



Officers of the Corporation
Jeff Dickman
STATE CHAIR
William Terrell
VICE CHAIR
Nancy Zuena
TREASURER
Dianna Barkman
ACTING SECRETARY

Council Chairs
Ron Fazio
OFFICIALS
Pete DiBiase
INTERNATIONAL STYLE
Jason Nase
COACHES
Omar Feliciano
U23 / SR / CULTURAL

Rick Puerto
KIDS SCHOLASTIC
Lori Ayers
FEMALE
Committee Chairs
John Welch
LEGISLATIVE

Chris Curtis
MEMBERSHIP
Gary Brownell
NATIONAL TRIPS
Dave Mauro
SCHEDULING
EVENTS
Bryan Heller
PUBLICITY

At Large
Harry Turner
Jennifer Clark
Mike Harris
Joanna Roman

Purpose of Meeting-General Membership

Meeting-overview of the Folkstyle & International season, upcoming tournaments, voting for At Large Member

DATE: 2/3/2022

TIME: 8 PM

LOCATION: Union High School

SBG elections, Northeast regions venue

General Membership Meeting

1. Call to Order – 8:12 pm

Jeff opened the meeting by welcoming everyone. He informed those present that he would be turning the election portion over to Vice Chair, Bill Terrell and Legislative Chair, John Welch.

2. Roll Call

Board members present-Jeffrey Dickman, Bill Terrell, Nancy Zuena, Dianna Barkman, Peter DiBiase, Jason Nase, Omar Feliciano, Lori Ayres, John Welch, Chris Curtis, “Gimp” Brownell, Dave Mauro, Harry Turner, Mike Harris, Joanna Roman

Board members not present-Ron Fazio, Rick Puerto, Bryan Heller

General membership present-Nick Mauro, Renee Carbonaro, John Dean, Chris Treston, Jeff Gauthier, Craig Manno, Angelo Zuena

3. Kids’ Scholastic Council Report – Jeff Dickman

a. Overview of the season to date – There have been 5 qualifiers so far. There have been a few hiccups and bumps in the road due to venues issues and having to make changes. Things in general are running well. The good news is that the membership and participation is up 8% from last year. Gimp added that our percentage increase mirrors what is being seen throughout the US. No issues with when running it. Rick has done a great job setting it up and things are working well.

b. Plans for Kids’ States - There has been a change in the way the money is being handled for the Kids’ States. This is a reversal from the way it had been done. The money will now come to USAW/NJ and a check will be cut for the school once the financials for the event are submitted. This was done for the qualifier at West Orange. Financials were submitted and Nancy was able to cut a check. It has also worked out for the Washington Township qualifier. Next qualifier is February 13th at Bordentown HS.

4. International Style Council Report – Pete DiBiase

Overview of the upcoming season – As of this time, everything is running on point. Fargo hotels are booked and Fargo camp at CBA is planned, Information on how the qualifiers will be run is in the books, Northeast Regions are scheduled and will be a qualifier for Fargo, States have been booked for Sportika, All four of the Duals teams have hotels and flights are currently being booked. This year there will be a girls dual team going to Oklahoma. Unfortunately, all prices have gone up by \$400 for a total of \$1400 per athlete. Singlets have been ordered, designs have been approved and are being made. Jeff has the

account as well as Rich Santoli. This has been corrected and we now have control of the account with a login for online business.

Jeff gave an update on our non-profit status. He has been working with the financial advisor and our non-profit is not in jeopardy. We will be filing the 999s for the last three years and we will be free and clear. Jeff also noted that we will have a volunteer to help Nancy with the financials when it gets into the “busy” season.

