

**USA Wrestling**  
**2023 Annual Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Minutes**  
**Friday, August 11, 2023**

**Board Members Present:**

Bruce Baumgartner, President  
Kerry McCoy, 1st Vice President  
Joan Fulp, 2nd Vice President  
Van Stokes, Secretary  
Don Reynolds, Treasurer

Adeline Gray  
Robert Cate  
James Considine  
Pat Culp  
Elliot Hopkins  
Scott Kluever  
Craig LaMont  
Patrick Ream  
Sally Roberts  
John Stefanowicz  
Steve Thorpe  
Veronica Carlson  
Zac Dominguez  
Angie Taylor  
Mallory Velte  
Jay Antonelli  
Heather Lawrence  
Michael Moyer  
Max Nowry  
Corey Ruff  
Jonny Ruggiano  
Robert Smith  
Lee Roy Smith  
Rick Tucci  
James Ravannack  
Iris Smith  
Sara McMann  
Michelle Meadows  
Macey Kilty  
Nate Engel  
Hardell Moore  
Joseph McKenna

**Board Members Absent:**

Vitali Arujau  
Stanley Dziedzic  
Anthony Holman  
Michael Macchiavello  
Toccaro Montgomery  
Katherine Shai

The annual in-person meeting of the Board of Directors of USA Wrestling was held Friday and Saturday, August 11-12, 2023, at the Cheyenne Mountain Resort, the President being in the Chair. A quorum was present.

President Bruce Baumgartner called the meeting to order at 2:32pm. President Baumgartner welcomed everyone to the meeting. Members introduced themselves.

Secretary Van Stokes read the *Declaration of Conflict of Interest and Oath of Confidentiality*. No member declared a conflict of interest in any matter being considered by the meeting.

Executive Director Rich Bender introduced Chief of Sport and Athlete Services Rocky Harris to provide an update from the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee (USOPC) looking forward to Paris next summer.

Rocky Harris shared that there have been massive changes at the USOPC. USA Wrestling is respected both nationally and internationally by the Olympic community. Covid presented challenges that were met by USA Wrestling to get wrestlers back to the mat. The compliance standards made a big improvement. USOPC grades National Governing Boards (NGBs) to raise the standards for sports in America. There has been great growth in women's wrestling that is very exciting to witness. Preparations are underway for the Paris Olympic Games. The facilities in Paris are in great shape. The weight room and the Olympic village are ready. The French Federation and IOC are working on integrating culture while making an impact on the community including the sustainability of the Games and infrastructure. The USOPC is focusing on transportation, security, and the impacts from the conflict of Russia and Ukraine. While wrestling is advancing, other sports are regressing in some ways. The USOPC is rethinking how to support those sports going into Paris. The athlete population is aging which means opportunity. There is proactive medical care and the investment in the medical network was doubled. Every athlete going into the game will have healthcare for the first time. There is a desire to take USA Wrestling's organization and success as a model and use it to help other sports. A major issue is increasing media exposure for wrestling during non-Olympic years. Work is underway to increase awareness of other tournaments. Rich Bender and Bruce Baumgartner thanked Harris for his time and support.

Director James Considine moved to approve the minutes for the April 12, 2023 Board of Directors meeting, and the motion was seconded by Director John Stefanowicz. The motion was adopted and the minutes were approved as submitted.

President Baumgartner gave the President's welcome. The President reminded members that the next meeting is November 15, 2023. USA Wrestling has been awesome, setting records and growth and we must thank the volunteer leaders on that success. The President thanked Executive Director Bender, the staff, and the Officers and the Executive Committee for all their help. The President thanked the athletes and believes they are the best group in the Olympic movement. There were countless events this year and the President is thankful for the volunteers and staff who put those events on. President Baumgartner could not be prouder - we overcame the pandemic, wrestling possibly being removed from the Olympic movement, and other issues. USA Wrestling has a great board and committee structure, membership is growing, athlete support has grown, and USA Wrestling is financially stable. USA Wrestling used to have to take loans, but now it has funding stability. It has better athlete support, growth in women's wrestling, and growth in the junior's divisions. The Athletic Advisory Committee (AAC) is organized and has Bylaws and is an awesome organization. While twenty, and thirty, and forty years ago we had fighting, we currently have collaboration with many other organizations. USA Wrestling must continue to improve to be better next year than this year, and the President hopes next year's annual report is better than this year's annual report, with increased opportunities for men and women of all populations to grow the sport of wrestling.

