



Wheelchair and Ambulatory Sports, USA
Board of Directors Meeting
April 16, 2013

7:00 – 9:00pm EST

Present: Deb Armento, Ralph Armento, Gregg Baumgarten, Mike Burns, Jerry Clayton, Paul DePace, Jessica Galli, Phil Galli, Denise Hutchins, Paul Johnson, Glen O'Sullivan

Absent: Melinda Chappell, Amie Day, Darlene Hunter

1. Call to order by Gregg Baumgarten, Chair

2. February 2013 Minutes: Glen moved to pass the February 2013 minutes. Denise 2nd. Motion carried.

3. Chair's Report: Gregg Baumgarten reported.

- a. **Grant Opportunities:** Gregg is continuing to pursue grant and funding opportunities for WASUSA but has not had much success to date. He received a notice from the Bob & Renee Parsons Foundation thanking WASUSA for a grant submission proposal but turning WASUSA down. They did invite WASUSA to submit at another time, which Gregg plans to do. Bob Parsons is the founder of Go Daddy and lives in the valley.

Gregg continues to work with Mueller Sports Medicine on a funding project idea he had called Operation Quench (Quench Gum is a product of MSM and one of their big moneymakers) that would have them grant WASUSA \$30,000 to \$40,000 to fund an adaptive sports equipment recycling program. This program would solicit used chairs, frames, rims, etc. to be shipped to a central location, refurbished/refit, and distributed to financially needy new athletes.

Darlene, with Jessie's assist, submitted a grant proposal letter to the Craig Nielsen Foundation for \$25,000 for coach's education.

Gregg is still waiting to hear back from the Dow Chemical Corp regarding participation in WASUSA's leadership advisory initiative. He has since reached out to his Dow Chemical Corp. contact and has received a new contact that he will reach out to May.

Sports N Spokes has offered WASUSA a 40% discount for chapter members and a 30% discount for individual members (or percentages along those lines) for membership incentive to WASUSA. Gregg is working on getting total funding covered and also is continuing to work on including Challenge Magazine as part of WASUSA membership benefits.

- b. **WASUSA Storage Unit:** Gregg cleaned out the WASUSA storage unit in Colorado Springs and the account was closed. Gregg went through all of the document boxes and packed everything that had any historical significance into a 5' X 8' Uhaul trailer to bring back to AZ for storage and vetting at some point
- c. **Meetings with Mike Mushett:** Gregg is pleased with the tone and tenor of the meetings with Mike. Mike indicated an eagerness to work with WASUSA in whatever initiatives were mutually beneficial. A recurring theme was the need for alignment in those areas where both organizations are currently involved and improved communication between all groups. Mike wanted Gregg to emphasize to WASUSA membership that neither he nor anyone at USP has any intent of undermining or eliminating WASUSA, the regional structure or their chapters. Mike conceded that the handling of the situation that led to the defunding of DSO's by USP (new USOC leadership) was unfortunate and probably led to many hard feelings on the part of the DSO's. Gregg agreed but also pointed out that this happened before Mike or the others WASUSA deals with at USP were around so it is time for both groups to move on in a more collaborative and supportive fashion. Mike asked for proposals on how USP could support WASUSA in its efforts. Gregg would like for the Board to discuss some ideas that would be mutually beneficial. Mike and Gregg also discussed my Gregg's proposal for the development of a Disabled Sports Curriculum specifically designed for universities and colleges in conjunction with an accreditation utilizing the USP and WASUSA brand. Basically development of basic introductory college course(s) for all education majors, therapy (ot, pt, rec, music) and health field majors. A basic introductory 3 credit course for all and a more involved 9 credit set of courses for a CUSP certification. This is one area where WASUSA's expertise would really be to the benefit of WASUSA and USP. Mike also asked Gregg to serve on an upcoming committee to address the needs presented by the Office of Civil Rights letter of direction with regards to disabled sports in the K-12 setting. This is in the planning stages pending grant funding.



