



**Wheelchair and Ambulatory Sports, USA
Board of Directors Meeting
January 3, 2012**

7:00 – 9:15 pm EST

Present: Deb Armento, Ralph Armento, Gregg Baumgarten, Mike Burns, Barbara Chambers, Paul DePace, Jessica Galli, Phil Galli, Darlene Hunter, Denise Hutchins, Cindy Housner, Glen O'Sullivan

Absent: Tommy Chasanoff

1. Call to order by Barbara Chambers, Chair

2. November 29, 2011 Minutes: Mike moved to pass the November 2011 minutes. Paul 2nd. Motion carried.

3. Chair's Report: Barbara Chambers reported.

- a. **IAHPERD Presentation:** Barb has received several emails from people who attended her presentations. She has compiled an email list and will share it with Cindy and Ralph. The Conference committee donated \$100 to WASUSA on behalf of Barb. She is very appreciative of this gesture.
- b. **MOU with US Fencing:** Ralph has a draft letter written to be sent to US Fencing. Paul had expressed some concerns with how the letter may be perceived by US Fencing. He had said he would follow-up with some of his contacts at US Fencing. As of today, Paul has nothing new to report. Ralph would like to move forward with this as soon as possible. Ralph has not yet heard from anyone at US Fencing.
- c. **International Teams Chair:** Barb will work with Gregg Chalmers to identify a new Chair for the International Teams Committee.

4. Immediate Past Chair's Report: Paul DePace reported.

- a. **2011 IWAS Jr. Games:** the Games were held in Sharjah, UAE. There were close to 600 athletes from 49 countries. Paul reported it was a good event.
- b. **IPC General Assembly & IWAS Board Meeting:** The IPC General Assembly was held in Beijing, China. Paul attended as the Chair of IWAS. Paul will compile his notes and report back to the Board. IWAS will be hosting a strategic planning session in Moscow, Russia in April 2012. Paul would like input from WASUSA as to what it would like to see from IWAS, how the organization is doing and how it can improve, etc.
- c. **2012 IWAS Jr. Games:** These Games will be held in Czech Republic in July. These Games will be for the sport of Athletics only. Barb raised some concern as she's heard some rumors that the Games are in conflict with another large competition in Europe. She said the latest IWAS newsletter did not mention the 2012 Jr. Games and she wants to be sure the competition will take place. Ralph said the national office put an announcement to membership on hold until it receives correspondence from the LOC and IWAS. Events at NJDC have been rescheduled to accommodate athletes that will be attending both events. The initial dates sent for the IWAS Jr. Games back up to the NJDC dates.
- d. **2013 IWAS JR Games Bid:** Paul said the bid from Puerto Rico to host the 2013 Games is looking stronger. The city to host the Games appears to be supporting the Games financially. Paul said this location would be good for the America's. Paul recommended that Phil be included in an IWAS site-visit because of his experience with hosting Games, his experience in athletics and his proximity to the bid city. Cindy asked if this bid includes a combined NJDC/IWAS Games. Denise said "no." If both bids are won, NJDC would take place one week and IWAS Games would be either the week prior or following NJDC.

5. Vice Chair's Report: Denise Hutchins reported.

- a. **Classification:** Denise will contact Erin Popovich at USP to discuss her ideas. Denise would like to establish training at regional competitions for Level II classifiers. This level of classifiers would not be connected with USP but would provide a pipeline of classifiers for national and international certification. It will provide athletes an opportunity to be classified at regional competitions and eliminate the need to classify a large number of athletes at NJDC. This classification would not be enough for athletes that want to travel internationally and/or want to be included on USP or IPC ranking systems. Denise and others are working on creating online educational material



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and certification. Darlene said there is a service called Moodle that could help with this program. Denise will pass the information onto Deanna.

- b. **WTFUSA Classification:** Denise worked with Phil to update and expand the classification component of the WTFUSA Rulebook.

6. **Treasurer's Report:** Mike Burns reported. He reported the audit was completed for 2010. He is working with the auditor to get the 2011 audit finished as well. He is working on the 2012 budget and will send it out to the Board for comments and changes. He has worked with Jeff Coupie from the 2011 NJDC to wrap up outstanding financial issues.