Executive Director Bender gave the Executive Director Report and the UWW Update. He thanked the President for his availability and leadership. The Executive Director also thanked the staff and let the Board know that they are all served by the staff. Executive Director Bender also thanked the Board, the Executive Committee, and the State Leaders. Building the base is one of the four core objectives, and USA Wrestling is growing that infrastructure. Building the brand, networking, and sustainability are the other core objectives. USA Wrestling has had success in all areas. 49 medals were won by athletes at world competitions last year, a n new record. USA Wrestling has financial stability thanks to collaboration with a great Board. However, it can continue to get better and USA Wrestling is committed to get better. For the UWW update, athletes won 49 medals last year, and won 13 medals in Turkey in early August, which is a great start to exceed the 49 medal record. There is discussion about the U20 world championships which recently moved. It was a monumental task to rearrange those logistics, but those challenges are being met. The U23 championships will also be moved. The Russians and Belarus athletes may compete as independent athletes. Wrestling is the number three all-time medal producing sport for the Olympic team. It would not be possible without an organization that creates infrastructure and supports the athletes.

Secretary Stokes conducted the election of At-Large members to the Audit Committee. Secretary Stokes explained the voting procedure. Stokes announced the names that had already been nominated which were Joe Holmes, Don Fongaro, Joe Stabilito, Michael Rosati, and Kelli Sheffler. There were no nominations from the floor. Director Zac Dominguez moved to

close nominations which was seconded by Director Stefanowicz. Nominations were closed without objection. A test vote was conducted.

A secret electronic ballot was conducted, and Kelli Sheffler and Joe Holmes were elected.

Secretary Stokes conducted the election of two Board of Directors Members to the Audit Committee. Director Stefanowicz nominated Director Dominguez, which was seconded by Steve Thorpe. Director Dominguez accepted the nomination.

Secretary Stokes nominated Director Pat Culp. The nomination was seconded by Director Scott Kluever. Director Culp accepted the nomination. There were no further nominations from the floor. Director Patrick Ream moved to close nominations. Nominations were closed.

A secret electronic ballot was conducted. Director Dominguez and Director Culp were elected to the Audit Committee.

The floor was opened for nominations to the Finance Committee. Director Dominquez moved to close nominations and Director Ream seconded the motion. Nominations were closed.

Four names were nominated who were not already on the committee, excluding Kelli Sheffler who had been nominated but who had already been elected to the Audit Committee earlier in the meeting.

A secret electronic ballot was conducted, and Angie Taylor, Steve Thorpe, and Ted Young were elected to the Finance Committee.

The next item of business was the Governance Committee Report which was given by Secretary Stokes as the Chairman of the Governance Committee. The process for updating the Bylaws began two years ago. In 2021, Article III was added to the Bylaws. In addition: compliance, accounting principles, athlete safety, and athlete participation were all added. An Audit addressed some areas that still needed attention, and USA Wrestling has done that. Secretary Stokes thanked the athletes in the AAC for their contributions. The Governance Committee recommended several proposals and the USOPC made further recommendations. Secretary Stokes explained a memo that was included in the meeting packet that outlined the Bylaws amendments. He pointed out that the USOPC had different levels of compliance and that USA Wrestling should pursue the 'leading' level, the highest USOPC standard.

Director Stefanowicz gave a further update on the Bylaw Amendments. One goal is for athletes to be retained. Bylaw update requirements were brought forward almost monthly.

