



Wheelchair and Ambulatory Sports, USA
Board of Directors Meeting
April 16, 2014
7:00pm – 9:15pm EST

Present: Deb Armento, Ralph Armento, Gregg Baumgarten, Mike Burns, Jerry Clayton, Jessica Cloy, Amie Day, Phil Galli, Paul Johnson, Mike Mushett, Glen O'Sullivan

Absent: Melinda Chappell, Paul DePace, Darlene Hunter, Denise Hutchins

1. **Call to order by Gregg Baumgarten, Chair**
2. **February 2014 Minutes:** Deb motioned to approve the revised minutes from 2/11/14. Mike B. 2nd. Motion carried.
3. **Chair's Report:** Gregg Baumgarten reported.
 - a. **Storage Site in Arizona:** Gregg was recently informed that the storage site that he has been utilizing in Mesa to house the remaining items from the Colorado Springs storage facility will be raising its fees in June. This presents a dilemma in that Gregg doesn't want to have to identify another storage site, reload and transfer this material if, as it appears, it is junk. However, Gregg also doesn't want to toss something that might have historical significance to the organization. Gregg is open to suggestions on how WASUSA can go about determining what should be archived and what should be trashed. He suggested that those attending the Desert Challenge Games could help to sort through the documents. Jerry and Denise will be at Desert Games and both offered to help.
 - b. **Mid-Atlantic Games, Richmond, VA:** The Mid Atlantic Games were very well organized and supported. The work of Sportable, our local chapter member, was very impressive. The collaborative relationships that they have established with the community and Virginia Commonwealth University are very impressive. The VCU track facility was incredible and they had good support from local USAT&F officials. The electronic timing people were very good to work with. The overall layout of the track is excellent for staging wheelchair track events. The swimming facility was second to none. It had multiple bulkheads and lanes and could be configured for long course or short course. The starter and head judge were both IPC certified and there were 12 USA swim officials. The pool is indoors and grounded. The director of the pool facility was lobbying hard to host national meets at the facility. Archery had a world archery official who did an excellent job in running the event. The Sportable staff is excellent and very well organized.
 - c. **Air Force W2 Program:** Gregg and his brother, Tim, travelled to Las Vegas to assist with the shooting event at the Air Force W2 Warrior Games trials. The event went off without a hitch, which was pretty amazing since they had to accommodate approximately 150 shooters over the course of the week. The AFW2 staff was very appreciative of the assistance of WASUSA and requested that we come back next year. Gregg believes that there are numerous opportunities like this with various service branches that WASUSA needs to explore and develop. In addition, it was very obvious to him that there is a need for classification for military teams outside of the US Paralympics domain.
 - d. **NJDC: 2015 –** Gregg has reached out to the Reno/Tahoe Visitor's Bureau to try to gauge their interest for hosting the 2015 NJDC. He has not heard back from them after their initial discussions. He gave them a deadline of May 1 to submit a bid. Valley Forge had indicated an interest in 2015 to him but their sports director left and Gregg hasn't heard much from them since. There is also interest from Durham, North Carolina and someone in South Carolina. Gregg discussed the possibility of NJDC for 2015 in Richmond and the local committee was receptive to discussing it. Gregg believes they are ready to host. 2016 – The Jr. Committee has a bid in hand for 2016 from Lincoln, Nebraska but, in speaking to both Derek and Charlie, their schedules are such that 2015 is out of the question. Atlanta, Georgia has also indicated an interest in submitting a bid for 2016 in conjunction with the 20th anniversary of the Atlanta Olympic and Paralympic Games. There is already excellent infrastructure for games management in Atlanta and this event could be leveraged into an excellent fund-raising opportunity. 2017 & Beyond – Gregg was recently contacted by Mike Gaffaney from the Eugene, Oregon Sports Commission who is interested in hosting in 2017 or beyond. In addition, several other locales have expressed interest for future NJDC's.
 - e. **Meetings in Washington, DC:** Gregg and Mike M. had some very productive meetings in Washington DC that have potential to provide numerous opportunities for WASUSA and its members. A lunch meeting with DSUSA explored the possibility of combining NDA with a DSUSA conference to provide both organizations' chapters information and strategic plans for the Athletics for All Initiative. Since chapter members will be the front line in



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implementation, it will be critical to have a unified message in terms of inclusion. DSUSA staff are discussing this opportunity. Gregg and Mike had a meeting with Ann Cody and Ryan Murphy from the State Department and identified several opportunities for athlete exchange programs to enhance the education and cultural awareness between WASUSA members and athletes from selected countries. The meeting with Michael Welsh also provided good information on potential grant opportunities for WASUSA. We are uniquely positioned to provide direct programming for the veterans.