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- d. **Meeting with USP Staff:** Gregg also met with Dean Nakamura, Erin Popovich and the three regional USP reps, along with Mike. This was very constructive in terms of identifying needs of both groups and areas of potential collaboration. Much of the discussion centered on the regional structure of WASUSA, the competitions and maintaining the integrity and quality of the competitions. Gregg was surprised to learn that no one in the room was aware of the levels of competition that had been developed or the criteria therein. In the discussions, Erin indicated that this might be a mechanism for addressing the shortage of classifiers, putting more emphasis on classifiers and officials at Level 3. She did indicate that there would be more classification clinics and Gregg stressed that more of these should be done regionally in conjunction with WASUSA regional games as funding of travel is an ongoing issue. All of the reps were also eager to assist WASUSA in its goal to reestablish regional competitions in areas that historically were strong but had fallen off, such as the Pacific Northwest, Southern California and New England.

- e. **Meeting with USABA:** The meeting with Mark Lucas and Matt Simpson went very well. They agreed that so many of WASUSA's initiatives are aligned and it only makes sense to pool limited resources. Specifically the NJDC for this year has some potential for their junior athletes in Track & Field and swimming since they cancelled their championships due to a lack of numbers. Mark said USABA would refer all interested athletes to Rochester for this year and he was very interested in Iowa State for 2014 for several reasons 1) apparently the Iowa group are doing the National Goalball Championships at Iowa State the month before NJDC and 2) they are in year 3 for a fitness challenge funded through a grant and would like to make the NJDC an option for a competition goal for participants who could meet standards. Gregg thought all of these things would align nicely with what WASUSA would like to see happen. Gregg was amenable to WASUSA recognizing USABA members for participation in NJDC in exchange for sponsorship relationships. Gregg also invited Matt to join the Junior Committee as a representative of USABA and blind athletes, also something that would align with our desire to be inclusive. Jessie asked that Gregg first discuss with the Board any additions to the Junior Committee. Gregg said that he told Matt this offer would be pending Board approval. Gregg feels that WASUSA has history of involving outside groups within WASUSA committees. Denise said that there was little collaboration in the past. Phil suggested approaching this in the same manner that WASUSA partnered with the CP organizations in the past. Gregg noted that the Junior Committee is not a legislative body it is a technical working committee. He doesn't feel there is anything wrong with bringing in an outside group to sit on a working committee. Gregg would like Deb to take this idea to the Junior Committee and get their opinion on including a USABA representative on the committee. Deb said she feels the committee will welcome USABA's input. Denise said we will need to look into membership and insurance issues associated with these athletes attending NJDC. Gregg recommended that if USABA financially sponsored NJDC, then the USABA athletes would not be required to be WASUSA members. Jerry asked if representatives from DSO's could be brought in as advisory members to the Board rather than to just the Junior Committee since WASUSA caters to both adults and junior athletes.

- f. **WASUSA Intern:** Ralph and Gregg had the opportunity to interview the new intern, Kaley Carpenter, from St. Lawrence University in Canton, NY. She is a liberal arts major but has a strong background in social media and marketing. Ralph and Gregg both had an opportunity to discuss with her some projects that they would like to undertake over the course of the summer, such as some marketing and sponsorship brochures, inputting updates on the databases, etc. Gregg would also like to discuss with the BOD about flying her to the NJDC at WASUSA's expense to meet everyone and get a feel for the organization, the operation, etc. Kaley will be working with WASUSA from approximately June 1 to the first week in August. She was a very impressive young lady on the phone interview.

- g. **Easing the Burden:** Ralph and Gregg had a long discussion about ways to ease Ralph's burden, both given the stress the job places on him and the health issues he is currently dealing with. In addition they had a long discussion regarding if Ralph does have an emergency health crisis, Gregg doesn't want Debbie to be in the position of having to pick up requests, demands, obligations while dealing with everything else. Ralph will be placing all of the databases into Dropbox and they will explore the feasibility of keeping all databases on Google Docs as shared docs. Gregg also shared with Ralph some ideas for delegating the ADF responsibilities, insurance certs, sanctioning follow-up, etc. Gregg shared with Ralph the discussion of the Executive Committee and asked him to bring to the BOD meeting feedback on our ideas and other possible alternatives. He has already delegated to me the CFC initiative that we will share with the BOD.



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4. International Liaison Report: Paul DePace reported.