14. Elections – Bill Terrell and John Welch gave an overview of the job of the nomination committee. Those who were currently holding positions were surveyed to see if they intended to run for their position again or if they would like to step down. Notice of elections and positions were advertised on various platforms (USAWNJ website & social media outlets.) The general membership could nominate candidates as well. Below is listed the results of the nominations:
 - a. Officers of the Corporation (running unopposed) – State Chair-Jeff Dickman (incumbent), Secretary-Dianna Barkman (incumbent)
 - b. Council Chairs (running unopposed) – Officials-Ron Fazio (incumbent), Kids Scholastic-Rick Puerto (incumbent), International Style-Pete DiBiase (incumbent), Coaches-Jason Nase (incumbent), U23/SR/Cultural exchange-Omar Feliciano (incumbent)
 - c. Committee Chairs (running unopposed) – Legislative-John Welch (incumbent), Membership-Chris Curtis (incumbent), National Trips- “Gimp” Brownell (incumbent), Scheduling-Dave Mauro (incumbent),
 - d. Publicity Committee Chair-Bryan Heller has stepped down. Chris Treston is running unopposed for the position
 - e. SGB At Large Members (running unopposed)-North-Mike Harris (incumbent), South/Central-Harry Turner (incumbent)
 - f. Appointment of At Large Regional replacement for Jennifer Clark and the one open position made by Jeff Dickman for the approval of the SGB:
North/Central-Renee Carbonaro, South-Craig Manno

Craig Manno was asked to introduce himself to the board. His goal for USAW/NJ is to unite and compete as a New Jersey team not only in Fargo but in other tournaments as well. He feels this will bring New Jersey wrestlers to a new level. He owns/runs Tri-State Training Center in New York State. It is an all-inclusive facility providing housing and training facilities for teams and clubs. Here is the link for more information for his Tri-State Training Center for those interested:

<https://tristatetrainingcenter.com/>

A motion was made to accept by acclamation those nominees running unopposed for the positions.

15. Election – Female/Women’s Council

Bill and John once again stepped in to run the election for the Women’s Council Chair. John prepared ballots for the voting process. Bill gave each candidate a chance to speak for the board.

- a. Nominees were:
 1. Lori Ayres (incumbent)
 2. John Dean
- b. Lori Ayres and John Dean outlined their accomplishments and goals for the Female Council. Lori spoke first and stated her purpose for running was to bring to the table new and diversified ideas that are in the best interest for girls wrestling. She also stated she had no additional personal agenda in running. She stated that she felt USAWNJ was created without women in mind and that the organization needs to change the way it operates in order to accommodate them. She felt that the SGB needs to be open and to provide an atmosphere where women were made to feel welcome, inclusive,

safe to express new ideas, and that women wrestlers are valued. She felt that women volunteers should be given an opportunity to have mentors and be invited to committee and council meetings. She felt that it was the job of all board members to take ownership of building the programs for both genders. She emphasized the need to put the girls on an even footing with the boys and to grow women's wrestling. She noted her involvement with Fargo and thanked Pete, Gimp, Jason, and Bryan for all their help. She cited her current involvement with the grassroots wrestling incentive - DI Women's Wrestling, hosting a Flo podcast -Everything Women's Wrestling, and is on the board for the Central NJ Wrestler's Business Network. She is also a full-time teacher and has both a son and daughter that wrestle. She admitted that she is busy but is willing and dedicated to helping women's wrestling and that she is here for the right reason.

John Dean gave a brief background of himself and how he is involved with USAW. He is a father of six children and currently has two sons and two daughters involved with the program. He has seen the programs from both the boys' and girls' perspective. He has been involved in wrestling for ten years. He understands what obstacles the girls are faced with based on his own experience. In the last four years he has been actively involved in girls wrestling – coaching girls' teams and by sponsoring girls' events. He has been building relationships with leaders in women's wrestling both in New Jersey and across the country. He stated that he has no personal agenda and plans to do what is best for the girls. He would like to reach out to the public and is open to other people's opinions and suggestions for building and improving opportunities for girls' wrestling in New Jersey. He is devoted to giving back to the community and feels that USA Wrestling is a great way to do that. John thanked the board for their consideration and thanked Lori for all the work she has done for women's wrestling.

Bill called for any questions for the nominees. John Welch asked both Lori Ayres and John Dean if they would be willing to work with each other no matter who wins. Both replied that they would certainly do so.

Numbered paper ballots were distributed and collected.