Secretary Stokes continued to outline the changes as outlined in the Bylaws Memo. He pointed out that the work was done in collaboration with the athletes. Topics included attendance policies, update vacancy policies, clarifications to the authority of Officers and clarification as to the length of their terms, clarifying the powers of the Executive Committee, clarifying

designated vs. non-designated committees, adding term limits on committee memberships, clarifying the nature of standing designated committees, clarifying the selection language for the Sports Committee, clarifying how to keep the Sports committee fully populated, clarifying that the Board shall select the auditor, clarifying some expectations of other standing committees regarding athlete representation, and correcting Bylaw Article references.

Secretary Stokes read a communication from Meara Gonzalez, Director of NGB Audits of the USOPC who gave a very positive assessment of USA Wrestling and stated that it has been a pleasure working with USA Wrestling and that a future recommendation will look positively on USA Wrestling.

Director Stefanowicz moved to adopt the full set of Bylaws Amendments and the motion was seconded by Director Considine.

The full set of Bylaw Amendments were adopted.

Treasurer and Finance Committee Chair Don Reynolds gave the Finance Committee Report. Treasurer Reynolds introduced the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee onboarded two new members, walked through the audit with the auditor, and USA Wrestling had a clean audit with no issues or exceptions. The Committee conducted an investment review and reviewed and approved the monthly financial statements. The Committee reviewed and updated the USAW Investment Policy to insure compliance with investments and liquidity. The Committee reviewed candidates for the finance director and reviewed and offered the 2024 Budget. The timing of COVID helped sustain revenue based on the fiscal year, however lockdowns led to a reduction of event revenues of almost 40%. There was a bounce back in 2022 in revenues nearly back to pre-pandemic levels.

Nine months into the year, the Actual Budget was approximately \$16.4 million dollars over an approximate budget of \$14.5 million dollars which is a positive variance of approximately \$1.9 million dollars.

Looking at expenses, actual expenses were approximately \$12.6 million dollars, while the budgeted amount was approximately \$12.4 million dollars, over budget by approximately \$150,000 dollars.

Thus, actual revenues over/under expenses are \$3.8 million, with the budgeted amount being approximately \$2.0 million dollars, with an over/under variance of approximately positive \$1.7 million dollars.

Treasurer Reynolds noted that expenses in the rest of the year will draw down the budget surplus. In the past five years, there was a dip in membership revenues during the pandemic, but it has bounced back in the last two years. Event revenue for events is currently approximately \$466,000 dollars without including Duals or Fargo with record turnout in events.

Coaches Education continues to outpace budget revenue at a lower cost, there is increased revenue charged to clubs and participants that were offset by expenses. There was disciplined expense management, within 1% of the budget. There was also investment market recovery, with significant losses which later turned to modest gains.

Treasurer Reynolds gave the Fiscal Year 2024 budget summary. Treasurer Reynolds outlined the budget process.

Total revenues will be approximately \$20.2 million and total expenditures will be approximately 20.2 million dollars. Revenues over / under expenditures will be approximately \$12,710. Treasurer Reynolds noted it is a break-even budget.

Treasurer Reynolds noted that this budget is with the World Championship and the Olympics in the same year which increase expenditures. This is the first time in USA Wrestling history that it is a \$20 million dollar budget. USA Wrestling filled several key positions and the budget assumes continued volume growth in members and events. Membership prices remain at Fiscal Year 2022 prices. It also includes athlete stipend increases that have been mapped out over the next few years.

Treasurer Reynolds gave a more detailed breakdown of the revenues and expenditures. Members had more details about the Budget in their Board packets. Treasurer Reynolds stated that the proposed budget is growth driven, balanced, and well managed.

Treasurer Reynolds stated that the focus is to stay on Budget and log another successful financial year. The future budget will develop a high-level budget outlook for the Next Quad. The committee will assess fee increases for the next quad to fund key investments. USA Wrestling will focus on getting the next three months into the books and then focus on the next quad.

