



Officers of the Corporation
Jeff Dickman
STATE CHAIR
William Terrell
VICE CHAIR
Nancy Zuena
TREASURER
Dianna Barkman
ACTING SECRETARY

Council Chairs
Ron Fazio
OFFICIALS
Pete DiBiase
INTERNATIONAL STYLE
Jason Nase
COACHES
Omar Feliciano
U23 / SR / CULTURAL

Rick Puerto
KIDS SCHOLASTIC
Lori Ayers
FEMALE
Committee Chairs
John Welch
LEGISLATIVE

Chris Curtis
MEMBERSHIP
Gary Brownell
NATIONAL TRIPS
Dave Mauro
SCHEDULING EVENTS
Bryan Heller
PUBLICITY

At Large
Harry Turner
Jennifer Clark
Mike Harris
Joanna Roman

Purpose of Meeting-SBG review financials, fresh start to the new year, upcoming tournaments & contingency plans

DATE: 1/6/2022

TIME: 8 PM

LOCATION: Zoom

1. **Call to Order 8:03 PM**
2. **Roll Call**
- **USAWNJ Members**

SGB Attendee Names

Jeff Dickman, Nancy Zuena, Rick Puerto, William Terrell, John Welch, Harry Turner, Pete DiBiase, Gary Brownell, Lori Ayres Chris Curtis, Dave Mauro, Omar Feliciano, Dianna Barkman, Jason Nase

SGB Attendees Not Present

Bryan Heller, Mike Harris, Jennifer Clark, Ron Fazio, Joanna Roman

3. **Discussion/Approval of Previous Minutes**

Remarks-

Jeff explained that the minutes were deemed null and void after the previous meeting on 9/22/21 was judged to be invalid.

Jeff called for any questions regarding the decision from the floor and asked John Welch how to proceed with a motion to acknowledge their removal. Motion to remove minutes was made by Rick Puerto and seconded by Dave Mauro.

4. **Reports**

Treasurer's Report

Remarks-

Financial statements were sent out in advance of the meeting to enable everyone the opportunity to review them. John started the discussion by saying that he was impressed with the amount of information that was presented and that it had been several years since such a detailed one had been presented. He went on to say that the entire SGB is responsible for the state of our finances and that this accounting is a good start for moving forward in the future. Questions were brought up regarding the 990 IRS statements for the past few years and our nonprofit status. Jason questioned our nonprofit status since the 990s have not been filed. Jeff stated that we have held our nonprofit status. He was finally able to get an original death certificate so he could remove the prior holder of the Ameritrade account allowing things to progress. Jeff and Nancy stated that our status is in the attorney's hands and will be resolved in the next few weeks. Jeff and Nancy are currently co-signers for amounts written for over \$500. Nancy will forward information from the accountant to the SGB when she hears back from him. Discussions regarding requiring co-signers included examples of types of large item payments it covered.

John asked about the loss of approximately \$100,000 from the previous year. Much of it was tied to Covid related issues and lack of revenue from Scholastic Qualifying tournaments that could not be held. John also asked about the differences in the assets when totaling listings.

Rick pointed out that it is not a balanced budget and needs to be revisited, revised and recalculated. Some of the items were unclear as to how they were listed. He would like to see it in more of a format that lists income and expenditures. He also suggested that PayPal be funneled through the USAW checking account. He feels it would be best practice and provide an easier and more open audit trail. He realizes that PayPal is probably used for ease to send money, but it is harder to account for in a financial statement. Nancy interpreted Rick's statement regarding PayPal to mean that it should be used to accept income (i.e., tournament registrations, etc.) and then monies collected be transferred to the Ameritrade account for payment of expenditures. Rick agreed with that interpretation. He feels it will be easier to have a full accounting of our finances if we followed that process. Nancy offered to redo the report so that it showed a clearer accounting of income and expenses.

Rick also called into question the cost listed for flights to the State Chairman's Conference. Jeff spoke on the cost for the flights. He chose to fly on an upgraded flight and offered to reimburse the difference in the cost of the flights. The flights were also more expensive because of the late bookings. There were 4 flights as Chris Ayres was also included as those attending the conference. Lori had offered to pay for his flight, but Jeff made the executive decision to have USAWNJ pay for Chris's flight since he attended general and coaching meetings for the organization. Nancy asked about the national meeting and Jeff gave an overview

regarding the topics. Jeff stated later in the meeting that he has the minutes from the State Chairman's Conference and will forward them to the group.