7. **Office Report:** Ralph Armento reported.

a. **Office Activity**

- i. **Sanctioning Schedule:** Ralph has been talking with Jerry Clayton and the two are wondering what the advantage and need is to increase the number of Level III track and field meets sanctioned by WASUSA. Debbie commented that the number of meets cannot be changed for 2012 but it is something that should be looked into in 2013.
- ii. **Club Membership and Insurance Renewal:** Ralph sent invoices out late in the year for club memberships and insurance renewal. He has received many of them back. Ralph received a questionnaire from IPNE, the WASUSA insurance broker. He filled it out based on the sports we cover, the number of events we cover, etc. It had been approximately three years since the last survey had been completed. When Ralph received the quote back following the survey, the quote was almost 30% higher than the previous years. This rate increase was attributed to quad rugby. Ralph thinks it may be time to test the market and to elicit bids from other brokers. Ralph noted that he spends a substantial amount of time doing insurance related tasks. He thinks that this issue should be considered with the formation of the strategic plan. Barb, Phil and others expressed that they would not like to see WASUSA drop the insurance benefit for our clubs. Ralph said with that agreed upon, he would like support from the Board to seek bids from other brokers. Gregg said that the founder of the Arizona sports group in his area has an insurance background and Gregg would like Ralph to contact him. Ralph said he would also like to contact the broker Cindy's group works with in Chicago.
- iii. **Newsletter:** Ralph will send the next newsletter by mid-January.
- iv. **CFC Application:** Ralph and Mike worked together to complete the CFC application. Ralph will now work with an individual at CFC to determine the best way to publicize WASUSA's involvement.
- v. **Rulebooks & Records:** The National Office is still waiting to hear from some sports regarding rulebooks and/or records. Ralph noted that the rulebooks should reflect the new WASUSA bylaw change from "physical disability" to "disability." Ralph asked Phil if standards have been set for field implements for NJDC in the groups that did not previously have standards. Phil said he is working through a document Larry Hughes created with potential standards. Phil said the rulebook is being finalized and will be done soon. He suggested a letter be sent out by the National Office in the next week that explains changes for 2012 so that people can begin to prepare for the upcoming season. Debbie said that WASUSA is out of 1kg shot puts. In the email blast that goes out to announce changes, a question will be included to ask if anyone is in need of 1kg shot puts. Once responses are received, Debbie will make the decision to order more shot puts from Australia if necessary.
- vi. **Fundraising:** Ralph received a sizable donation recently. Darlene suggested this news be included in the upcoming newsletter so that he is recognized and thanked publicly. Ralph has attempted to reach Pat Redden since our last meeting. Pat had expressed to Ralph that a professor at her college is interested in providing an intern to WASUSA as a part of a class he teaches. Ralph will continue to pursue this.
- vii. **Background Checks:** Ralph reminded Board members that it is time for them to redo their background checks. He will send out a reminder email to everyone as well.



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b. Membership

i. Comparison of MC/VISA vs. Paypal: Ralph did research on credit card programs and feels that Merchant Warehouse is the best option for WASUSA. Ralph laid out their fees in his report last month. Phil will try to implement this program into the current website but will also pass it along to the individual creating the new WASUSA website so that it can be incorporated on that site as well.

c. Policies and Procedures: Barb has spoken with Ralph about getting the most updated Policies and Procedures document on the website. Barb asked Denise to find her most updated version as Denise has added a few items since the last time the document was posted.

d. Website: Phil and Darlene will be working with Bala Hariharn to create a new website. Phil will report back once Bala begins work.

8. Committee Reports

a. Junior Committee: Debbie Armento reported.

i. NJDC:

1. 2013 NJDC: Debbie has completed three site visits for 2013. Recently, she traveled to Colorado Springs to tour the facilities and venues. Debbie will be traveling to Puerto Rico next for the fourth and final site visit. All bids were asked if they would be interested in hosting in 2014 if it is not chosen in 2013. Some expressed interest and others did not. Debbie will create a final document that presents all four bids that will be discussed among the Jr. Committee. The Jr. Committee will then submit a recommendation to the Board for approval.

b. STCs and NGBs:

i. STCs:

1. Powerlifting: No report given.

2. Table Tennis: Jennifer Johnson submitted a report electronically. Two athletes, Pam Fontaine, Class 3 and Tahl Leibovitz, qualified in Guadalajara for the London 2012 Paralympics. Tara Profitt, Class 2 is a strong candidate for a wildcard selection. The athletes who qualify for London will be notified around mid-January. The Results for the Parapan Games, Guadalajara, Mexico, November 12-20, 2011 is as follows : Wheelchair Divisions - Tara Profitt - 4th place finish in Class 1-3, James Segrest - lost in Preliminary Round Robin in Class 1-2, Pam Fontaine - Won Silver medal in Class 1-3, Jennifer Johnson – 4th place finish in Class 4, Emmanuel Shiu - lost in Preliminary Round Robin in Class 4, Stu Caplin - lost in Preliminary Round Robin in Class 5, and Andre Scott - Won Silver medal in Class 5. Standing Divisions - Chris Puls - lost in Preliminary Round Robin in Class 7, Daryl Sterling, Jr. - 4th place finish in Class 7, Wayne Lo - lost in Quarterfinal in Class 8, and Tahl Leibovitz - Won Gold Medal in Class 9. ID Divisions – Melissa Middleton - lost in Preliminary Round Robin in Class 11. Team Event - Women's Wheelchair Team (1-3): Profitt, Fontaine – Won silver medal, Men's Wheelchair Team (5): Segrest, Shiu, Caplin, and Scott – Won bronze medal, Men's 6-8 Team: Sterling, Jr. and Puls – fourth place, and Men's 9-10 Team: Lo and Leibovitz – Won silver medal.