Director Dominguez moved to approve the 2024 Budget and the motion was seconded by Director Considine. The 2024 Budget was adopted.

The meeting took a recess at 4:14pm.

The meeting reconvened at 4:30pm and was called to order by President Baumgartner.

President Baumgartner made a few announcements.

Secretary Stokes made a motion that the USA Wrestling Board of Directors accept Waugh and Goodwin as the Auditors for the next year. The motion was second by Director Dominguez. The motion was adopted.

Director of State Services Tony Black and Director of Application Development Dave Matthews gave the State, Membership, and IT Report. State services encompasses all tasks membership

related. There are approximately 296,000 members which is 44,000 more members that USA Wrestling has have ever had. It is nearly 50,000 more than last year. It is a 20% increase from the previous record. Illinois, California, Kansas, Wisconsin, and Missouri lead with the most members and all have all-time records. 50 of 51 states beat last year's membership total. 35 states set all time membership records. The average member is also making more transactions. The number of transactions increased from an average of 0.6 transactions per member to over 1 transaction per member. There were more than 10 Women's Directors in attendance at this year's State Leaders Summit. This is a new record. There are state association calls every other week. There are 5,000 clubs nationwide. The average club grew by 15%. USA Wrestling is overcoming the challenges and concerns that some competitors have about competing and joining USA Wrestling.

Director Matthews continued the report. USA Wrestling is embracing IT. There is a network upgrade at the Office, and the financial software is moving to the cloud. The events using the membership system grew from 75 to 275 events. The system also helps ensure compliance, making weigh-ins more efficient, and that no competitors slip through the cracks. Increased technology including scanners also makes events and meetings more efficient.

State Chair Council Chairman Steve Thorpe gave the Junior Olympic Wrestling Committee Report. There was passionate discussion regarding current events and many ideas. The growth is exciting and the response has been inspiring. Item G was removed from the recommendations. We added opportunity with the growth. We have added 8 weight classes for women's divisions for next year and added another men's weight class. Steve Thorpe moved that the recommendations from the JOWC be adopted for next year. Craig LaMont seconded the motion.

The full text of the motion can be found as Appendix A at the end of this document.

The motion was adopted.

Director of National Events Pete Isais gave the Staff Events Report. The U.S. Open had 4200 athletes, an increase of about 1000 athletes. The youth levels had great growth. Participation records were shattered across many of the youth tournaments. The Olympic Trials will be held next April in State College, PA and will be a focus in the future. The U.S. Open had 60,000 live viewers on streaming with 11 million live minutes of content consumed. Final X was second with 42,000 live with 7 million live minutes. USA Wrestling has submitted for several future events for bids with UWW so those should be upcoming.

2nd Vice President Joan Fulp gave the High School Women's Wrestling Update. There are several needs as women's wrestling continue to grow. 2nd Vice President Fulp is impressed and inspired by the work done at the grassroots level. The three words that guide the effort are mentorship, collaboration, and conversation. Women's wrestling is now 43 states strong. There are 53,000+ high school girls participating in wrestling and USA Wrestling women memberships are up to 36,011, a growth of 10,000 members. There is also the 2023 National High School

Girls Wrestling Guide which highlights successes with women's wrestling. There is now a practical wrestling uniform guide for girls. The guide will help coaches, officials, athletic directors how to uniform women wrestlers. Fargo was a huge success. The website: [thewcwc.com](http://thewcwc.com) stays up to date for college and high school information. There has also been an increase in women coaches. USA Wrestling must continue to offer the welcome mat to women wrestlers, create state and college models, make an RTC Plan/Support for women, increase media awareness and be aware of the visibility gap for women, ask when does the organization separate, and realize that growing pains are okay. The critical issues facing the national governing body continue to be marketing our sport to a wider audience and focusing on the female triad (disordered eating, irregular menstrual cycles, and bone loss) and overcoming social pressures for women wrestlers.