4. Executive Director Report: Mike Mushett reported.

a. **Listen & Learn:** Mike has had 1:1 conversations with the majority of BoD members to discuss organizational priorities, needs and opportunities. Calls to date have been insightful and helpful. He fully appreciates the talents, energy, and passion exhibited by BoD members. Calls with the balance of the Board members will be completed in the next few weeks. He continues to familiarize himself with organizational operational procedures, financials and issues.

b. **Executive Director Priorities:**

i. **Fund development**

1. **Craig T. Neilsen Foundation** (Spinal Cord Injury/Youth/DoE Interscholastic Sports program-potential 6 figure grant): LOI was accepted and approved by the Neilsen Foundation per 3/27/14 communication. WASUSA was invited to submit formal funding application due to Neilsen on May 30, 2014.
2. **2014 VA Grant Proposal** (Disabled & Injured Veterans and Service Members-potential 6 figure grant): Gregg B. and Mike M. met with Michael Welch, Paralympic Program Specialist, Department of Veterans Affairs on April 8, 2014. Mr. Welch confirmed that WASUSA is a designated National Partner with the VA moving forward. WASUSA is positioned to receive a grant from the VA in the next round of funding. Details and timing for the next round of funding is currently being developed by the VA and Congress. The VA projects that funding will be available by the end of calendar year 2014. Mike will continue to develop the VA relationship and “pre-register” WASUSA with appropriate government entities.
3. **State Department “SportsUnited” grant program:** Gregg B. and Mike M. met with Ann Cody and Ryan Murphy on April 8, 2014. WASUSA is eligible to apply for “Sport & Disability” grants (2-way international exchange programs-potential 6 figure grants). Next round of funding (RFP) will be released in November of this year for 2015. Mike will continue to nurture State Department relationship and “pre-register” WASUSA with appropriate government entities. WASUSA will work with Ann Cody on the development of the State Department’s “Empowering Women & Girls through Sports Initiative”. Great opportunity for WASUSA female leaders to get engaged.
4. **American Legion Child Welfare Foundation:** Grant opportunity forwarded to WASUSA by Cindy Housner and Diana Helt of GLASA. Mike will research and pursue submission of grant application.

c. **WASUSA Branding & Messaging Alignment:** Mike is working with the WASUSA Marketing Committee to establish a consistent and sophisticated organization message and brand identity. Mike discussed a potential relationship with Primavera Marketing to provide professional and objective expertise to address need. Resolution of issue is “key” to retooling of website and positioning of WASUSA fundraising initiatives. Mike shared Primavera’s Scope of Work submitted to WASUSA.

d. **Additional Priorities:**

- i. Working with Ralph A. to improve WASUSA record keeping which is critical to future funding initiatives.
- ii. Representing WASUSA at April 22-23 “Athletes for All” Task Force hosted by WASUSA
- iii. Working with Ralph A. and Gregg B. on identifying 2014 NDA site, dates and program.
- iv. Continue to work on organizational priority alignment with key partners including US Paralympics, DSUSA, USABA etc.



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5. **International Liaison Report:** No report given.
6. **Vice Chair's Report:** No report given.
7. **Treasurer's Report:** No report given.
8. **Office Report:** Ralph Armento reported.
 - a. **Membership Status:** Ralph reported that as of April 11, 2014:
Online Memberships (Active.com) 162
Memberships via Paper Registration: 89
Total Number of National Memberships: 231
Number of 2013 Memberships at the same time last year: 152
Number of Members Selecting Two-Year Members: 12
Number of Three-Year Members: 17
% Electing Multi-Year Memberships: 19.2%
Recreational Members: 25

Ralph completed three membership audits: Tri-State Swim, GUMBO, and Mid-Atlantic. Only Mid-Atlantic had participants (17) who were not members. He is waiting for data from SEWSA and the Texas Regional Games, which were completed last weekend.

Gregg asked Ralph to gather the list of members pre-April 1st so that the drawing for the \$250 scholarships can be made. He suggested Ralph host the drawing at a Tri-State meeting or at another event so there are observers. Jessie commented that all WASUSA employees and Board of Director members' names should be removed from the drawing. The group agreed. Family members of Board members can remain in the pool.

