

**MINUTES**  
**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CONFERENCE CALL**

Tuesday, January 14, 2020  
5:00 PM Mountain Time

**Present:**

Bruce Baumgartner, President, Chairman  
Mark Reiland, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Greg Strobel, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Kerry McCoy, Secretary  
Van Stokes, Treasurer  
Veronica Carlson  
Mike Juby  
Louis Rosbottom  
Steven Thorpe  
James Ravannack, Immediate Past President  
Rich Bender, Executive Director, ex-officio  
Dwayne Cooper, Associate Executive Director  
Gary Abbott, Director of Communications  
Cody Bickley, High Performance Manager  
Haley Scherr, Executive Assistant

**Absent:**

Kyven Gadson  
Pat Smith  
Rick Tucci  
Stan Dziedzic, UWW Vice President

**1. WELCOME, ROLL CALL/OPENING STATEMENT**

President Bruce Baumgartner welcomed the committee and took roll call. He offered condolences to Greg Strobel and his family on the passing of Donna Strobel, a sentiment expressed by the other members of the committee also.

Rich Bender reported that Director of Safe Sport Dan Prochnow was in the hospital after suffering a cardiac incident. Dwayne Cooper said he had just visited Dan in the hospital, after Dan had a procedure to clear a blockage, and that he was in good spirits. There will be no Safe Sport report for this meeting,

**2. APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 10, 2019 MINUTES**

Motion to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2019 Executive Committee made by Greg Strobel. Second by Jim Ravannack.

Approved.

### **3. FINANCIAL REPORT**

Van Stokes reported that the Finance Committee had met December 9 and reviewed October and November statements. He said that the budget was tracking exceptionally well.

Van Stokes noted that USA Wrestling had just posted a job announcement for a Director of Finance. It was noted that Associate Executive Director Dwaine Cooper would be retiring at the end of the month after 29 years of service and leadership on the national staff.

Rich Bender said that Dwaine had been a unsung hero in helping USA Wrestling stay in business in the early 1990s. Rich noted that it was not possible to measure the value Dwaine Cooper has brought to the organization. He said it was a job well done, as Dwaine had been a trusted confidant, mentor and teacher to the entire staff, the Board and the organization.

Dwaine Cooper thanked the Board for being accepting of him, and said his time with USA Wrestling was very fulfilling. He said that he was dedicated to the organization, and wants to give back to USA Wrestling as a volunteer.

Van Stokes noted that Dwaine Cooper was responsible for the level of respect for USA Wrestling's financial management being a leader within the Olympic family.

Van Stokes noted that there would be a screening committee for the new Finance Director, to include Veronica Carlson, Les Gutches, Clarissa Chun, Duane Morgan and Herb House. Six candidates would be advanced to the committee for review, which would grade them in a number of areas, and narrow the field to 3-5 candidates for Executive Director Rich Bender to select the person to serve. Van noted that the new employee would be charged with "retaining the level of integrity and respect" for USA Wrestling moving forward.

Dwaine Cooper noted that the November statements showed that USA Wrestling was doing well in the first quarter, and ahead of the bottom line of the budget. He noted that a strong stock market had been a big factor, but USA Wrestling also was doing well on membership.

Van Stokes noted that USA Wrestling had requested an extension on the filing of the 990 form, as there was not adequate time to secure the needed signatures. With the 990 more complex than in the past, the decision was to make sure every minute question was accurately portrayed. The document would be filed in a few weeks.

### **4. COACHING ASSIGNMENTS**

Cody Bickley presented the Coaching Assignments for the 2020 season, as presented by the Sport Committees of each of the three styles. In regards to the Olympic Games, the Greco-Roman Sport Committee had presented a person to serve as Olympic Coach, while men's freestyle and women's

freestyle wanted to hold off until after the Olympic Trials were completed. Cody Bickley noted that all three styles had Sport Committee calls in December.

Veronica Carlson reported that the athletes on the Greco-Roman Sport Committee were OK with the committee choices, but felt the process was rushed. She noted that they wanted more athlete involvement in the process. Van Stokes, who chairs that committee, concurred that the process can be improved.

Motion to approve the Coaching Assignments as presented made by Mark Reiland. Second by Louis Rosbottom.  
Approved.

Cody Bickley also presented four procedural documents for approval. The documents included selection of an important event, the Pan American Olympic Qualifying Tournament in Canada in March. Cody noted that there would be wrestle-offs for three women's freestyle weight classes, to be held in Marietta, Ga. on Feb. 8 alongside the WCWA Nationals. Both Greco-Roman and men's freestyle would not have wrestle-offs, but set criteria for team selection.

Motion to approve the procedural documents as presented made by Louis Rosbottom. Second by Mark Reiland.  
Approved.

## **5. NEW BUSINESS**

Rich Bender, on behalf of the staff and USA Wrestling membership, expressed condolences to Greg Strobel for the passing of Donna Strobel. Rich said that Greg and the family was in their thoughts and prayers. Greg Strobel shared some stories about Donna with the committee.

## **6. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR EVALUATION**

The Committee went into Executive Session to discuss the Executive Director's evaluation at 5:28 p.m. Mountain time.