Director of Communications and Special Projects Gary Abbott gave the Collegiate Women's Wrestling Update. There is work to build collaborations between numerous stakeholders. There is an unofficial count of 173 colleges with a women's varsity team. There are 93 NCAA, 44 NAIA, 27 NJCAA and 9 California CC teams. NCAA Women's wrestling passed the 40-program threshold to be eligible for consideration of official NCAA Championships. This NCAA process is expected to begin in the fall of 2023 with a potential to have an official event within a few years. NCAA Women's teams have competed in the National Collegiate Women's Wrestling Championships since 2020. The current NCAA team count is 4 Divisions 1 programs, 31 Division 2 programs and 51 Division 3 programs. NAIA held its first official Women's Wrestling National Championship. Southern Oregon head coach Gabrielle Weyhrich became the first woman to coach a women's college team to a national tournament team title. NJCAA held its first women's wrestling national event. California community colleges held its first women's championships. Challenges include the fact that there is still a need for women coaches and officials. In addition, not all divisions are over the 40 programs needed for a championship. In addition, there are two groups, the California Community College and the Club/Non-Varsity NCWA which are using folkstyle for their competition. The leaders in women's wrestling are continuing to work to have those groups join the rest of the sport as soon as possible using the international style.

Director of Business Development Ahten Goldman gave the Business Development Report. It is a seven-month report. There is a pipeline of 750,000 dollars for partnerships, and things are going well with the partnerships with international hospitality. We have reassessed the sponsorship levels and reassessing the agreements so that they are mutually beneficial.

At-Large Director Sally Roberts gave the Wrestle Like A Girl report. USA Wrestling has focused on advocacy and education, certifications, and two sports diplomacy exchanges focusing on human rights and gender equality. USA Wrestling has been working with Ukraine on bringing wrestlers over and doing exchanges. There will be an event in Washington D.C. focusing on celebrating the incredible things that happened over the past of eight years. We will honor those who worked with Save Olympic Wrestling. There is also a focus on increased research for female wrestlers in newly sanctioned states with the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs with help from the Daniels Fund.



Officials Council Representative Rick Tucci gave the United State Wrestling Officials Association report. There was a handout in the packet for members. It would be preferable to make the coaches meeting in Fargo a mandatory meeting discussing the updated rules where we scan the credential of one representative from each state. The women's wrestling was well attended, but the men's was not. It is important that coaches understand how the officials are thinking about the rule system. There has been work on the referee coach education program and efforts to grow the referee coach relationship. It would be ideal to fund a senior official to go through states that have no officials and to sign up new officials. The education program and system were approved. Two guidebooks were developed to assist the membership: weight masters, and challenges and video reviews. The video of the day program was implemented, and so far, it has received over 100,000 hits. There is work on growing the number of women officials. There should be an effort to encourage those who go out of college to be officials.

Folkstyle Committee Chair Rob Cate gave the Folkstyle Committee Report. There was a report in the membership packet. Of 2700 events for USA Wrestling, 2100 are folkstyle. The committee meets during the year and minutes are available. The committee works closely with events since events drive membership. The focus in 2023 and 2024 will be to better align with the National High School Federation on the weight classes. We also want to focus on the safety of the athletes. We championed the use of the PIN system. We will encourage the national office to provide consistent marketing support to state and local organizations. The step out rule was to increase the safety of the athletes and focus on more center wrestling. New York will provide data on better understanding the impact of the neutral position rule which was not adopted.

1st Vice President Kerry McCoy Gave the DEI Report. 1st Vice President McCoy outlined the background, mission, charge, and essential guiding principles for success. 1st Vice President McCoy introduced the members of the committee. USA Wrestling has had a commitment to diversity and there has been a lot of movement and commitment. The goal is to ensure a welcoming culture and to adopt DEI practices and to meet the needs of members and potential members. The committee met twice a month to figure out the policies and procedures and has now spaced the meetings out a bit more. The process was very rigorous, especially in the beginning to develop the policies and procedures. The goal will be to continue to move forward.

