



Wheelchair and Ambulatory Sports, USA
Executive Board of Directors Meeting
December 11, 2012

7:00 – 9:50pm EST

Present: Deb Armento, Ralph Armento, Gregg Baumgarten, Jerry Clayton, Jessica Galli, Phil Galli, Darlene Hunter, Denise Hutchins, Paul Johnson

Absent: Mike Burns, Melinda Chappell, Paul DePace, Glen O'Sullivan

1. Call to order by Gregg Baumgarten, Chair

2. October 2012 Minutes: Jessie noted that Paul DePace's position changed from Immediate Past Chair to International Liaison at the NDA. The Immediate Past Chair was an Executive Board position; however, it was not determined whether the new International Liaison position would be an Executive position. Denise commented that the Executive Committee has the authority to make decisions on behalf of the Board when the entire Board is not able to meet. Gregg would like to keep the International Liaison position as a non-Executive position. **Jerry moved to pass the October 2012 minutes. Paul J. 2nd. Motion carried.**

3. Chair's Report: Gregg Baumgarten reported.

- a. **Introduction/Welcome to New BoD Members:** Gregg welcomed the new RPO representative from the Central region, Paul Johnson, the new RPO representative from the Western region, Jerry Clayton, and the new RSO representative from the Eastern region, Melinda Chappell. The Western region elected Jerry as its RPO representative as a step in the RPO process. **Paul motioned on behalf of the RPO Council for the approval of the nomination of Jerry Clayton as the Western RPO representative and Melinda Chappell as the Eastern RSO representative. Darlene 2nd. Motion carried.**
- b. **Chair Initiatives:** Gregg expressed that his main initiative is to improve marketing strategies for WASUSA. He has been in contact with major companies to discuss sponsorship opportunities. He's received both positive and negative feedback thus far. Gregg emphasized that he will be less involved in the nuts and bolts of the organization and more involved with growing the organization at the broader level. Darlene said that someone has approached her about sponsoring the organization. She asked if she should send this person to him. Gregg said that he would be the person to forward inquiries such as that. Darlene asked whether all Board members are allowed to apply for grants on behalf of WASUSA. Gregg said that yes anyone can do that but he would like anyone that is applying for a grant to notify the Board and to submit a final version of grant material to him and the Board before it is submitted. Jessie noted that many efforts have been made to receive grants in the past and she and others can share the material with the Board.
- c. **Mexico Educational Opportunity:** Gregg will be traveling with Wendy Gumbert and Saul Mendoza to this event. Gregg was presented with an opportunity to participate in a sport training camp that will take place in Mexico. Gregg reached out to the Board for ideas on people that could attend the event. The Board suggested Wendy and Saul as well as others. Gregg said he is not aware of the other staff that was chosen to attend.
- d. **USP Leadership Conference & Parks and Recreation Conference:** Gregg submitted a proposal on behalf of WASUSA for a Meet Management 101 presentation for both conferences.

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

- a. **IPC Classification:** Denise was selected as the Chief classifier for a competition in Finland in January and for the IPC Athletics World Championships in Lyon, France in July.

5. Treasurer's Report: No report given.

6. International Relations Committee: No report given.

7. Office Report: Ralph Armento reported

- a. **Wrap-Up of NDA:** Forty people attended the NDA. Ralph received seven RSO reports. Not all RSO representatives or STC representatives were able to attend. Attendance at the NDA represented less than 10% of WASUSA's total membership. Ralph would like the Board to think about "What can we do different next year?"



