

Draft Minutes
TRI-STATE WHEELCHAIR & AMBULATORY ATHLETICS BOARD OF DIRECTORS
January 30, 2016

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Ralph Armento at the MacMahon Student Center of St. Peter's University at 9:44 am on January 30, 2016.

Present: Ralph Armento, Debbie Armento, Carolynne Bethka, Ken Brucato, Phil Galli, Dan Martin, Patricia Redden, James Tantsits, Joan Wheeler, Trisha Yurochko

Absent and excused: Maggie Redden, Carlos Quiles, Jim Cuevas

B. Review/Approval of the Minutes of 9/19/2015

Debbie Armento moved to accept the minutes of the meeting. Trisha Yurochko seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

C. Treasurer's Report/ including Year-End Report YE 6/30/2015

Trisha Yurochko reported that, as of 6/30/15, we had \$14,100.21 in the bank account. The current balance is \$23,533.56. There are three outstanding checks sent out 2 weeks ago for a total of \$1500 from the Nielsen grant to the four teams (only Connecticut had cashed their check at this time), so the actual balance as of today is \$22,033.56. The reason for such a large balance is that we received several grants. The Nielsen grant amounted to \$2000 for 4 teams (\$500 each), and it had been suggested that it be used to support someone from the team to attend elite training; this was done by all teams but Rochester. eCard filing was done in November; Ralph asked Trisha to find out if we have to file with NJ Charities, which has a \$10,000 floor.

Some expenses are still outstanding. Chapter membership for Adaptive Sports is \$225; this membership is needed for sanctioning and insurance for games, so it must be approved. When Trisha saw Randy Chiavaroli at NDA, she ordered some equipment that must be imported (three 1K and five 2K shots) and can't be bought here, for a total of \$280. This equipment was ordered in conjunction with Adaptive Sports and therefore we saved some money. The expense was authorized by board members attending the meeting. Next year we may buy javelins the same way.

Phil Galli moved acceptance of finance report including these expenses, Ken Brucato seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

D. Old Business:

1. Tri-State Reunion:

Maggie Redden and Abe Waugh developed a survey after the September meeting. Ralph tried to get updated membership from WASUSA but didn't, so he used his old historical database dating back to the mid-90s and our current mailing list. The survey was sent out to 270 valid addresses, and it went on FaceBook as well but not on website. We received only 12 survey responses (2 of which were anonymous and 4 were board members), all expressing interest. Ralph said he believed there was not enough buy-in, but it was pointed out that the response was about 5% and that some of the email addresses may be valid but unused. A discussion ensued about whether there is really enough interest to schedule the reunion. Ken Brucato suggested tabling the reunion; Carolynne Bethke suggested putting information on the national website to reach a broader audience. It was noted that GLASA tried having a reunion for 2 years; attendance was poor one year and it was cancelled the next year. Trisha spoke in favor of someone organizing TriState history and the reunion, which may take 2 years to

organize, advertise and run successfully. Debbie suggested we still have a tent for alumni at meets to build relationships and offer returning athletes the use of field chairs for competition. Carolynne volunteered to continue as chair of the reunion, man a tent and display some pictures of former athletes

2. TriState Hall of Fame

The Hall of Fame had been discussed at the September meeting and the board was asked to suggest committee members. However, only Trisha and Debbie made suggestions. The information is not yet on the website, but Phil will put it up. Ralph split the time frame committee members, to ensure that athletes from all periods would be recognized. He suggested a list of possible committee members:

- early decade (1980-90) – Sharon Frant-Brooks, Joe Dowling, Paul Kolterjahn, Andy Chasanoff, Don Chaffee, Bob Shields Jr, Carolynne Bethka
- 2nd decade (1991-2001) – Trisha Yurochko, Debbie Armento, Ritchie Domotor, Ken Brucato
- modern day (2002-present) – Joan Wheeler, Isabel Cuevas, April Martin, Maggie Redden

There was discussion about how selection is actually going to work. Carolynne pointed out that early athletes may be getting sick or dying, so we have to get going on decisions. A suggestion was made that sub-committees work on each decade and select one sub-committee member to actually vote on the final nominees, with a board member to do the initial organizing by sending out a common email text to those suggested asking if they are willing to participate. Some of the names above should probably be considered for inclusion in the Hall of Fame, which would potentially be a conflict of interest. It was decided that Ralph will re-send the Hall of Fame document to the board and then continue the discussion at the next meeting, including the discussion about whether we should as a board select the first honorees, which is not included in the document.