Members who had joined during the meeting were recognized.

Secretary Stokes moved to authorize Rich Bender and Greg Dana to serve as signature authorities on the financial accounts of USA Wrestling and to authorize the Secretary to appoint other personnel to be the Signature Authority on the financial accounts of USA Wrestling. The motion was seconded by Rick Tucci. The motion was adopted.

Secretary Stokes thanked the staff for their work and commitment.

Director Veronica Carlson moved to adjourn and the motion was seconded by Director Stefanowicz. The meeting adjourned at 5:54pm to reconvene on Saturday August 12th at 9am.

Saturday, August 12, 2023

**Board Members Present:**

Bruce Baumgartner, President  
Kerry McCoy, 1st Vice President  
Joan Fulp, 2nd Vice President  
Van Stokes, Secretary  
Don Reynolds, Treasurer

Adeline Gray  
Robert Cate  
James Considine  
Pat Culp  
Elliot Hopkins  
Scott Kluever  
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Jonny Ruggiano  
Robert Smith  
Lee Roy Smith  
James Ravannack  
Iris Smith  
Craig LaMont  
Sara McMann  
Michelle Meadows  
Hardell Moore  
Nate Engel  
Joseph McKenna

**Board Members Absent:**

Vitali Arujau  
Stanley Dziedzic  
Anthony Holman

Michael Macchiavello  
Toccare Montgomery  
Katherine Shai  
Rick Tucci

President Baumgartner called the meeting back to order at 9:03 am. A quorum was present.

Director of National Teams High Performance Cody Bickley gave the National Team Staff Update. In 2022, it was another record-breaking medal year. USA Wrestling went from 43 medals in a year up to 49. Members are looking forward to Paris and feel good about it. It was also the first time the US won the overall Senior World Championships medal count. USA Wrestling was the Men's Freestyle World Cup Champions and had two team world championships: U17 Men's Freestyle and Senior Men's Freestyle. There have been some updates to national team staffing and several additions including former athletes. Russia and Belarus athletes will be at the 2023 World Championships in Belgrade. There is a new process for the 2024 Olympic Qualification which will include a sixteen-person bracket. Director Bickley gave an update on the World Championships events at Normandy, a Greco Roman Update, a Women's Freestyle Update, and a Men's Freestyle Update.

Director Stefanowicz gave the Athlete Advisory Committee Report. Director Stefanowicz thanked the Executive Committee and Executive Director Bender for his availability. In 2023 there was success in athlete support. There was an overhaul in how present and future athletes are funded including an average 10% raise in quadrennial stipend per quad. The members of the committee were acknowledged. Post Covid, there was a drop off in athlete participation in the committee. The Athlete Advisory Committee was the first NGB AAC to create Bylaws in 2020 to set rules and regulations on the inner workings of athlete responsibilities. The view is to expand active engaged athletes and increase the pool of available athletes. There was also a national team onboarding effort. A survey was sent to athletes on how to support athletes, and tax support was one of the highest results. The overall results will be reviewed to better support athletes. The Committee also created a recruit, retain, and succession plan to prevent future turnover. There are currently 150 positions on USAW Committees and Councils. Director Stefanowicz also honored several Athlete Advisory Committee standouts including 2023 Athlete Leader of the year recipients Mallory Velte and Nate Engel and 2023 Woman of the year Veronica Carlson. This is the second year that the Athlete Advisory Committee and the Greg Strobel Leadership Academy have partnered. Next term goals include athlete representatives at every state level board, more athletes becoming officials, more athletes becoming silver and goal coaches, website improvements, and integrating NCAA student Athlete Advisory Committee with the USA Wrestling Athlete Advisory Committee.

Director Dominguez gave the Audit Committee Report. Working with Waugh and Goodwin has been fantastic. A clean audit opinion was rendered. It is good policy to rotate people who oversee the audit. Director Dominguez reported that the Audit Committee unanimously adopted the audit report. The recommendation was that the Board of Directors retain Waugh and Goodwin. One potential place for growth is increased cyber security policies.

