

Draft Minutes
Tri-State Wheelchair & Ambulatory Athletics Annual Board Meeting
April 11, 2015

The meeting was held at Children's Specialized Hospital, Mountainside, and was called to order by Chair Ralph Armento at 9:09 am.

The first part of the meeting was closed; the second part an open meeting.

Present: Ralph Armento, Ken Brucato, Debbie Armento, Carolynne Bethka, Jim Cuevas, Phil Galli, Jennifer Johnson, Dan Martin, Pat Redden, Joan Wheeler, Trisha Yurochko

Absent: Carlos Quiles

Excused: Maggie Redden

Minutes of the Closed Meeting:

Approval of Minutes:

Ken Brucato made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of January 17, 2015. Debbie Armento seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Awards:

- A. Pat Putt award for a meet organizer, coach, or other TriState member dedicated to the organization and athletes: Jim Cuevas was nominated as a coach.
- B. Bob McShane award for a TriState official who has gone above and beyond the call of duty in working with the athletes and coaches of TriState: Debbie Armento nominated Stephanie Kuebler.
- C. Terry Tierney award for a junior athlete who has continued to contribute as an adult: Ralph Armento nominated Maggie Redden.
- D. Ted Kaplan award, given at the NJDC banquet, for an individual who has made a significant lifetime contribution to the disabled junior sports movement: Ralph Armento has written to Jerry Clayton, Kathy Sellers and others to establish a list. The list will be sent out to board members; each will select 3 and the top 3 will be voted on.

TriState Reunion: Carolynne Bethka

Carolynne requested direction from the board. She had sent the announcement and menu to Ralph, Debbie and Trisha but had not yet received a response. The information would have to go out very soon; the suggested cost is registration for the meet plus \$40 for the reunion. Jim Cuevas, Trisha and Debbie had discussed postponing the reunion to next year for logistic reasons and agreed that would be advisable. Adults will be encouraged to come to the meet, and a tent will be put up to encourage socialization, but there will be no meal. That information will be put on the website, Twitter and FaceBook, since the meet mailing has already gone out. Ralph will also do an email blast. It may be possible to borrow field chairs for any interested adults. Phil Galli said that someone will have to be in the tent at all times, so Carolynne will make up a schedule; the tent will only be up on Saturday of the meet.

TriState Adult Team: Joan Wheeler

Joan is trying to get in touch with a low-ability group practicing in Philadelphia. Jim offered to do an archery clinic for new archers or as a refresher. Adults will concentrate on field, archery and handcyle. Carolynne noted that there is a handcyle group at Burke that goes to several events, and a handcyle class can be added to the TriState road race.

TriState Hall of Fame: Ralph Armento

Ralph has received no feedback on the draft, so it was discussed at this meeting. There was a question about whether the nominator could be a WASUSA member. Ken recommended that nominators must be TSWAA members only, and that was acceptable to the group. The draft provided for 7 inductees from each class in the first year, one in each class in subsequent years. That also was acceptable. The composition of the committee will be the chair of TSWAA and 4 additional members who must be current TSWAA members, with staggered 2-year terms.

Ken moved acceptance of the draft with these changes; the motion was seconded by Joan and passed unanimously.

The closed meeting ended at 10:03 am.

Minutes of the Open Meeting:**Welcome and sign-in:**

The open meeting was called to order at 10:05 am. Guests included Caitlin Goerlich, Denton Johnson, Julia Goerlich, Kevin Crytzer and James Tantsits.

Treasurer's Report: Trisha Yurochko

We have a current balance of \$9062.80, not counting an uncashed check for Debbie Armento and a deposit for timing at the meet. The actual balance therefore is \$8022.16. The bill from USATF for sanctioning the TriState meet has not yet arrived. Phil moved to accept the report; Dan seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Status of TriState Meets:

TriState Swim Meet: Trisha presented the final report on the meet, which was held on February 28. There were 30 swimmers from Connecticut, Virginia, Maryland, New York and New Jersey. This included 4 or 5 adult swimmers and 5 or 6 new swimmer. We had 9 USA Swim officials, all IPC certified, and Kevin Crytzer did SAMS.

CSH Invitational: Trisha reported that the May 2 meet will be held at the site for NJDC track and field. The track is finished but still needs some markings. Field will be in the morning, track in the afternoon. Sandwiches from the usual deli will be lunch. The registration forms have been mailed to coaches and information will be put on the website. Volunteers are needed.