- a. **IWAS Executive Meeting:** The IWAS Executive meeting was held last week in Copenhagen, Denmark and hosted by the Danish Paralympic Committee. Board members are from Denmark, France, Iran, South Africa, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Greece and the USA. IWAS received membership applications from Libya, Haiti and Estonia.
- b. **IWAS Junior World Games:** The Junior World Games will be held in Puerto Rico in August. The latest athlete count is in the 200 range. Typically these Games bring in over 300 athletes
- c. **2014 IWAS Junior World Games:** The IWAS Board approved Stoke Mandeville, UK as the site for the 2014 Games. Tentative dates are August 2-12, 2014.
- d. **2015 IWAS Junior World Games:** The tentative location for the 2015 Games is Stadskanaal, Netherlands. This is pending a signed contract.
- e. **2013 IWAS World Games:** These Games will take place in September in Stadskanaal, Netherlands. Over 600 athletes have registered to compete. There will be a joining of nations meeting at this competition for the IWAS Board. The Board will be electing a replacement for Maura Strange as she has retired. The Board would also like to expand to include representatives from South America and Asia.
- f. **Amputee Football (Soccer):** IWAS is working with the sport of amputee soccer to create or to become the international federation for the sport.
- g. **CPISTRA:** IWAS is still in discussion with CPISTRA on a merger of the two organizations. CPISTRA is waiting for soccer and boccia to find new homes with other international federations before they move forward.

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

- a. **Fundraising:** Denise will follow up with the fundraising sites previously discussed with the Board. She has not yet heard back from them. Gregg said that he would like to look into YouTube for nonprofits with Denise.

6. Treasurer's Report: Mike Burns reported.

- a. **Anita Lawrence Trust:** Mike hasn't heard anything else from the estate. He will follow up with them.

7. Office Report: Ralph Armento reported

- a. **Membership:** The current membership (as of April 15) is 319 members. The membership at this time last year was 312. Ralph raised four points for membership change that will be sent to the Membership Committee for consideration. The four points are:
 - A significant number of people have requested multi-year membership
 - Apportionment of sports fees: does it promote growth?
 - How do we handle clubs and individual membership?
 - Dixie RSO requirements for BOD members to change
- b. **Certificate of Insurance Requests:** Ralph reported that since the last BoD meeting he has received 71 COI requests. Additionally, a new COI form has been developed and is on the WASUSA website. It has also been distributed to all insurance "users."
- c. **ADF Accounts:** Currently there are 65 members. Ralph has built an MS Access Database in order to handle ADF contributions through Paypal and Bank of America. The quarterly reports due to all ADF account holders will be sent out this weekend.



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- d. **Shared databases:** Ralph is working on updating Dropbox in order to give selected individuals access to Bank of America Statements, ADF ledger/database and other proprietary and non-proprietary information (i.e., letterhead, membership database, etc). The plan is for all items to be uploaded by the end of this month.
- e. **Combined Federal Campaign:** Regulations are changing for the CFC. As a result, Ralph is delegating this task to Gregg as it is a part of his position that has been mostly ignored due to time constraints. Gregg would like to attend a CFC workshop being held in Washington, DC. **Jerry motioned to approve financially supporting Gregg to attend this workshop. Denise 2nd. Motion carried.**
- f. **Sanctioned Meet Report Status for 2013:** Ralph has received results from the Tri-State swim meet and the Louisiana GUMBO Games. There are 17 sanctioned meets remaining in the season. The West Virginia Challenged Track & Field Championships have chosen not to be sanctioned by WASUSA this year.
- g. **Background Checks for 2013:** There are four BoD/staff members whose coverage has expired. They will be notified in the next few days as to how to proceed. The rest of the BoD will receive an email with their expiration date as well as the appropriate paperwork.