Table Tennis tables for Junior Program: Jennifer is waiting for Debbie Armento to make arrangements to take the tables from the Westchester Table Tennis Center. If these tables are no longer needed she can resell them and return the money to the Table Tennis STC fund.

2011 Nationals, Virginia Beach, Dec. 13-17: Five wheelchairs and five standing athletes competed at the Nationals. The numbers were lower this year as most of the athletes were traveled out and exhausted from all of the activities in 2011. At the Nationals, classification was conducted by Sharon Frant Brooks, USATT National Classifier.



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National Classification: If anyone is interested in being certified for table tennis classification please contact Sharon Frant Brooks, National Classification Officer, Paralympic Table Tennis Division, 30 Payne Road, Lebanon, NJ 08833, USA. Email: usattclass@gmail.com. With the inclusion of Class 11 players in 2011 Sharon is working on setting up additional training in this field for classifiers as it is different from classifying Classes 1-10.

2012 Tentative Plans: Table Tennis Clinic: Jennifer would like to organize a table tennis clinic at Burke Rehab Hospital. She will discuss with Joanne Auerbach, Burke Administrator and Coach Shao as to the best time and date and update in next BOD report. If anyone has other facilities that would be interested in doing a clinic, and need the help of the STC they can let the Table Tennis STC know if they can be of help via Ralph Armento. Mike Dempsey Memorial Tournament, Nov. 29-Dec. 3, 2012, San Diego, CA: An international sanctioned tournament in memory of Mike will be held to honor Mike's memory. All table tennis players in the USA are encouraged to attend. Entries will be taken by the USATT or their designated. There will also be classification training seminar conducted by Sharon Frant Brooks during the tournament. Mike Dempsey Memorial Award: Jennifer hopes to get this going at the next NJDC. Her recommendation would be for award for 2011 and 2012. As soon as the table tennis STC comes up with the criteria it will be submitted to the Board for approval.

3. **Archery:** No report given.
4. **Swimming:** Glen O'Sullivan reported. Glen is finalizing the 2012 Rulebook. He is creating a separate document to house all swimming records.

ii. NGB's

1. **Track and Field:** Phil Galli reported. The WTFUSA Rulebook is being finalized for 2012. WTFUSA's goal is to be more inclusive of all disability groups. Phil is working with USP on grants for meets in 2012. Phil has published a competition schedule on the WASUSA website that includes all sports covered by WASUSA. Phil has spoken with a representative for Rose Hollerman from Minnesota. Rose is currently suing the state of Minnesota in connection with participation in high school track and field. Phil and Jessie attended the USATF Annual Conference at the beginning of December. Jessie stated she thinks it's important that WASUSA improve its connections with USATF at the local level. Phil would like to see collaboration between WASUSA and Scot Hollenbeck and Steve Cuomo at USATF to increase participation at USATF meets, NJDC, and the USATF Jr. Olympics. Jessie said that Kelly Behlmann and Paul Johnson presented about RPO's at many meetings at the USATF Conference. Phil and Jessie agreed it was a good presentation.

- c. **RSOs:** Cindy Housner reported. Cindy said that Paul Johnson has put together a presentation about the proposed RPO's. She hopes to have a conference call with all RSO representatives so that the RPO plan can be formally presented to everyone and discussed. A conference call was set up before the end of the year; however, many people were not able to attend and the meeting was canceled. Ralph will help reach out to RSO representatives. Barb would like a copy of Paul's presentation to be sent to the Board.
- d. **Athlete Advisory:** Darlene Hunter reported. Darlene would like the committee survey to be sent out by the national office. This survey was created in October. Darlene would also like to get a list of contact information for current athlete members so that she can more easily contact them.

9. Old Business

- a. **Strategic Plan Committee Update:** Phil said there has not been any progress since the last Board meeting.

10. New Business



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- a. **Grants/Fundraising:** Darlene sent out a list of potential fundraising and grant opportunities to the Board in December. She would like to see the IWAS Jr. Games trip fully funded and would like WASUSA to pursue grant opportunities. Jessie said she will help Darlene pursue these opportunities.

11. Next Meeting: February 7, 2012 – 7pm EST