- b. **Insurance Status:** Ralph received AD&D Premium Invoice (usually renewed in March of each year). WASUSA received a \$350 increase in the AD&D premium, reflecting the increase in chapters covered under our plan. With regard to our liability insurance, Ralph has processed a total of 106 certificate requests. This approximates one certificate per calendar day. He is in the process of finishing an RFI so that we can go out to the interested parties and ask for quotes.
- c. **ADF Accounts:** First quarter statements were mailed out on April 5th. There is approximately \$77K in the restricted fund. There have been eight (8) new applicants, the majority of which are a result of the 2014 IWAS Junior Games.
- d. **Sanctioning:** There are two meets that have not as yet turned in their sanctioning forms: Ohio Wheelchair Games and the Iowa Regional Meet. Ralph will follow up with them this week in order to determine their status. Currently three meets have completed. Ralph is awaiting results from Texas Regionals and SEWSA. He will be listing regional meet results online shortly.
- e. **Chapter Membership:** Thirty five chapters have registered in 2014. A survey for chapters will go out in the next 1-2 weeks. All current chapters are now listed on the website.

9. Committee Reports

- a. **International Games Committee:** No report submitted.
- b. **Junior Committee:** Deb Armento reported. There have been several meetings with the LOC from IOWA and members of the Jr. Committee. Following is a quick review of key contacts and work being done. Seann and Deb have continuous emails and calls. They are working on the invitations to officials/ classifiers and are going to have a conference call tomorrow afternoon. Deb sent the LOC names and contact information in January with updates since. She also sent them copies of last year's invitation letters. Last fall during NDA members of the Jr. Committee and some board members discussed the possibility of including a demonstration/workshop on triathlons. Deb sent out an invite to Dare2Tri for either Saturday of the week of NJDC upon advice of the



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committee. After following up with Keri from Dare2Tri, the Jr. Committee has scheduled for Keri to have time during a social event for a presentation. She will have a video and some of her athletes at her workshop. There should be over 100 people in attendance. Next year the Jr Committee will discuss adding triathlon to our list of events. Phil Galli, Pam Carey, Tom Southall and Deb held a 2 1/2 hour instructional phone conference with about 12 USAT&F officials to review the IPC/WTFUSA rules and new seated throwing requirements. Deb is waiting to hear how many of the officials that attended the session are committing to working NJDC. Deb asked each Jr. Committee sport head to contact the local Iowa sport contacts to set up a meeting. Glen O'Sullivan had a productive meeting with the Iowa swimming contact. The LOC will supply all but two officials for the swimming competition. Deb shared the new tri-fold, which was made for NJDC Iowa. Deb is sending to Dan Schweider at US Paralympics and asking him to share it with the Paralympic Sport Clubs. Mike M. suggested Deb share the cards with Cathy Sellers and Queenie Nichols to be handed out at high school competitions. Invites have been sent out to all meet directors to be handed out. Deb has been updating and redoing registration forms to be posted online. Charlie Sheppard has been working on the online form. They are delayed in getting everything online due to the change in plans with Iowa. The Jr. Committee is ordering new equipment, where needed. IPC applications for track and field have been sent in and are awaiting decision. Deb is working on the program book for the games. Gregg B. needs to send her a letter to be included in the book. Deb mentioned an experience she had at Kessler Hospital yesterday in NJ. This sparked a conversation about the need to get out information about WASUSA programming to rehab hospitals around the country. Deb noted the person-to-person contact has a big impact and she encourages regular in person visit every couple of months.

Future NJDC's: The Jr. Committee has a bid from Lincoln, Nebraska for 2016. They are expecting a second bid for Atlanta soon. Ralph and Deb are working with a few other areas that expressed interest but have not officially met with their committees yet. The Jr. Committee is still seeking a location for 2015.

- c. **Marketing Committee:** No report given.
- d. **Strategic Planning:** Gregg B. reported. The SPC has been busy developing organizational structure for the Sports Technical Committees in an effort to provide regional input on sports concerns. Mike M has developed a job description and STC chairs are now reviewing the description and working with Regional Directors to identify appropriate regional reps. The process should be completed by Mid-May.
- e. **Governance Committee:** No report given.
- f. **STCs and NGBs:**
 - i. **STCs:**
 1. **Archery:** Ken Bagala submitted report electronically. The WASUSA Archery Rulebook for 2014 has been revised and updated to be more compliant with World Archery rules. Ralph has updated the archery record books and it is now current.
 2. **Powerlifting:** Deb Armento reported. Chicago is going to buy a new powerlifting bench. A gym in the area would like to set up a bench so that local athletes can use it. The Powerlifting STC will help pay for the new bench with the caveat that this bench will be transported to NJDC and around the country when needed.
 3. **Swimming:** Glen O'Sullivan submitted report electronically. The rulebook and records have been updated on SAMS and the website. The new Swim Qualifications for the Long Course Meet have been completed and posted on the website and SAMS. The "A" level times are on the website and "B" level times are in the rulebook. Glen had a phone conference with the LOC in Ames, Tim Teeter, Mike and Seann. Glen is confident that the Long Course meet will be set up and ready to go. The second day, Mike and Seann are aware that they may need to get extra volunteers for the meet. The swim team will work the Monday but can't do Tuesday due to too many days out of the water. Tim is still putting it out to the team and will see if parents can help.
 4. **Table Tennis:** Jennifer Johnson submitted report electronically. Jennifer has reviewed Table Tennis on WASUSA.org. Everything looks good except she would recommend removing the tab "USA Para Table