Secretary Stokes gave the Ethics and Membership Committee Report. The Ethics and Membership Committee has not had any cases come forward for appeal. There were three cases, but none of them were serious enough to warrant an escalation towards an appeal. The Committee has not acted on any case but remains available if the need should arise.

Secretary Stokes gave the Long-Range Planning Committee Report. The Committee met a year ago and created the Long-Range Plan through 2028. Topics include athlete wellbeing, women's participation, organization excellence, diversity, partnerships, and a refocus on the mission statement. In the future, the Long-Range Plan will become a key order of business.

Director Iris Smith gave the Women's Freestyle Sport Committee Report. Director Smith introduced the members of the committee. There was a review of the Conflict-of-Interest Policy and so far, it is going smoothly. The Committee voted on the selection procedures for the Pan Am World Championships and Coach's selection. There was a record number of applicants. Director Smith explained the application process. The Committee is trying to develop seasoned coaches. There is an effort to develop a National Team Training Camp. Director Smith thanked 2nd Vice President Fulp for her efforts and leadership.

Director Dominguez gave the Greco-Roman Sport Committee Report. There have been challenges in the Greco-Roman events. Herb House is leading the young men to improve morale. Procedures have been set, and there are several new coaches. The goal is to get more young athletes to the national team. The turnover has been tough, but everyone is moving in the same direction. The goal is to bring in some medals in 2024 and 2028. Although there has been turnover, there is good unified leadership and good things are coming.

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President McCoy gave the Freestyle Sport Committee Report. There is collaboration within the committee and staff to answer questions. He thanked Cody Bickley for his support. The upcoming trials procedures are in focus. One new policy was limiting the collegiate coaches' being on the A teams because some coaches were focusing on recruiting. This change opened the door to new coaches. Another accomplishment has been instituting a true third place wrestling round. As a committee, it recommended not to have that place to prevent people gaming the system. The Committee also focused in increasing athlete involvement.

Executive Assistant Megan Ball gave the USOPC Compliance Report. There were 32 areas in full compliance and a few areas of concern in the USOPC Compliance Audit Report. As of last week, there are eight open items. After the approvals from this meeting, including Bylaw updates, this number will reduce to four which will be completed by August 31st. The supplemental report showing compliance will be presented in November or December. There is support from the audit group that with the updates, USA Wrestling will be fully compliant. USA Wrestling should be recertified in good standing at the December meeting. The next audit will be slightly different and will include more collaboration. USA Wrestling has received certifications with conditions, which is common for NGB's.

Manager of Safe Sport and Compliance Kenya Dixon gave the Safe Sport Compliance Report. USA Wrestling received a draft report which stated that three of the four requirements were fully implemented, and one was partially implemented. The required changes are very minor. State Leaders will work with Manager Dixon for future state audits. There should be some lead time. There was discussion about USADA and Safe Sport and the differences between them and the resources that are necessary to meet the requirements that they establish. There was discussion about complying with the Safe Sport Regulations and preparing for future potential regulation changes.

Director of Communications and Special Projects Gary Abbott gave the Communications and Special Projects Report. The communications report was in the packet for members. There was some turnover, but new hires have been made in the communications office. The number of digital impressions and followers has increased to 1.4 million. Instagram has been particularly successful. Communications will continue to monitor as platforms change and as new platforms emerge. The goal is higher quality and more strategic and consistent posts. It is also important to combine story as a component of media materials. There will be a new look for the website on August 21st. It will now be USA Wrestling's responsibility to monetize online materials and this will be a huge focus. For Special Projects, one has been the development of Women's Wrestling. One focus will be on various styles of wrestling, including beach wrestling which may be added to the Olympics as an event. There is still an issue with fewer women's wrestlers, but increasing those numbers is still a focus. The Association of National Olympic Committee have put together the World Beach Games and USA Wrestling was active in those games and had a team with a qualifier in each spot, but unfortunately part of the event was canceled. There are 2 more events coming up at the Beach World Series and more people are getting interested in beach wrestling. Beaches are anywhere you can wrestle in sand.