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- b. **Insurance Issues:** Ralph said the rerate has not been completed as of yet. The major obstacle is in determining those events with "overnight" or 24 hour coverage. Ralph said a census had not been taken in approximately four years. He requested another census be taken this year. Ralph would still like to look at other brokers to evaluate WASUSA's options. Ralph would like to change the current insurance forms that are posted online so that he is able to capture data more easily.
- c. **ADF Accounts:** Ralph is all caught up on ADF accounts. There were a total of 10 new accounts opened up in 2012. Annual statements will go out on or around January 8. The accounting period for 2012 will close on December 22 for ADF claims.
- d. **New Office:** Ralph recently visited an office space location for nonprofit organizations. He was told the office would be vacated in January; however, now the status is up in the air. The person thought to have been vacating the office may have had a change of plans. The rental group has not returned Ralph's calls. He will have to look at other options.
- e. **Sanctioned Meet Report Status for 2013:** Ralph redesigned the sanctioning form and will send out the sanctioning letter in the next few days.
- f. **2013 Rulebook Status:** A memo went out to the NGBs/STCs last month with a "final" level sanctioning comparison. The WTFUSA rulebook will be completed by 1/31/2013. Others sport rulebooks are being completed.
- g. **Club Status for 2013:** An email/invoice went out at the end of November to a total of 32 clubs. Ralph has received renewals from 6 clubs so far. He is looking for a reasonably priced vendor for new banners.
- h. **Background Checks for 2013:** The Board needs to have these completed by the end of next month (no later than the February 12 meeting). Ralph will send out instructions to all Board members before the end of the year.
- i. **MOU with US Fencing:** The Executive Director for US Fencing resigned and was recently replaced. Paul is trying to make inroads with the new ED to continue conversations about the MOU.

8. Committee Reports

- a. **Marketing & Social Media Committee:** Darlene Hunter reported. The new website launched. Darlene reported that the WASUSA Facebook page is getting more hits than in the past. Darlene and Jessie typically are posting on Facebook once a day or once every other day. She said the next goal for the group is to create a WASUSA YouTube channel.
- b. **Strategic Planning Committee:** Phil Galli reported. Phil said the next focus is to identify individuals for the Advisory Board. Paul DePace, Gregg and Phil had a discussion recently to brainstorm possible individuals that would be interested in supporting the organization. Phil would like the Advisory Board to be made up of individuals from around the country. These individuals would be tied to their local RPO's and chapters. They would be required to sign a contract that states how much money that individual would be responsible for raising over a year or four year period. The money raised by that individual would be shared between the local programs and the national office.
- c. **Junior Committee:** Deb Armento reported.
 - i. **2013 NJDC™:** Ben Bolt and the Rochester Sports Commission provided tours for all venues and the Jr. Committee was able to meet with their key chairpersons from each sport during the NDA. The Jr. Committee approved the sport venues. Through several meetings the Committee was able to clear up any concerns or questions either party had. They left Minnesota knowing that next year's event will be successful. Debbie would like to thank Ben and the commission for their gracious hospitality. Deb has a phone conference scheduled with Ben Bolt on Wednesday. They will be discussing his budget, website, information packet, etc. for NJDC. Due to Hurricane Sandy, they have had to reschedule this meeting several times. Ben has been asked if he could possibly run an exhibition triathlon event during NJDC.



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Debbie met with Kris Allen the Track and Field Chair for the 2013 NJDC. They discussed how helpful it is for area officials to volunteer and reviewed past compensations for officials and possible support this year. Deb recommended Kris set-up an internet training session with her officials prior to NJDC. They also talked about what levels of certified officials are needed and they also covered a few equipment needs. Kris has started working on setting up volunteers for her events. Kris has a friend who does timing and she will be asking him for a bid for NJDC. Deb was informed that they will not be able to use the baseball outfield for seated field events. Deb has received a bid from Scott from Half-Mile Timing. The bid is for a total of \$4,500. Deb has sent it to Ben Bolt and will be discussing it with him on Wednesday. She is working with Ralph and redoing the Officials' form for NJDC. After talking with Ben the form will be sent out asking for interest for this year's event. Officials will be notified on the newest information from USAT&F.

Deb, in conjunction with WASUSA, will be sending congratulatory emails to those junior athletes that qualify to attend NJDC. It will be very important for all meet directors to send in their results through SAMS immediately in order to do this. Debbie would like to thank Darlene for this idea. Deb is working with Charlie Sheppard to create a mock online registration using SAMS. She is hoping to have the results in January. Trisha Yurochko and Deb also will continue to review and update the NJDC manual.

d. STCs and NGBs:

i. STCs:

- 1. Powerlifting:** Deb Armento reported. The Powerlifting Committee has four members reviewing and updating the rules for 2013. They also are waiting to hear from Stella Herrick on possibly running an officials' training course in the spring. They have three meets willing to host this event. They are hoping that Stella is able to commit to helping them this year. After the committee confirms dates with Stella, they will then work on running athletes' clinics during the same time periods. The committee has also been working on identifying meets with proper benches and identifying those meets that do not have proper equipment. In 2013, benches will not be approved if they do not meet the proper standards.
- 2. Table Tennis:** Jennifer Johnson submitted report electronically. The Mike Dempsey Memorial Table Tennis Tournament was held in San Diego, CA, November 27 to December 2, 2012. The tournament was sponsored by the Dempsey Family and supported by the USA Table Tennis. Andre Scott was the Tournament Director. Over 140 athletes from 27 countries including the USA competed in Classes 1-11 in singles and team events. There was a total of 31 players from the USA including at least 6 juniors that competed in the tournament. Unfortunately, there were not too many female wheelchair competitors. Prior to the tournament there was a 4-day training camp for juniors and adults organized by Andre Scott. The juniors were partially funded by USA Table Tennis. Instructions were given by world -known International Paralympic Coach, Gorazd Vecko and Paralympic Coach and World Champion, Stellan Bengtsson. Six juniors and 6 adults attended. For results on the event go to www.mdmmtc.org. Thanks to Andre and his staff everyone had a very positive experience in San Diego. In addition to the tournament a Seminar for Classification coordinated by Sharon Frant Brooks was conducted. Six classifiers from the USA were certified as Level 1 International Classifiers.

Jennifer is working on the rulebook to align it with ITTF Rules and USATT Rules. She noted it will not be ready for January 1, 2013.

Jennifer is being inducted into the USA Table Tennis Hall of Fame on December 20 in Las Vegas.

- 3. Archery:** No report given.
- 4. Swimming:** Glen O'Sullivan reported. Glen is working on the 2013 rulebook and plans to have it completed before the end of the year as well as the new swimming records. Glen has submitted an application to be the Swim Coach at the 2013 IWAS Jr. Games. Classification should be available at following swim meets for 2013:



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GTAC Swim Meet / Cincinnati / May 11-12
Jimi Flowers Meet / Colorado Springs / June 22-23
Santa Clara Meet / Santa Clara / September 24-26
Tri-State / New Jersey / March 2
Texas Regional / San Antonio, TX / April 12-14
Splash at the Shore / Lakeshore / May 3-4
Great Lakes Games / Chicago / May 3-5
Dixie Games / Atlanta / May 11-12
Desert Challenge / Mesa / May 17-19
Endeavor Games / Edmond OK / June 8-9
NJDC™ / Rochester / July 6-13
Fled Lamback Swim Meet / Augusta / October 12-13

ii. NGB's

- 1. Track and Field:** Phil Galli reported. Phil attended the USA Track and Field (USATF) Annual Meeting along with Jessica Galli, Paul Johnson, Kelly Behlmann, Charlie Sheppard, Cathy Sellers, and Tina Cain at the beginning of December in Daytona, FL. All of those mentioned attended the Athletics for the Disabled Committee meetings. Additionally, Cathy and Phil attended many of the Officials meetings. Other WASUSA affiliates that attended the meeting included Melinda Wheatley, Dick Moss, John Stephens, and Rich Roberts.

The WTFUSA Officials course, which was a joint effort between members of USP, WTFUSA and USATF (Dick Moss, John Stephens, Jack Todd, Jerry Clayton, Cathy Sellers, Debbie Armento, and Phil Galli) has been adopted by the USATF officials as the official certified course and test to be a USATF Certified Para – Official. Going forward all certified Para-Officials must first become USATF Officials and follow their rules for advancement as an official. Those Para-Officials that were previously certified, will be required to recertify as both a USATF official and as a para-official but they will be allowed to maintain their current official status level going forward.

Phil and others are working with the USATF Athletics for the Disabled Committee to define an Open Division set of rules for USATF's Junior Olympics (JO's) and all other USATF meets that will allow a disabled athlete to easily participate without having to have knowledge of IPC rules. In 2013, three events will be contested at JO's by athletes with a disability: the 200m, 800m, and the shot put. The events will be broken down into male and female and wheelchair and ambulatory. For the shot put there will be two categories within the wheelchair division: Class 1 for athletes affected below the waist and Class 2 for athletes affected in both their upper and lower body. The rules being worked on will allow for athletes with various disabilities to compete in the same event. WTFUSA's goals are to find athletes at USATF meets and encourage them to be classified and to compete at WASUSA competitions and to have the NJDC™ recognized by USATF as the national track and field meet for athletes with a disability.