3. Awards (Ted Kaplan, Putt, McShane, Terry Tierney)

The only award given in 2015 was the Ted Kaplan award, and we need to finalize awardees for this year. Debbie moved to accept nominations made in April for all but the Kaplan award. Phil seconded the motion and it was accepted unanimously. We still need nominations for this year's Kaplan award.

4. 2016 Meet Reports:

a. Children's Swim Meet (Trisha Yurochko)

The swim meet will be held on Saturday, March 5, at Rutgers. She has requested national classifiers but the request has not yet been confirmed, so the application is not yet out. It will go on the website and be distributed next week. Trisha has paid for the pool and reached out for volunteers. The meet is sanctioned through CSH.

b. Children's Invitational (Trisha Yurochko)

The meet is scheduled for Warinaco Park on May 7. There will be no classifiers at the meet, which will include all-comers, juniors, adults and veterans.

c. Tri-State Meet (Jimmy Cuevas)

The meet will be on May 27-29 at Pascack Valley HS in Hillsdale. Jim has submitted a budget, which included proposed expenses \$14,368, proposed income \$15,861. There will be no 5K road race at the meet; the 6-lane track has been repaired, and there are some extra mondo strips that might be usable for javelin. Scott has been contacted for timing. We will have use of the weight room and wrestling room, adjacent to each other, and also the cafeteria if we want it. However, the cafeteria is at the end of the school so we may just use tents. The inside bathrooms are too far away so we will use port-a-johns. We will still need to do a site visit. If the high school baseball or soccer team makes states, we may have to reorganize sites, but that

is not considered a strong possibility. We can use the synthetic football field for archery, which will minimize arrow loss, and there are 2 concrete pits for ambulatory discus and shot (with a cage for discus). The site is close to the Kessler road race hotel, and Jim is negotiating rates (probably \$126/night). The paperwork has been submitted for IPC approval, and the meet is USATF sanctioned. Two national classifiers will be coming. There will be an open meet on Saturday night for elite athletes in particular. We would use our own table tennis tables but Jim was unsure if it's on schedule. The meet will have online registration; the cost is listed as \$0 on the budget but with a question about whether it actually is included in the registration fee. We will have free sanctioning for the meet as a chapter. Jimmy had asked for a credit card based on the TSWAA account. Trisha has consulted with our bank (TD Bank) but a credit card would have to be given to an individual, not the organization, so she recommends against it. She suggested that we could get a debit card on our account or set up a separate checking account without fee since we are grandfathered at the bank. Phil suggested getting a free pre-paid Visa card for TSWAA from the bank for Jimmy to use, and Trisha will pursue that option, starting with \$1000-\$2000 on the card. Ken moved to approve the tentative budget, Danny seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

d. Masonic Meet (Ralph)

The meet will be held on June 4-5, at North Brunswick HS, the same as last year, and we need to submit the request for insurance when chapter dues are paid. Ralph sent the Masons the scholarship application for approval. There will not be national classification at the meet. The meet might not include archery but will need to include table tennis, particularly if it is not offered at TriState. Rochester will be notified that there will be no classifiers, maybe with a suggestion that they use the Nielsen grant to pay for athletes to travel to another meet if they need classification.

e. Burke Wheelchair Games (Ralph)

No date has been set yet for the meet. It was noted that if we open to ID athletes we have to look at appropriate events, and that we need more buy-in from officials and our athletes.

5. Tri-State Website and Social Media

We have transitioned to a new website and Phil is working to get it back on line, but it is not up-to-date yet and he needs to rewrite volunteer forms et al. April Martin and Joan Wheeler are working on our FaceBook page, but we have to send them information to include. It was suggested that Jen Armento and Caitlin Goerlach can do Twitter and help with FaceBook, and that we should do some videos for YouTube. Joan will pursue these suggestions.