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Tennis" and change the name of the tab "2014 National Team" to "USA Para Table Tennis". She will work with Jessica on this to clarify or answer any questions. The 2014 Mike Dempsey Memorial Table Tennis Tournament, San Diego, December has been cancelled. At this time Jennifer does not know if there will be one scheduled for 2014. It is unfortunate that this has happened as many new and junior players look forward to developing their international experience at this tournament. Only one table tennis player, Tahl Leibovitz of New York, has qualified for the World Championships in China. Pam Fontaine of Texas is an alternate for Women's Class III.

ii. NGB's

1. **Track and Field:** Phil Galli reported. WTFUSA continues to work with US Paralympics and USATF on certifying Para Officials. Through March we have had over 150 certified officials. We published Version 2 of our Field chair Presentation as well as the Standards for Track and Field. The standards start as 1.5 times higher than the National Record time for Track and half the national record shorter in Field. The new standards were then matched against the NJDC results for 2013. Track results were fine. Field results had 46% of the NJDC athletes not making the new standards. They changed the Field standards so the first three in an age division / Class now meet the standards. This meant that only one field athlete from 2013 would not make the new standards. They will review results as they come in so as not to allow for additional changes if necessary. Where there was no national record the times/distances of 2013 remain the standard and as athletes compete in these classes the standards will be revised. Phil has a request into the WTFUSA board to place standards again on the National meeting agenda to see if there is a better way to accept athletes to compete at NJDC. Richmond Regional Meet and SEWSA Games were held this month and Phil has received calls from both meets before they began with questions on Field. WTFUSA held a phone training session for NJDC official's in Iowa. The class lasted 1 ½ hours and many of the officials went and took the test to be certified. The Kessler Foundation 10k will be this year's WTFUSA national 10K. Details will be put up on the WASUSA website. Phil has gotten questions about where to buy bean bags, medicine ball etc. for Class 30 events. If anyone knows please, let Phil know so he can post it in the WTFUSA section of the WASUSA website. Phil will be delivering a track and field clinic to DSUSA chapters in May at Lakeshore along with others.

10. Regional Point Organizations:

- a. **Western RPO:** Jerry Clayton reported. The Denver 5280 meet is applying for USATF and WASUSA sanctioning. The meet is looking to double in attendance. Gregg reported that the Desert Challenge is at over 200 registered participants to date.
- b. **Central RPO:** Paul Johnson reported. The Texas Regional Games took place last weekend. 168 registered/138 competed. 110 military/85 participated. Overall, Paul reported the meet was a success. The swimming portion of this meet was incorporated into an able-bodied swim meet.
- c. **Eastern RPO:** Mike B. reported. SEWSA Games took place last weekend. The competition hosted a boccia competition for the first time. Mike said the events ran well. Gregg attended the Mid-Atlantic Games and was very impressed.

11. New Business

- a. **Primavera Proposal:** The Executive Committee met recently and discussed the Primavera proposal. The Marketing Committee also feels the same way. Mike reviewed the proposal with the group. The proposal is broken down into two phases. Mike is asking the Board to focus on Phase 1 for now. Darlene and the Marketing Committee have agreed to allocate the \$8000 in the marketing fund towards Phase 1. Jerry asked Mike B. to review the budget and the additional \$6000 needed to support Phase 1 and make a recommendation to the Board as to how to proceed. Gregg commented that there is money left in the endowment fund that could be used for this purpose. Mike B. will send an email to the Board on Friday with his recommendation. Then the Board will proceed with a vote on Phase 1.

12. Motion to Adjourn: Glen motioned to adjourn the meeting. Paul J. 2nd. Motion carried.



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13. Next Meeting: June 10th at 7pm EST