- c. Voting- Numbered paper ballots were distributed and collected by John Welch. The votes were tallied by Bill Terrell and Dianna Barkman. There were 15 board members of good standing present at the meeting. It was a close election with the results:

John Dean – 8 votes

Lori Ayres – 7 votes

16. Northeast Regions - Venue update

- a. Harrah's Resort Atlantic City has been confirmed as the venue for Northeast Regions and Last Chance Qualifier for Senior Worlds. A deal has been worked out and the contract has been sent to Rob Morrello to review. He has found nothing wrong with it and Jeff said he would send it out that night to all the board members. Jeff stated that he needs to sign it by Friday, February 11. With Northeast Regions permission the site has been approved. Our SGB needs to approve. Jeff was also able to secure Harrah's for another year at a more reduced rate. Northeast Chapter has given USAWNJ the option to use Harrah's again in 2023 and will give us back \$10 per night per hotel room booked. This could mean \$8,000 back to us. Northeast Regions will still be a fundraiser for us and a money maker. Jeff collaborated with Pete DiBiase on planning. Jeff made a point of saying that this year there was time to read through the contract unlike the Kalahari Resort where we were scrambling to find a venue. He feels that Harrah's will save us money as compared to last year. Jeff and Pete will go forward with booking the venue on Friday.
- b. Contract details

Overview: 50,000 square feet venue, all mats will be in the same room, we have two side rooms at our disposal. Jeff also stated a quoted price of \$25,000 that included internet, electric, etc. Jeff believes that in the second year of the contract the fee for the internet is waived. We have 125 rooms blocked but do

not have a code for them yet. Rooms will be booked through the USAW link, so we receive the \$10 per night credit for them.

17. Open / Questions from the floor

John Welch questioned if we would make money on it this year based on last year's losses and also do we have a budget. Jeff referenced the packet that Pete prepared and was distributed electronically and in hard copy. Rooms are more moderate with a discounted rate, and we won't lose as much on them. Jeff stated that the bottom line was that we will make money this year. It all depends on the number of participants. Pete added that we are also holding the Last Chance Qualifier for Senior Worlds alongside which will increase the numbers. Registration fee has been raised \$5 for this year.

Harry inquired if the reason for the loss of revenue last year was Covid based. Jeff gave a background that because there were registration numbers of 1849 kids, there was no venue available in New Jersey that could accommodate the event. National did not approve Sportika and Spooky Nook was already booked for the dates. Kalahari gave a price for rental of the venue only but when the cost of internet, electric, on and off load, and other incidentals were added in it raised the price considerably. At the late date, it was the only option we had. Last year's event was well received by all involved and made a favorable impression on the National committee.

Nancy asked if the reception for the officials was included in the cost. Jeff stated that it was.

Harry raised the question of \$1800 for internet per day. Pete noted that it was low compared to other venues. Jeff stated that it was originally \$5000 but the New Jersey Sports Authority picked up the difference.

Jeff concluded by saying we will make money based on "how we do, how we sell it, and how we market it." National is on board with it and is waiting to go live with it on their site.

18. Announcements - none

19. Motions:

To accept the minutes from 1/6/2022 as presented via email

Made by: John Welch 2nd-Bill Terrell passed unanimously (15-0)

To appoint to SGB positions by acclamation all those running unopposed on the ballot - State Chair-Jeff Dickman, Secretary-Dianna Barkman, Officials-Ron Fazio, Kids Scholastic-Rick Puerto, International Style-Pete DiBiase, Coaches-Jason Nase, U23/SR/Cultural exchange-Omar Feliciano, Legislative-John Welch, Membership-Chris Curtis, National Trips- "Gimp" Brownell, Scheduling-Dave Mauro

Made by: Chris Curtis 2nd-Dave Mauro passed unanimously (15-0)

To accept by appointment to unfilled chair positions – Publicity-Chris Treston, At Large-North/Central-Renee Carbonaro, South-Craig Manno

Made by: Nancy Zuena 2nd-Mike Harris passed unanimously (15-0)

To adjourn the SGB meeting

Made by: Chris Curtis 2nd-Dave Mauro passed unanimously (15-0)

20. Adjournment @ 9:19 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Dianna Barkman
Dianna Barkman
USAWNJ Secretary

