

USWOA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES
Fargo, North Dakota
Saturday, 13 July 2019

CALL TO ORDER: Rick Tucci called the meeting to order at 8:30 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 Pete Isais and Derek Sikora were introduced. Rick honored Mo Babi who passed away this year by asking for a moment of silence. Rick reported the USWOA membership for 2019 is at 2897 compared to 2467 for 2018 but indicated we have a continuing concern with retention and recruitment of officials as we lose roughly a third every year. Rick called attention to Tim Pierson's work with the rules videos and daily quizzes. This year there were over 200,000 hits to bring us over 500,000 for the last two years. Many of these are from international mat officials.

Secretary's Report: Toby Tobiasson presented approved minutes of the 14 July 2018 Executive Board meeting. Toby presented minutes of the 29 September 2018 USWOA Executive Board Meeting. These were approved at the 13 July 2019 Executive Board meeting. Toby also presented draft minutes of the 14 July 2018 Annual Membership Meeting, ratified by the Executive Board at the September 2018 meeting. Bobby Vallarelli **moved** and Pete Kuisle **seconded** to approve the minutes as presented. **Vote: passed by majority.** Minutes of the 9 July 2019 Executive Board teleconference that were approved at the 14 July 2019 Executive Board meeting were also presented by Toby.

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

USAW Report: Derek Sikora talked about the membership system and encouraged everyone to sign up early because the system is used to project attendance at events for logistics such as room requirements, reimbursement and gifts. Derek said if a member is having difficulty with the system, give him a call and he will be glad to assist. Derek reported that all officials' reimbursements will

be done on thearbiter.com. He encouraged all officials to get their account established as soon as possible.

Review Election Procedures: Toby Tobiasson presented the slate of candidates running for election to the USWOA Board of Directors as Officers or At-large positions. Toby also presented the ballot and discussed the procedures for the election. Tom Kuisle monitored the counting of the ballots by the vote tellers.

Nomination of Vote Tellers: Toby Tobiasson proposed a slate of prospective tellers to count the ballots. Toby utilized criteria that incorporated, geographic diversity, age, gender and approximate ratio of Mat and Pairing officials. Those nominated were Wyatt Booth MN, Rod Cozzetto CO, Teri Melosci FL and Susanna Sylstad WA. Toby had contacted those on the list to ensure they would serve if selected. **Motion** to approve the slate of tellers by Pete Kuisle, **seconded** by Monica Schommer. **Vote: passed by majority**

Election Results: John Heyman **moved** to elect Tim Pierson as Vice President and LeeAnn Johnson as Pairing At Large, **by acclamation**, since they are running unopposed; **seconded** by Dwayne Henry. **Vote: passed by majority.** Toby Tobiasson informed the group that attendance at the meeting was 196 members present. Results of the election, with 193 ballots cast, are as follows:

OFFICERS

Tim Pierson, Vice President
Chris Call, Secretary

AT LARGE

Zach Errett
Casey Goessl
Sam Julian
Nick Kindred
Next high vote getter is: Rob Roy

PAIRING AT LARGE

LeeAnn Johnson

Bobby Vallarelli **moved** and Rod Cozzetto **seconded** to destroy the election ballots. **Vote: passed by majority.**

Pairing Report: De Heyman gave a report on pairing activities for the year. De mentioned the Education Committee is actively developing and conducting Pairing OEPs for the new TSO (Technical Systems Operator) certification. The training will more closely reflect the work currently being done by pairers. There were six clinics conducted as well as the OEPs this year. Mentors have also been identified and tested for the FLO and Track training.

Policies and Procedures Report: John Heyman reported that the Board has ratified changes to the Policies and Procedures. Only TSO (Technical Systems Operator) related changes were made. Dave Pelsang **moved** and Randall Balch **seconded** to approve all ratified changes. **Vote: passed by majority.**

United World Wrestling Report: Zach Errett gave a report on the new UWW online education platform. All courses are two day sessions whether for candidates or category 2 or category 3. Officials can now get a promotion every year.

USWOA Website Report: Tom Kuisle reported on the progress of the website. The membership system functions are constantly being improved and expanded due to anticipated increases in utilization. Tom said several changes will soon be made to the registration portion of the system so early registration is advised. The United States Olympic Committee (USOC) is requiring Safe Sport certification annually so USAW will only be able to provide annual registrations.

Officials Education Report (OEP): John Heyman gave a recap of this year's activities. There were 2 State OEPS, 10 Regional/National OEPs and 4 Pairing OEPs conducted during the year. There were a total of 315 attendees and 15 coaches with 17 no shows.

Official's Responsibilities – Safe Sport: Tom Kuisle reported on the housing issue of billeting extra people in rooms provided for officials at USAW events. Safe Sport does not allow anyone under 18 year of age to bunk in a room with anyone other than family. If a parent wants a youth to be in their room, the parent must pay for half the cost of the room and no other official will be assigned to that room. Rick Tucci reported that the USWOA Ethics Committee will deal with all ethics situations except for Safe Sport which will be handled by USAW. Rick also cautioned the membership to be responsible whenever they are in public. People don't want to see officials acting inappropriately at night and then refereeing the next day.

USWOA Hall of Fame Nomination: Rick Tucci spoke briefly about Dave Errett's induction into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame and suggested we try again to get Tom Clark selected. Jerry Kuntz **moved** and Bill Stecklein **seconded** that Tom Clark be recommended as the USWOA nominee for induction into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame. **Vote: passed by majority.**

USWOA Awards For 2019/ Retirees: Sam Julian announced the award winners for this year. They are as follows:

Zach Errett formerly Glen Blackman Award – Susanna Sylstad WA
Dave Errett formerly Phil Portuese Award – Tim Pierson VA
Bill Stecklein formerly Mort Geller Award – Sam Julian PA
Rick Tucci formerly Official of the Year Award – Jason Babi CO

De Heyman announced the Pairing awards. They are:

Alice Riggle Award – Mark Bullington IL
Bernie Norris Award – Sherry Bullard WA (accepted by LeeAnn Johnson)

The 2019 Lifetime Achievement Award winners are Pat Babi CO (accepted by Jason Babi), Linda Kuisle MN, Fidel Abelo FL, Frank Gama CA, Tom Kuisle MN and Jay Terry WA.

Four Mat Officials were recognized on their retirement from USWOA. Those honored were Dave Errett IN, Tony Melosci FL, Bill Stecklein PA and Toby Tobiasson UT. Biographies of each honoree were read and awards presented. The combined years of service for these officials totals more than one hundred and twenty years.

OTHER BUSINESS – None.

Announcements: - None.

Adjournment: **Moved** by Jason Babi, **seconded** by Wyatt Booth to adjourn at 9:43 PM CST. **Vote: passed by majority.**