would like the BoD to agree upon how funds from Gilbane Building Company would be used so that Paul can take a report to Mr. Gilbane. Jessie commented that in the past some of the funds from Mr. Gilbane have been used to support the IWAS Junior team. She would recommend some funds be used for this trip again. Paul agreed. Ralph said that WASUSA had presented the Gilbane Building Company with a plaque at the 2013 NDA; however, since Mr. Gilbane was not able to attend NDA, WASUSA has not yet given him the plaque. Ralph will ship the plaque to Paul for him to present to Mr. Gilbane. Paul will let Mr. Gilbane that his donation will be used to Junior programming (ie: NJDC, equipment, and IWAS Junior Games.)
5. **Vice Chair's Report:** Denise Hutchins submitted report electronically. Denise has been working with Gregg and Mike on a job description and finances for the Executive Director position. On Thursday she will be heading to Bonn, Germany for IPC Athletics Classification for the Chief Classifier/rules review and Educators training format. Denise will be providing updated information to US Athletics Classifiers and Erin Popovich from U.S. Paralympics.



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- 6. Treasurer's Report:** Mike Burns reported. Mike paid WASUSA's membership fee to IWAS. Mike and Ralph are finalizing the 2013 budget. Gregg asked the BoD to come up with a gameplan for Tier B items on the 2014 budget. Mike said the Tier B items include \$10,000 worth of scholarships and \$2400 for an office move with Carr. Jerry suggested these items be tabled for six months. There was discussion around this. Many stated that Tier B items are not currently items in the budget and therefore, do not need to be decided upon today.
- 7. Office Report:** Ralph Armento reported
- a. Membership Status:** The 2014 membership is now online. The office has received 14 memberships; only 2 by conventional mail. Charlie Sheppard has updated the membership database to reflect changes, including RPOs, multi-year memberships and updated sports. As per the BOD, we will continue to send out e-membership cards only.
 - b. Insurance:** Ralph received the 2014 rates from Philadelphia National on December 24, 2013. These rates indicated a \$3K increase over last year. This is a result of an increase to the sports covered by the event insurance, thus creating a greater risk exposure. In addition, Philadelphia National will be charging us an additional \$10 for each certificate of insurance (COI) issued over a total of 50. The rerate was completed by taking into account each groups' COIs. Each group requesting under 5 COIs was each given an annual bump of \$75. Other groups (i.e., GLASA) were charged in part for their additional COIs in addition to the increase (GLASA was capped at a \$500 increase). The rerate produced a margin of approximately 20% in order to account for the possibility for some groups dropping off. The rerate was reviewed by Gregg and Mike. All chapters with the insurance option (18 chapters) were given individual notices, advising them of their new rates and providing some groups with COIs bridging coverage for ongoing events between calendar years. All chapter/insurance fees are due by January 31.
 - c. ADF Accounts:** ADF Accounts were closed for the 2013 calendar year. There are a total of 74 ADF Accounts on file with a total asset amount of \$71K. Approximate \$3K is slated to be returned to the general fund as a result of inactivity. Emails and personal phone calls were made by the office in December in order to avoid these defaults. The majority of the forfeited amounts come from The New Jersey Devils Sled Hockey Team (\$1,700). Annual statements will go out by January 31, including 4th quarter acknowledgment letters for donors who gave over \$250.
 - d. Sanctioning:** As of today, a total of four sanctioning forms have been received by the office (Tri-State Swim, SEWSA, Challenge 2014 and Desert Challenge). A reminder will go out to all meets, reiterating that all sanctioning forms must be received in the office by March 1. Once processed, this year's sanctioning forms will be sent to the STC heads for review. A request by the office for volunteers to operate SAMS went out to all the known, experienced SAMS users.
 - e. Chapter Membership:** Currently, the office has received 14 chapter renewal forms. This year, all chapters receive an acknowledgement of their membership, with copies sent to the corresponding RPO representative. A follow-up for those who have not yet submitted their chapter membership will go out in the next week.
 - f. RPO Board Positions:** Ralph and Jessie had previously discussed offline the process for RPO reps being put forward to the BoD. In 2013, the Western RPO position was up for election. Because the RPO system is still in its infancy, Paul J. and Melinda agreed to nominate Jerry again to serve as the Western RPO rep. It was agreed that ownership of this nomination process falls on the RPO Council going forward.
- 8. Committee Reports**
- a. International Games Committee:** Ralph reviewed the office activity for the upcoming IWAS Junior World Games. All applications have been sent to the National Office this year. Barbara Chambers submitted report electronically. The 10th IWAS World Junior Games will take place August 2nd through the 8th in Stoke Mandeville, Great Britain. The eight sports and some demonstration sports to be contested are: Archery, Athletics, Wheelchair Fencing, Powerlifting, Shooting, Swimming, Table Tennis and Paratriathlon. Team USA staff applications were due January 10th. Team USA Athlete applications are due January 31st. Over 25 "Intent to Apply" have been received. Preliminary registration costs (registration, capitation, room & board, and transportation to and from the



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airport) have been posted by IWAS, £680 per person (approximately \$1118/person). Archery, Athletics, Powerlifting, Swimming, and Table Tennis are events that are contested at NJDC, and the US Team fielded a very successful Paratri team at last year's IWAS Juniors. Athletes will meet minimum standards in each sport. The table tennis STC will need to assist with the selection since there are no standards. This will be an expensive trip, \$1118 for registration and airfare will be approximately \$1500 from New York (plus connecting flights). This has hindered some staff from applying.