8. Committee Reports

- a. **Marketing & Social Media Committee:** Gregg was able to get the verification of WASUSA's domain completed for Google Docs. By being registered with Google Docs, WASUSA can have access to their email services (including extensive contacts), their calendar (which can allow us to update members on regional comps, workshops, deadlines, etc.), the drive (word processing of shared docs, spread sheets, presentation software) and many other features. Eventually, Gregg would like for the entire BOD to have wasusa.org email addresses that will link everyone to calendars, shared documents, etc. Gregg will be sharing more information soon and encourage everyone to go to google.com and learn more about Google for Non-profits.
- b. **International Games:** Deb Armento reported. Deb has been working with a travel agent to book flights for all team members. All members will be meeting in either Newark or Atlanta and departing from there to Puerto Rico.
- c. **Strategic Planning Committee:** Gregg asked if Mr. Gilbane would be willing to be a part of the strategic planning committee. Paul D. said that in a previous conversation he had with Gilbane and Phil that Gilbane said he would not feel comfortable serving in this capacity since he does not have sport specific knowledge.
- d. **Junior Committee:** Deb Armento reported.
 - i. **2013 NJDC™:** Deb asked Paul D. if he could make contact with the Gilbane Company to find out if they are interested in supporting NJDC again this year. Meal tickets will cost \$125 and are inclusive of the banquet ticket. Banquet tickets are \$35 for adults and \$25 for athletes. One hotel has already sold out. Deb wants to recommend that there be colored shirts for referees. She asked for approval from Jerry. Denise said that referee shirts can be any color. Pepsi is going to be a sponsor of the Games. The event schedule is being finalized.
- e. **Governance Committee:** Paul Johnson reported. The group has reviewed the Constitution and Bylaws. They will next review the Policies and Procedures Manual.
- f. **STCs and NGBs:**
 - i. **STCs:**
 - 1. **Powerlifting:** Deb Armento submitted report electronically. Powerlifting has completed a very long task as to completing the changes and updating the rulebook. Deb had a phone conference with Mary Hodge and WASUSA has her support for Adult Nationals for powerlifting. Deb also was able to get Mary's opinion on how WASUSA can support Mary's needs and keep grassroots at the same time. Deb gave a big thanks to Mary Stack, Melissa and Chase, as well as Denise for helping with the rulebook.



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2. **Table Tennis:** Jennifer Johnson submitted report electronically. The rules and some of the information Jennifer forwarded was posted on the WASUSA website. There was feedback from one person, Jeannie Senter, which she responded to and was also responded to by Roman. The first training camp organized by the USATT will be held in San Diego, CA April 18-21. It is a mandatory camp for the National Teams. Limited space is available for payment to other athletes. Table Tennis athletes will be attending competitions in Slovenia, Slovakia, Germany and the Parapan in Brazil. Jennifer will be going to Germany as Team Leader/player. Her expenses were sponsored. She has investigated the educational information for table tennis. She thinks a video such as the one tennis has made with David Wagner and Coach would be a good tool to create for table tennis. At the moment Jennifer don't have an estimated cost to produce the material. She has approached Pam Fontaine, Andre Scott and Tara Profit to help with this and they have agreed. Jennifer said there are three positions open and information can be found on the para USTTA website.
3. **Archery:** No report given.
4. **Swimming:** Glen O'Sullivan submitted report electronically. Glen is working on NJDC swim schedule/events. He will have it done by the end of the week. Glen will be leaving for Colorado Springs next Wednesday for the Amazing Leaders Conference. He will be staying for three additional weeks in Colorado Springs to coach the Army Swim team for the Warrior Games.

ii. **NGB's**

1. **Track and Field:** Phil Galli reported. Phil will get the updated certified officials list to Debbie. He said they are still waiting to hear from the IPC on the rules that are expected to go into effect this summer. Ralph asked how the new masters age groups should be written in SAMS and in the record books. Phil said they are M40, M50 and M60.

g. **Athlete Advisory:** No report given.

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

- a. **Central RPO:** Paul Johnson reported. Louisiana hosted the GUMBO Games and the Texas Regional Games just took place in San Antonio. USP held a classifiers course at TRG and trained 6 new classifiers. Paul said he did not have any NJDC postcards to distribute. Deb said she will send the postcards to all attendees.
- b. **Western RPO:** No report given.
- c. **Eastern RPO:** No report given.

10. **New Business**

- a. **Coaches Education:** Paul Johnson reported. Ralph and Gregg would like to create a working group to discuss this topic. Paul has reached out to Jonna Belanger from TWU and SWAA to look at general coaches' education course and evaluate them. She is also looking for two other people one from each RPO to assist. Paul reached out to Cathy Sellers to find out where the committee she has working on for track and field are. They are preparing an online course which will supplement the USATF Coaches Education Level 1 course. Ron Carmichael from TX is an archery instructor and his daughter is a Paralympic Archer who provides coaches education. He provided some information and I will be reaching out to him about what will be needed to conduct training and develop a list for sites for required items for classes. Paul is waiting to hear back from Pam Fontaine (table tennis) and Bob Foth (airguns).
- b. **Boston Marathon:** Gregg would like WASUSA to make a statement of condolences about the tragedy at the Boston Marathon.

11. **Next Meeting: June 11, 2013 at 7pm EST.**