TriState Games: Trisha, Jimmy and Phil reported on plans for the meet on May 22-24. Phil is applying for a \$10,000 grant from Neilsen Foundation for SCI, which will provide

free registration and dinner to any spinal cord athlete (including spina bifida), as well as \$500 for each team to develop their programs, \$2765 in direct support for the games (timing, port-a-johns), and \$2500 for equipment needed by TSWAA. Athletes will need a training log with their personal bests, initial results, and final results by the Masonic meet, and they will be eligible for grants in multiple years. There will be a similar program at the NJDC level, with 32 grants for registration of returning athletes and 10 for new athletes, awarded based on the percentage of the national records in class they have achieved. The form is on the NJDC website and will be posted for TriState this week. If the athlete is doing multiple sports, track and field must be included.

Trisha and Jim reported that the meet will be at Overpeck Park, using the same venues as last year. National classifiers will be in attendance. Friday will be classification and powerlifting, road race and classification on Saturday morning, archery and field on Saturday afternoon. Saturday night will be open track competition, using NJDC standards or “softer” for 100 to 5000 meter races; drafting between classes is OK since it is an open. Sunday is normal track; Monday (Memorial Day) is the Kessler 10K road race. Some international elite athletes and masters ambulatory athletes are coming and may complete on Saturday night. The meet is sanctioned by WASUSA and USATF.

Some of the contacts in Bergen County lost in the elections, so new contacts have to be made, some with interim directors. The facilities are scheduled but the costs are not yet finalized. Rates for the hotels will be held for a limited time.

Ken asked if we would want a contribution from NuMotion, but they will need a budget. The meet already has a sponsor for breakfast and drinks, so Jim will give Ken a letter requesting sponsorship of meals at about \$2000. If they donate enough, they will be allowed to put up a banner. They may be willing to have a tent for wheelchair repairs.

Masonic Regional Games: Ralph reported on plans for these games, on June 6-7. The venue will be North Brunswick HS for all sports. The archery area and track infield have been redesigned. The ball fields will be used for field events, and the meet will include ambulatory javelin. Saturday morning will be field, archery mid-morning, and swimming in the afternoon; the 5000-meter race will be before dinner on Saturday, and the awards ceremony can be held in the gym if there is bad weather. All meals (lunches and dinners) will be free for all attendees. The Rainbow Girls are again collecting for the teams, and we will give them an award as thanks. The registration forms will be out next week. The form for the scholarship has been on the website since January, and so far there are 4 applicants.

Burke Games: Ralph announced that the date is September 26 and will follow the usual format.

NJDC 2015: Trisha, Phil, Jim and Debbie

Track and field will be at Warinanco Park in Roselle; swimming will use the 50-meter outdoor pool at Rahway River Park, and archery is scheduled for the Oak Ridge Archery Range. Powerlifting will be at the host hotel. Children’s Miracle Network at CSH is the main sponsor; Challenged Athletes Foundation will be a secondary sponsor. Chic-Fil-A is providing lunches for 3 days, Ilvain is giving \$5000, and Jim is looking for more meal sponsors. Breakfast will be at the hotel; all lunches are included in the meal plans, and

dinner can be included for 2 or 3 nights. There is only 1 host hotel, about 20-25 minutes from the venues. Some socials have been planned, possibly for Sunday, Monday and Wednesday night, since the opening ceremony is on Tuesday night. The schedule and meet information is posted at www.njdc2015nj.com The budget for the meet is \$350,000.

News from WASUSA: Phil and Debbie

Ralph's last day in office with WASUSA is April 30. WASUSA is not doing anything now about changing its names, but they are going to a marketing firm for rebranding. The office will be in Littleton, CO, and the new executive director is Susan Rossi. They are interested in including bocce and shooting as sports. Results for every meet will be on the website and rank-ordered for track and field. The west has a new chapter in Boise, Spokane is building up again, California is organizing a meet, and Salt Lake City has joined as a chapter with a new meet. There will be no qualifying meets in Ohio this year. Adult nationals will be held in Chicago in June, jointly with WASUSA and USATF. There will be a newsletter for members.

TriState Social Media:

No information was available, so the topic is tabled.

Election of At-Large Seats: Ralph

There are 4 seats to be filled. Phil Galli, Dan Martin, Pat Redden and Jennifer Johnson are completing their terms, and all have indicated interest in continuing. Ralph called for nominees from the floor; no letters of interest or resumes were received. James Tantsits volunteered as a write-in, and the ballot was distributed with directions to vote for 4 of 5 candidates. Phil, Dan, Pat and James were elected for terms ending in 2018. Ralph thanked Jennifer for all her contributions over the years.

Election of Officers (Vice-Chair and Treasurer)

The officers are elected by the board, usually but not necessarily in June. Candidates must have served 1 year on the board to be eligible. The meeting was closed to elect the officers. Dan was interested in continuing as vice-chair, Trisha as treasurer, and no other nominations were made. Debbie moved to re-elect them by acclamation; Jim seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Adjournment:

Ken made a motion to adjourn at 11:40 am. Joan seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.