ACTION REQUESTED: The BOD needs to appoint a Selection Committee to select the Team Leader and possibly the Assistant Team Leader. The Team Leader and Assistant Team Leader will then help select the remainder of the staff along with the Selection Committee. Decisions must be made by January 24th. The entire staff will be involved with athlete selection. Some coaching positions will depend on athletes applying for that event. Athletes will be notified by the next week, the first due date February 24, 2014. The Executive Committee will meet tonight to discuss the Team Leader position.

b. Junior Committee: Deb Armento reported.

i. NJDC: Deb reviewed some recent issues that have arisen for upcoming NJDC. The LOC notified Deb last week that they will not be able to host online registration for the event. Additionally, the host hotel contract does not include breakfast. Deb is working with the LOC to rectify this situation. Deb is working with the LOC to incorporate boccia into the schedule. She said adding this sport has led to a substantial increase in budget. Gregg asked what support BlazeSports will be contributing to the event. Deb said she has not heard back from Jeff Jones. Deb is working on getting the swimming portion of NJDC IPC sanctioned.

c. Marketing Committee: Darlene Hunter submitted report electronically. Darlene reviewed Alumni Association draft ideas:

Alumni Membership: \$50. Funds go into a separate account to be used for grants for athletes' travel/equipment.

Old equipment donation - loaner program: Several alumni will have left over equipment in their garage that they may be willing to donate to a person or to WASUSA as a tax write off.

Mentor roster/directory: Old alumni might willing to adopt an athlete to train or just mentor through international

Alumni newsletter: Announcements (births, marriages, engagements, graduation, etc)

Website update: Gregg is developing a new website. Gregg added that Phil, Ralph, Jessie and he met last week to discuss transferring the website back to Go Daddy and some other updates for the website.

Marketing for Membership update: Gregg is working with organizations to find promo's to give to membership.

d. Strategic Planning: Gregg and Phil will be working on marketing initiatives.

e. Governance Committee: No report given.

f. STCs and NGBs:

i. STCs:

1. Archery: No report given.

2. Powerlifting: No report given.

3. Swimming: Glen O'Sullivan submitted report electronically. The Swimming Rulebook has been completed and submitted to the WASUSA office. Glen is still working on the Qualifying Standards for NJDC Long Course. He has been working with Queenie Nichols to develop the standards. He is using the Can-Am standards as a base then taking 15%, 20% and 50%.



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4. **Table Tennis:** No report given.

ii. **NGB's**

1. **Track and Field:** Phil Galli reported. The WTFUSA Rulebook should be published on February 1st.

9. **Regional Point Organizations/Regional Sport Organizations:**

- a. **Central RPO:** Paul reported that USP will be letting go of Susan Rossi and Dawna Callahan, Paralympic Sport Club regional coordinators.
- b. **Western RPO:** No report given.
- c. **Eastern RPO:** Melinda Chappell submitted report electronically. The following organizations have renewed their WASUSA Chapter membership: Children's Lightening Wheels, Mountainside, NJ; Achieving Wheelchair Equality, Charleston, SC; Coastal Carolina Adaptive Sports & Recreation, North Myrtle Beach, SC; Southeastern Wheelchair Sports Association, SC/NC; and Lakeshore Foundation, Birmingham, AL. Melinda has reached out to each of the organizations to let them know she is available to answer any questions they may have and have encouraged them to stay connected via website. She has forwarded the Tri-State Swim meet information to her email list. Melinda plans to have a conference call towards end of the month, waiting for more Chapter Membership to come through.

10. **New Business**

- a. **USP Changes:** Phil opened up a discussion on the voids that will need to be filled due to the changes at USP. The group discussed this.

11. **Motion to Adjourn:** At 8:55pm EST Paul D. motioned to adjourn the meeting. Phil 2nd. Motion carried.

12. **IWAS Team Leader Selection:** Gregg, Denise, Mike, Amie, Jessie and Ralph remained on the call in Executive session. The group discussed the applicants for Team Leader for the 2014 IWAS Junior World Games team. Denise motioned to appoint Barbara Chambers as Team Leader for the 2014 IWAS Junior World Games team. Amie 2nd. Motion carried. The group nominated Barb Chambers, Tomie Zuchetto, Deb Armento, Jessie Cloy, and Paul Johnson to serve on the 2014 IWAS Junior World Games staff selection committee.

13. **Next Meeting:** February 11, 2014 at 7pm EST