Director Jay Antonelli gave the Armed Forces Sports Council Report. Director Antonelli thanked the support that USA Wrestling gives to the Armed Forces. It is important to work together to avoid event date conflicts. There is work in process on putting together a team for the upcoming events in Armenia and potentially for the Azerbaijan games.

Director Corey Ruff gave the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Report. For the world team members on the women's side, 60% wrestled at collegiate institutions. NAIA is growing tremendously. The product has improved greatly in 15 years. One success has been evening out the brackets. More clubs are appearing at NAIA institutions.

Director Elliot Hopkins gave the National Federation of State High School Associations Report. There will be 6 new weight classes. Wrestling participation numbers have increased, especially thanks to more women. Wrestling has improved from the seventh most popular sport to the sixth. There are still concerns about communicable diseases. There were caps put on the number of matches permitted and there may be rule changes to prevent health problems and injuries. This topic continues to be a main focus. There is collaboration with the National Coaching Association to be data driven. It looked at hundreds of thousands of weigh-ins to

determine the weight classes and this received approval from the health and legal departments. Director Hopkins thanked several members for the uniform regulation updates.

Director Michael Moyer gave the National Wrestling Coaches Association Report. Director Moyer thanked USA Wrestling for all the collaborations and the working relationship. The NWCA is focusing on the education space and coaching training and development. It just established the 374th new wrestling team. It is a renaissance that should be celebrated. There are 100 scholarships for the coach training program, and there were more women coaches than the male coaches in the program. September 21st will be the first ever virtual career fair. There is a concern that all three NCAA divisions must approve champion status, and that there are only four women's Division 1 programs. There may not be an appetite for another championship that will cost money. It is important to not take anything for granted and to work hard to get NCAA Champion status approved.

Director Lee Roy Smith gave the National Wrestling Hall of Fame report. Director Smith stated that he is proud of the success that USA Wrestling is having. The Goal of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame is to inspire future generations and to recognize excellence which is accomplished with induction ceremonies and several museums. These museums tell the story of USA Wrestling. Each entity has a slate of categories for which they recognize people. There are programs and museums in 35 states. Digital media is also an effort to increase exposure. The induction program consisted of distinguished wrestlers and coaches. It is valuable to share success stories with the public and it is beneficial to the sport of wrestling. There is also a high school excellence award. It is now the start of the 48th induction election cycle. The process is online now. There is work to pursue strategies to increase the exposure of the Hall of Fame for younger wrestlers. There may potentially be a tournament at Disney World in Orlando and there is a desire to do something for the women along those lines. There is also an effort to work in compliance with Safe Sport and the Ethics Committee. The National Wrestling Hall of Fame evaluated nine individuals who were inductees. For four of the cases, the ruling was that no action should be taken, two individuals were voted to be removed from the Hall of Fame, and those members can come before the Board of Governors to appeal the decision. The other three individuals are on hold pending further investigations and court actions. The Endowment Fund has a \$5 million dollar goal which is halfway to completion. The goal is to meet that goal by the 50th year anniversary. There is also a new exhibit featuring the history of women's wrestling.

During New Business, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President McCoy announced that on August 19<sup>th</sup>, Delaware State is on the cusp of starting a Women's Program. They are doing an all first clinic on August 19<sup>th</sup>.

He also announced that on Monday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, Morgan State will have their first home dual meet. It will hopefully be available online.

Director Sally Roberts shared that a Senate Bill was passed in Washington State to fund a \$200,000 dollars post-secondary wrestling program. The amount has the capacity to increase.

There being no further business, Director Stefanowicz made the motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Director Considine. The motion was adopted and the meeting adjourned at 11:33pm.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gregory Carlson".

Gregory Carlson  
*Professional Registered Parliamentarian*  
*Secretary's Designee*