Charlie and Phil confronted Steve Cuomo, Chair of the Athletics for the Disabled Committee, about his use of the NJDC™ name last summer. Steve told them that he was not aware of it being used but he did promise that it would not happen again.

WTFUSA is going to submit the Junior exceptions to the USATF Rulebook before 12/31/12 so that they will be included in the 2013 USATF Rulebook. Charlie has written a draft version and Phil is currently reviewing it before it is submitted to USATF.

WTFUSA is updating its rulebook for 2013. Recently, the IPC published rule changes that they plan to implement in the summer of 2013 following the IPC Athletics World Championships. Some of their proposed changes include the requirement of helmets for all wheelchair track athletes at all distances, a change in the lifting rule for seated field athletes, and the elimination of the RAZA system in field for combined class events. WTFUSA will not adopt any of the new IPC rules in 2013. WTFUSA will host a rules session at NJDC™ for coaches, athletes, and parents to review the changes so teams can start to



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prepare athletes for the 2014 season. Additionally, Phil said WTFUSA may need to host a training camp for athletes attending the IWAS Games if they will be affected by the rule changes at that competition.

- 9. Regional Point Organizations/Regional Sport Organizations:** Paul Johnson reported. Paul said the RPO Council is creating a form to be sent to all active Chapters to gather data about what they do and who they currently serve. Paul attended the USATF meeting at the start of December. He has volunteered to communicate with high schools and USATF associations to find athletes with a disability to compete at the JO's. Jerry reported that the group in Colorado is gathering paperwork and has begun doing work to become an active Chapter again within WASUSA. They will be hosting a meet in Denver in June.
- 10. Athlete Advisory:** There is currently a vacancy in the Athlete Representative position. Darlene has attempted to contact a number of people to see if they are interested in serving. Tyler Byers and Amie Day have expressed interest in the role. Darlene will reach out to Amie to notify her that she has been selected to fill the vacant position. She will also contact Tyler to request if he'd like to serve on the Athlete Council as the track representative. Jerry will also make contact with Tyler to involve him with activities in his area. Darlene would like to collaborate with Gregg to write a job description for the Athlete Representative position as well as create goals for the Athlete Council.
- 11. New Business**
- a. **"Lighthouse" Donations:** In the past, Debbie suggested a donation campaign that would honor an individual named by the donor. She would like to see this campaign take off in 2013. In return for his donation, the donor would receive a WASUSA coffee mug with the name of the honored individual on the mug. Members of the marketing committee will meet at the beginning of January to discuss the program. Phil suggested the campaign start as soon as possible and end on Valentine's Day and market it as the "share the love" campaign.
 - b. **Starting a new sport:** Gregg was approached to start an air rifle and pistol program for athletes ages 14 and older. The program would be in part sponsored by an outside entity. Gregg is going to contact USA Shooting to begin a partnership with them.
- 12. Old Business**
- a. **Trademark:** Jerry and Parke Rublee have been working on trademarking the National Junior Disability Championships. Jerry spoke with legal counsel and they recommended WASUSA immediately begin using "™" in all documents, websites, and any communications. Gregg said that he's spoken with a marketing person and he feels that NJDC doesn't clearly state what the championships encompass. He would like the Board to consider a possible name change or a better way of marketing the current title. Jerry will be sending a thank you note to the legal counsel group that offered their assistance pro bono.
 - b. **Update on Anita Z. Lawrence Trust Fund:** Ralph reported that \$115,000 of the funds have been received. It is expected that WASUSA will receive a small amount more from this Trust. Jessie has requested that a portion of this money be used to support the 2013 IWAS Jr. World Games team. There was discussion surrounding this topic. **Denise motioned to earmark \$750 per staff member and \$750 per athlete that is not receiving funding via other sources for the 2013 IWAS Team. The total shall not exceed \$20,000. Gregg 2nd. Motion carried.**

Jerry motioned to adjourn the meeting. Denise 2nd. Motion carried.

13. Next Meeting: February 12, 2013 at 7pm EST.