5. Old Business

Revisiting Co-chairs

Kids Scholastic-

Rick feels that there is not a need at this point for a co-chair because of low numbers of female participants (approx.120-130) He would entertain it in the future but does not think the time is right now. Rick also feels that adding a female co-chair should not be at the expense of losing a position on the board. Jeff feels that if Rick is comfortable without a co-chair at the present time, then we should go with the status quo.

International Style-

Pete feels a co-chair is needed to grow the women's side of the sport. He feels that we need to hold more clinics and tournaments specifically for the women in order to attract more girls into the sport. He feels we are making progress, but we could do more. He also made a point for more equity in our organization.

Discussion-

Gimp called into question the title of co-chair. He felt it would be better labeled as Boys Chair/Girls Chair. Jeff made the point that for the purposes of voting on the board that we already have a girls' chair (Female Council). Gimp made the distinction that it would be the Women's International Chair and the Scholastic style would hold a similar title. Rick asked for clarification as to whether the Female Council would stay as is or would it split into a position to promote female opportunities working in international and Folkstyle. Lori pointed out that she had great resources within her Female Council but that she felt it was difficult for women to join the SGB. She feels that the current set up of the Women's Council is not working. Lori's idea is to mirror the current structure of the "boys' side" and create the same structure centered on opportunities for girls. Nancy suggested coming up with a way to meld the groups together. Dianna questioned whether any women had sought to join the Scholastic council to help with promoting and growing more female numbers. Rick stated that he would welcome any involvement on the council if it was offered. John suggested having the Women's Council members brainstorm tasks to become involved such as joining the Scholastic council to offer suggestions (ex. Exhibition matches) Jason commented that he could not see a downside to adding a woman as co-chair. Rick restated that he was all for inclusion, but he is opposed to eliminating 2 positions on the board to accommodate that. Lori and Rick both agreed that there seems to be a lot that goes on behind the scenes and notices/emails are not always distributed to the entire SGB. Harry spoke to accepting small victories and steps forward. Jeff ended the discussion by stating that he would get together with John to figure out whether this would require a by-law change.

6. New Business

Nomination committee-

The SGB approved a nomination committee consisting of John Welch, Dave Mauro, Harry Turner, Bill Terrell, and Nancy Zuena. They will be meeting ASAP. Up for election this year are the State Chair and Secretary positions. All holders of offices and Council/Committee chairs will be asked if they wish to continue in their positions.

Covid Related restrictions on our tournaments

Covid is shutting things down and there is the uncertainty of having schools being able to hold tournaments. Rick stated that the Toms River tournament has much lower numbers registered this year (approx.200). West Orange, which offered its gym to hold the Union qualifier, is shutting down for the next few weeks. West Orange gym might not be open until the 15th. We are looking for alternate venues. Please reach out and let Rick know if you have other venue suggestions so he can work out a solution for the problem. Rick also stated that there needs to be some incentive for them to host. Nancy's arrangement with West Orange was to split the money coming in so a similar offer would be appropriate for alternate venues. Nancy spoke to our state senator, and he informed her that the state is coming closer to putting a number restriction on events. He will keep her informed as to a date when this will likely take place. She will keep us informed if this happens.

Jeff took the initiative to look into going back to Sportika as an alternate venue. There are 3 possible weekends that are available. Consecutive dates are March 12 &13, 19 & 20, 26 & 27. The cost would be \$3,000 to reserve the dates. We can use it to run the qualifiers or roll it into the Freestyle season. Jeff is looking for opinions on reserving Sportika. Jason's opinion was that we should go ahead and lock up the dates. CURE Insurance Arena in Trenton will pencil us in for States the following weekend-April 1, 2 & 3. Consensus was that we should go ahead and solidify the dates. Jeff will have Danny from Sportika draw up a contract for the facility. It will be sent to Nancy and Rick, as Scholastic chair, to approve it. If they approve Nancy will cut a check for Sportika. Rick's question to Pete was as to whether he would be able to utilize the facility for Freestyle season. Pete affirmed that he would like to use the facility for the Freestyle States (May 22nd). Jeff would make sure that it was written into the contract that the money could be rolled over to cover the Freestyle States should we not need the facility for Scholastic.

Rick shared information from the qualifiers meeting regarding payout to hosts. Qualifier costs have increased to \$50 per registration. He is bringing to the board a proposal to increase the payout to hosts from \$11.50 to \$15 per registered wrestler. The last increase in amount was four years ago. A motion was made by Rick Puerto and seconded by Nancy Zuena.

Northeast Regions

May 13th - Jeff has not been able to secure a facility that meets the needs for the event yet. He has been working with Pete Isais, USAW Director of National Events, on specific requirements. The venue needs to be 50,000 square feet, with hotel and