E. New Business

1. Table Tennis Clinic at Burke in March 2016

Carolynne is setting up a clinic but not a meet because of limited time to arrange and the fact that it will be held on a Sunday so it doesn't disrupt Burke's usual Saturday practice. The date is March 13, from 1-4 pm. She sent Ralph a tentative budget with expenses of \$295.49 including food (about \$75), coach for \$150, purchase of three paddles for \$35 total, and a ½ gross of balls. Twenty registrants with a registration fee of \$20 would give \$400 income, with a break-even point at 12-14 participants. We don't have free usage of the gym yet; a letter was sent to Burke but she is waiting for a reply. The consensus was that we will only run the event if space is donated, and it was noted that we may have some Burke patients participating. Phil suggested seeking a grant from USATT to run the clinic, but Carolynne

pointed out that there are personal reasons why Jennifer Johnson might not be able to help with a grant. Discussion questioned as to whether we should limit the event to juniors (7-22 years old) or open it to adults, since we will only have 5 tables and a maximum of 20 participants playing doubles. The clinic will concentrate on rules and strokes. Debbie and Trisha suggested opening the clinic to all and taking the first 20 registrants of any age, and that met with general approval. It was decided to open the clinic to all ages, limited to the first 20 registrants, with a registration fee of \$20 refundable if they attend. Debbie suggested doing something for parents during the clinic, with a suggested agenda, but the decision was not to do this now but consider it for the future. Approval of these plans for the clinic was moved by Debbie, seconded by Joan, and passed unanimously. Carolynne will pursue a grant from USATT.

2. Annual Meeting: Elections

The terms of Carolynne, Ralph, Joan, Maggie, Ken are expiring. Danny will contact them to see if any want to continue and will find other nominees as necessary. The chair and secretary are elected by the board.

3. Adaptive Sports USA

a. BOD News

Phil reported on some rule changes. Athletes will have 2-3 minutes to get into the throwing chair, and then the clock starts; the athlete will then have 4 minutes to take as many practice throws as they want and can fit in. U-16 athletes have to strap themselves in but can get permission to have help by submitting a form. The class T35 A was added in field, and it will affect only U-11 for both track and field; at U-14 the athlete will have to become T34 or T35. There will be clinics at NJDC and some local meets. There is now a large 1K shot that can be adapted to 2K or 3 K; the diameter doesn't change but the filling material has different densities. In powerlifting, only a novice has the option of the verbal command "lift;" a verbal signal not given at IPC level. The minimum age for powerlifting will be 15 years on the day of competition.

The board is transitioning to a "power board" format with sports representatives on separate committees.

There will be a name change for NJDC to Adaptive Sports USA Junior Nationals. The 2016 competition will be held in Madison, Wisconsin.

b. National Delegate Assembly

Tabled

c. Nielsen Grant

Nielsen was impressed with how the money was used, bringing athletes to NJDC and making a video on getting involved in adaptive sports.

d. Accessing 2015 membership funds from RPO

The lump sum was divided among groups based on the number of sponsored events; we received \$1100.

e. Discussion to renew chapter status for WASUSA

Earlier in the meeting it had been decided to renew the chapter status.

4. SafeSport

USOC adopted this initiative to deal with sexual harassment of youth and adults, and elite athletes, coaches, and officials had to go through program. Phil proposed that all coaches for 2017 provide proof they have passed the course by the end of 2016 or not be allowed to coach at our meets. There is an online course that awards a certificate. USASwim has a parallel program, as do some schools, so any comparable certification is acceptable. Personal coaches for individual athletes are not included in the proposal. This requirement will be announced at the annual meeting.

5. Wheelchair Sports Council of New Jersey/Grant Status

The grant application is in, and Ralph will follow up on getting checks for 2014-15.

6. Other new business

- NY Road Runners half-marathon with concurrent invited 1500 meter for wheelchair juniors (NY Mile) will be held on March 20;
- NYRR have purchased 5 chairs from Barry Ewing to work with NYC parks for the Wheelchairs in the City program, and they will start training coaches in spring 2016;
- On April 16, CUNY will host an event in Queens for track, field, sit volleyball, basketball and rowing. It is open to the CUNY system, in cooperation with USOC. Jimmy and Trisha are providing expert help representing TSWAA, working with NY Parks & Recreation;
- On April 8, at ArtWorks in Trenton there will be a photo show on adaptive sports, focusing on local athletes and meets. Joan Wheeler is involved, and the show will run about a month. She is also working for a date in late July-Aug in Haddonfield for a demonstration of adaptive sports.

F. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made at 1:40 pm by Trisha; it was seconded by Joan and accepted unanimously.

Suggestions for HOF Committee

1. Early Decade (1980's - 1990)

Sharon Frant-Brooks, Joe Dowling, Paul Kolterjahn, Andy Chasanoff (distance), Don Chaffee, Bob Shields, Jr., Carolynne Bethka

2. Second Decade (1991 - 2001)

Trisha Yurochko, Debbie Armento, Ritchie Domotor, Ken Brucato,

3. Modern Day (2002 - present)

Joan Wheeler, Isabel Cuevas, April Martin, Maggie Redden

2016 Tri-State Wheelchair & Ambulatory Games Budget - Draft

Item	Description	Amount
Facilities Rental		\$0
Pascack Valley High School Custodians		\$900
Generator	In-kind donation from Danny and James	\$0
Truck Rental	1 Truck	\$750
Gas	Gas for truck and generator	\$125
Tent/Tables/Chair Rental		\$1,000
Port-a-Johns		\$825
1/2 Mile Timing Systems	2 Days	\$2,150
USATF Sanctioning Fee		\$130
Adaptive Sports USA Sanctioning Fee	\$3 per athlete	\$150
Hip/Bib Numbers		\$150
Office Supplies		\$150
Water/Drinks/Snacks	In-kind Donation	\$0
Ice		\$120
Photography		\$0
Online Registration Setup		\$0
Officials/TD/Classifiers/Staff		
Air Travel	Classifiers and TD	\$1,200
Hotel	18 Room Nights @ 126.00 (\$109 + 15% Taxes)	\$2,268
Officials Stipend	\$50 stipend per official/day	\$1,000
Meals		
Breakfast (Saturday and Sunday)	In-Kind Donation. Also Free Breakfast at Host Hotel	\$0
Lunches (Saturday and Sunday)		\$1,500
Pasta Dinner (Saturday)		\$1,200
Volunteers		
T-shirts	T-Shirts for Volunteers	\$750
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$14,368
Approximate Income		
Registration Fees (based on 50 athletes)		\$2,500
Amt from Kessler Last Year		\$4,461
Tri-State WSCNJ 2016 Grant		\$8,900
TOTAL INCOME		\$15,861

Ralph Armento

From: Ralph Armento [ralph461@msn.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2016 9:10 AM
To: Alexandra Oudheusden (Aoudheusden@burke.org)
Cc: Carolynne Bethka (c.bethka14@gmail.com); Debbie Armento (debra.armento@sbschools.org)
Subject: Burke Table Tennis Clinic

Alexandra:

I understand that you are aware that Carolynne's computer is in need of repair. As a result, I am sending this request out to confirm our intentions. As you may be aware, I have a board of directors meeting this Saturday (1/30/2016) in which this event will be discussed/approved. We will notify you of the final vote; however, I do not envision any problems in approving this event with our Board.

The Tri-State Wheelchair and Ambulatory Sports Athletic Association is requesting the use of the Billings Gym on March 13, 2016.

We would like to conduct a table tennis clinic at your facility. It would be open to youth from 7 to 22 years old. The purpose of this clinic is to introduce them to the sport, as well as educating them on the rules of the game. It is our hope to introduce new members to the sport and to facilitate enjoyment as either a competitive or recreational player.

One of the purposes of running the clinic is to generate greater interest in table tennis for potential participants at the Burke Games. It also provides another form of exercise and recreational experience. Table tennis offers distinct physio-benefits, notably the improvement of muscle and eye hand coordination. The sport also builds self-confidence and instills sportsmanship, teamwork, and socialization.

The clinic coordinator is Carolynne Bethka. The clinic will be run by Peizhen Shao. Peizhen is a Paralympian coach and she will have several trainers assisting her. The Burke organization has a long relationship with Tristate whose members support the annual Burke Wheelchair Games. For these reasons, Burke was chosen as the optimal location for the clinic. We are asking for support in this event and hope that we can grow this sport together.

Respectfully submitted,

Ralph C. Armento

Ralph C. Armento

Chairperson

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