**USWOA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES**

**Fargo, North Dakota**

**Sunday, July 19, 2015**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Rick Tucci called the meeting to order at 8:34 PM CST.

**President’s Welcome and Report:** Rick Tucci welcomed the general membership to the annual meeting of the USWOA. Board members and USAW representatives Tyler Gonzles and Derek Sikora were introduced. Rick presented a report in the form of a handout and briefly discussed the work being done by the Officials/State Chairmen Committee with respect to tournament operations, officials recruiting/retention and education. Rick advised the membership to visit the new USWOA website to see the tremendous amount of information available including rule interpretations, schedules, announcements and overall procedures. Rick mentioned members who passed on this year and asked for a moment of silence in their honor.

**Secretary’s Report – Approval of Minutes:** Toby Tobiasson presented the minutes of the October 2014 USWOA Executive Board Meeting. **Motion** to approve minutes by Randall Balch; **seconded** by Vicki Tolin. **Vote: passed by majority.**  Toby also presented the minutes of the 2014 Annual Membership Meeting. **Motion** to approve minutes by Don Tolin; **seconded** by Cliff Ramos. **Vote: passed by majority.**

**Financial Liaison Report:** Bill Stecklein gave a status report that the USWOA is in good financial shape and within its budget.

**OLD BUSINESS** – None

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Review Election Procedures:** Tom Clark addressed the policies and procedures for election of Board members.

**Nomination of Vote Tellers:** Tom Clark conducted the election by asking for nominations for a slate of six vote tellers. **Motion** to approve the nominated tellers by Vicki Tolin; **seconded** by Josh Grube. **Vote: passed by majority**

**Election Procedure: Motion** by Don Tolin to elect Tom Clark and Toby Tobiasson and De Heyman, by acclimation, since they are running unopposed; **seconded** by Toska Adams. **Vote: passed by majority**. De Heyman informed the group that attendance at the meeting was 167 members. Results of the election are as follows:

**OFFICERS**

Tom Clark, Vice President

Toby Tobiasson, Secretary

**AT LARGE**

Casey Brennan-Goessl

Zach Errett

Sam Julian

Tim Pierson

Next high vote getter is: Bill Stecklein

**PAIRING AT LARGE**

De Heyman

Randall Balch **moved** and Jose Delgado **seconded** to destroy the election ballots. **Vote: passed by majority.**

**Policies and Procedures Report:** John Heyman presented a revised Policies and Procedures document, for approval, of the sections dealing with Mat and Pairing Officials categories and upgrades, nomination of the National Pairing Director, standing committees, pairing tests and evaluations. **Motion** to approve under Section L, definitions of category M3 by Pete Kuisle; **seconded** by Toska Adams. **Vote: passed by majority.** **Motion** to approve under Section L, definitions and promotion requirements for M3 through M1 by Rob Roy; **seconded** by Bill Hinchley. **Vote: passed by majority.** **Motion** to approve under Section L, pairing updates, P1 and P1E upgrade requirements, under Section M, nomination of National Pairing Director and Section N, standing committees and evaluation and data committee by Ginger Lyle; **seconded** by Tom Kuisle. **Vote: passed by majority.** . **Motion** to approve under Section O, pairing tests and under Section P, evaluations by De Heyman; **seconded** by Kevin Jensen. **Vote: passed by majority.** John noted that Sue Hesser had performed the capitalization and punctuation for this document.

**Pairing Report:** Ginger Lile gave a report on pairing activities for the year. . **Motion** to approve the pairing report by Steve Paulus; **seconded** by Josh Kuisle. **Vote: passed by majority.**

**United World Wrestling Report:** Rick Tucciannounced that Zach Errett has been named an instructor by United World Wrestling (UWW) and serve as one of two head officials at the World Championships in Las Vegas this summer. Casey Brennan Goessl and Sam Julian will be officiating; De Heyman, Jan Hesser and Sue Hesser will be involved with pairings and John Heyman will be the weighmaster for this event.

**USWOA Website Report:** Tom Kuisle reported on the progress of the new website. It is working well and more information is being added constantly. Tom discussed the work Zach Errett and Casey Brennan-Goessl have done with the rules and the related videos.

**Officials Education Program Updates-Update:** John Heyman gave a recap of the OEPs conducted this year. John thanked all of the members who helped with the OEPs as instructors or presenters. John said the content and focus of the OEPs may change some in future years to meet the needs of our organization.

**State Chairmen/Officials Committee Report:** Tom Kuisle presented a paper that came from the activities of the State Chairmen/Officials Committee as part of the State Chairmen Leadership Conference. The content is a guide for the requirements of Local Organizing Committees to successfully host Regional or National events. It also presents suggested practices for recruiting, training and retaining officials.

**Tournament Concerns:** Tom Kuisle discussed the Fargo event and reported things are going well. Tom also discussed issues with other tournaments that need to be addressed and improved in the future. Tom said the State Chairmen/Officials Committee has implemented several changes and we should see results in 2016.

**Office Update (Membership, Etc.):** De Heyman mentioned issues she has with officials not keeping the “where are you going” form current. She also stated that some mat officials are waiting too long to turn down assignments when they can’t accept them which often makes it difficult to find a replacement. De reported that officials’ reimbursement for Fargo should be finalized by the time the tournament is over.

**Hall of Fame Nomination:** Rick Tucci informed the members present that Dave Errett is the 2015 USWOA nominee for induction into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame.

**USWOA Awards:** Tom Clark announced the award winners for this year. They are as follows:

Glen Blackman Award – Jason Salley IL

Phil Portuese Award – Bill Stecklein PA

Mort Geller Award – Casey Brennan-Goessl WI

Official of the Year Award – Danny Blackshear OK

Ivan Olsen Award – Lenna Fajerman CO

Bernie Norris Award – Vicki Tolin WY

The Lifetime Achievement award winners are Jerry Matsumoto CA, Chuck Hull WY, Rod Cozzetto CO, Chris Curtis NJ, Bill Stecklein PA, Lena Fajerman CO – Pairing

**OTHER BUSINESS –** Rick Tuccirecognized the many years of service to USWOA from Gary Abbott.

**Announcements:** Rick Tucci thanked everyone for all they do and noted the retirement of former Board members Toska Adams and Charlotte Owens.

**Adjournment: Moved** by Vicki Tolin, **seconded** by Tom Kuisle to adjourn at 9:38 PM CST. **Vote: passed by majority.**