

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
TRI-STATE WHEELCHAIR ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
AT CHILDREN'S SPECIALIZED HOSPITAL
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 17, 2011**

A. Roll Call/Board Attendees: Debbie Armento, Ralph Armento, Ken Brucato, Jimmy Cuevas, Phil Galli, , Daniel Martin, Gil Perez and Trisha Yurochko

Excused: Carolynne Bethka, Kelly Bucchere, Shaun Bucchere, Jennifer Johnson, Pat Redden

Meeting was called to order at 9:42 AM.

B. Review and Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the last meeting were distributed and reviewed. Trisha made a motion to approve the minutes, Phil seconded. Motion unanimously passed.

C. Chairperson's Report: Ken's opening statement was that we should focus on items relevant to the business of TSWAA and stay away from items which are only WASUSA-related. Phil and Debbie mentioned that as part of Tri-State we are the customers of wheelchair sports and therefore our business is very germane to the meeting. Trisha suggested we put time frames on items so we could push through things effectively. It was agreed that we would hold unrelated WASUSA – only news until the end of the meeting, or following adjournment.. Trisha and Ralph advised Ken that there were 27 athletes from the Tri-State Swim Meet and 72 from the Tri-State Meet in May (athletics, archery, weightlifting and table tennis).

D. Treasurer's Report: Trisha stated that we currently have a balance of \$4,793.18 in our TD account. There are the following pending items::

- the \$4,000 grant from U S P for the military grant
- Credits and debits for the equipment used by NJDC and/or ordered by Tri-State. Debbie and Trisha will sort this out.
- Invoice from the Mason's Games

Phil motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report; Debbie seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Old Business

1. Burke Meet: Ralph advised us that the Burke Wheelchair Games are all set for Saturday, September 24, 2011. There approximately 65 athletes attending, which includes the Westchester Special Children's School (Tony Bradley) and a CP Center in Westchester County. Phil inquired as to whether or not the athletes are required to be WASUSA members for this meet. Ralph stated that we have never required them to pay in the past; however it was agreed that it might but be a good idea to start the process next year. Ralph also stated that the meet leadership has changed twice since Toni Boelsen left the Department of Community Affairs. This is, in large part, why

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the plans for the reunion fell through. Motion was made to present Burke Rehabilitation Hospital with an award of recognition for their years of service to the Tri-State athletes. Phil motioned, Ralph agreed. Motion carried unanimously. Ken stated that he would be able to have an award ready by Saturday.

2. **Election of Officers:** It was recognized that we still need to vote for the Vice-Chair and Treasurer positions. Since there were a significant number of board members absent, this is tabled until our November meeting. Danny and Trisha confirmed their intent to run for re-election to these positions.
3. **501 (c) 3 Filing:** All the work is done. Ralph will give Trisha a thumb drive for review. Financials will be updated to reflect our year-end (7/31/2011) and paperwork will be submitted by October 1, 2011.
4. **Tri-State Reunion:** It was reiterated that part of the reason Burke fell through was the instability of the meet leadership. Several alternatives to a simple cocktail hour, or a reunion at the Tri-State meet were discussed. It was agreed that if someone is going to get on a plane for this event, we need to present them with more than a single event. Danny, Jimmy and Gil will be looking into contacts and facilities they have for A "cruise to nowhere" was discussed as an alternative to what had been previously planned. In conjunction with the event, Trisha suggested that we honor our Tri-State alumni by setting up a "Tri-State Hall of Fame." This could include categories for athletes, officials, meet organizers, sponsors, etc. The event will be planned for October 2011. Debbie will be getting in touch with the committee in order to plan further.

F. New Business

1. **2011 National Delegate Assembly:** The following officers will be going to the NDA representing Tri-State:

- Ken Brucato
- Trisha Yurochko
- Ralph Armento (will be paid by WASUSA)

Danny Martin's decision to go is pending. Also volunteering to go is Gil Perez. Ken will determine if any other of the Board Members are interested in attending and who/what they will be representing. At this point, it is known that Debbie will be representing weightlifting (STC) and Phil Galli, WTFUSA.

Trisha stated that the airfare leaving from NJ is on the pricey side (approx. \$400). As a result, it was suggested that with registration (\$75), hotel (\$89/night) and airfare, it was

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agreed to set a reimbursement of \$425. Trisha motioned to accept this fee, Ralph seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Meet Schedule/Venues for Next Year:

- a. Tri-State Swim Meet: March 3 @ Rutgers
- b. Newington Invitational – TBD (usually second or third Sat. in April)
- c. Children's Invitational - TBD (usually first Saturday in May)
- d. Tri-State Games – Will be a certified Level 3 meet; looking @ May 18-20
- e. Junior Masonic Regional Meet – June 2, 3 @ South Brunswick (swimming venue to be determined, attempting to add archery)

Most of the attention to meet planning was devoted to the Tri-State Meet, since it will be IPC sanctioned and is the signature meet for our RSO. It was noted that it is important for us to have a fast track, a/k/a mondo.

The following alternatives were discussed as possible track & field venues:

- a. Hillsdale School
- b. Leonia (High School)
- c. Thomas Edison Park
- d. White Plains High School
- e. South Brunswick High School

Of the above venues, it is not known if Edison will be available by the meet date. Debbie stated that Tatiana advised her that construction is soon to be underway and will take approximately four months (assuming no weather problems).

Jimmy and Danny will look into Hillsdale and Leonia alternatives, Ralph will look into White Plains and South Brunswick. Debbie and Trisha are planning to meet with Tatiana on Monday, September 19 in order to determine the extent of JFK's ongoing commitment.

3. Remaining BOD Meetings for 2011 and for 2012

Date	Location	Main Subject
November 12, 2011	Burke Rehab Hospital	Discuss WASUSA NDA
January 14, 2012	New Jersey City University	Meet Schedule – Annual Mtg.
February 11, 2012	Children's Specialized Hosp	Reunion – Annual Meeting
March 17, 2012	Burke Rehab Hospital	Annual Meeting
May 19, 2012	Tri-State Banquet	Election of Officers
June – August	TBD	Reunion Discussion
September 22, 2012	TBD (optional)	Reunion

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In keeping with the schedule above, it was mentioned that the proposed name change, any other constitution/by-laws changes, as well as all items for the Annual Meeting should be prepared well ahead of time this year.

4. **Discussion of Proposed Rules:** Phil reviewed the WTFUSA proposed rule changes with regard to IDs, discussion of IPC implements/age groups and implements for 51s; Debbie discussed NJDC bidding status for 2012 and 2013.

A motion was made by Ralph to adjourn meeting, Phil seconded. Motion was passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 12:41 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Ralph C. Armento
Secretary