Executive Committee Meeting

Wednesday, January 10, 2024

5:00 p.m. MT

**Present:**

Bruce Baumgartner, President, Chairman

Kerry McCoy, 1st Vice President

Joan Fulp, 2nd Vice President

Don Reynolds, Treasurer

Van Stokes, Secretary

James Ravannack, Immediate Past President

John Stefanowicz

Pat Ream

Veronica Carlson

Zac Dominguez

Rob Cate

Mallory Velte

Craig LaMont

Rich Bender, Executive Director

Megan Ball, Executive Assistant

Kenya Dixon, Manager of Safe Sport and Compliance

Morgan Benham, Manager of Corporate Partnerships

Aphten Sterling, Director of Business Development

**Absent:**

Nate Engel

Mike Macchiavello

Stan Dziedzic, United World Wrestling

1. **WELCOME**

President Bruce Baumgartner welcomed the committee and called the meeting to order at 5:07 PM MT. He asked Van Stokes to read the Declaration of Conflict of Interest and Oath of Confidentiality. No conflicts were present.

1. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR DECEMBER 20, 2023**

Pat Ream made a motioned to approve the previous meeting minutes; Zac Dominguez seconded. President Baumgartner advised that two small corrections were needed to add Craig LaMont and James Ravannack to present instead of absent. Following a vote, the minutes were approved unanimously with the corrections.

1. **PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

President Baumgartner went out to Colorado Springs for the staff Holiday Party, and then out to LA for the Beat the Streets fundraising event. Next on his schedule is an Olympians event at the New York Athletic Club and the Living the Dream Medal Fund Victory Tour in Miami in February. President Baumgartner and Rich met and worked on his UWW campaign travel schedule for the summer.

1. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

Rich Bender had a NGB Council Call today, two of the main leads for LA28 have stepped down and efforts are being made to replace them ASAP. On the UWW front, there is a ranking tournament happening in Zagreb, Croatia where the 2025 World Championships will be held. UWW Americas has affirmed that competition will still take place in Acapulco, and that the facilities and competition venue will be ready. The current primary issue is that many major airlines have suspended travel to Acapulco due to the storm damage. USAW staff are working to manage this complication.

Rich shared tragic loss of Estrella (Star) Dorado Morin, a young WCAP athlete who passed from complications from surgery last week. Counseling professionals were brought in to help our athletes at the training center and any staff or others needing support.

On the USAW front – membership continues to outpace the previous year. We are up 18% in athlete members, 23.7% in wrestling leader members, and 18.8% overall compared to last year. There has been a great increase in female members. We are up 33.5% in female athlete members, 43.1% in female wrestling leader members, and 13.2% overall.

Rich updated the committee on staff updates. Enzo Fano joined at the beginning of this year as the Digital Video Coordinator in the Communications Department. Justin Ruiz and Herb House received title changes. Justin is now the Greco Roman Program Director and Herb is officially the Greco-Roman Head Coach. Ismael Borrero Molina has been named the National Greco-Roman Resident Coach. Aphten Sterling has received a promotion and now oversees both the fundraising and business development departments. Kevin Hansen retired after 34 years, and in his place, Lisa Downey has been named the Women’s Inclusion and National Team Gear Coordinator and Chris Moen has been promoted to Video Production and Building Manager. Two additional new staff members will join the Events Department in the coming month.

Kerry McCoy added that after day one in Croatia, the Men’s Freestyle team had 4 medals and are leading the team race. Additionally, Travis Wittlake, an Oregon State wrestler suffered an injury from truck falling on him. There is a GoFundMe set up for any interested in donating.

**5. FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Don Reynolds let the committee know the finance committee will meet next Monday to approve the statements from the end of 2023. As of 12.31.23 we are tracking 16% ahead of budget and 21% ahead of last year. Early results are very positive, and everything is tracking with the budget.

**6. ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT**

Johnny Stefanowicz shared that the AAC met last week to catch up from December. Johnny will be going down to Orlando for a Team USA AC summit in the next couple of weeks. The primary goal is to gain more autonomy with EAHI. During the AAC call the committee did an event recap and met with the Medical Advisory Committee to discuss their proposed policy changes when it comes to concussion protocol and training.

**7. DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT**

The last DEI committee meeting was January 4th. Kerry shared that the committee continues to affirm USAW’s commitment to diversity. The communications department and Kerry have a set meeting to help plan out the celebrations for the coming months. Kerry is working on having additional committee members join those calls and present more ideas. The next goal is to help state chapters increase diversity on their boards.

**8. WOMEN’S WRESTLING UPDATE**

Joan Fulp shared that by the end of January she hopes to have some good hydration numbers. Women’s numbers are still up, 10 days into the year we are up 1300+, 33% up from the numbers last year. Mississippi is growing, last year they were barely in double digits and now they are approaching 100.

**9. NEW BUSINESS**

No new business. Next month’s meeting is February 7th, off from the normal schedule.

**10. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The meeting entered executive session at approximately 6:15 pm MT.