

**USWOA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES**  
**Fargo, North Dakota**  
**Sunday, July 16, 2017**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Rick Tucci called the meeting to order at 8:39 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, Eve Duncan and Derek Sikora were introduced. Rick presented a handout and mentioned members who passed away this year including Alice Riggle, Tom Clark, Jerry Matsumoto, Joe Scalzo and Julian Findley. Rick related short anecdotes about each one of them and asked for a moment of silence in their honor. He talked about Board member position changes, manning events, official's stipends, the website, and the transition from the USWOA Administrative Assistant to USAW assuming those duties. People noted included Jaimie McNab, Derek Sikora, Pete Isais and Rich Bender.

**Secretary's Report:** Toby Tobiasson presented minutes of the 21-22 October 2016 USWOA Executive Board Meeting. These minutes were approved at the 14 July 2017 Executive Board meeting. Toby also presented the minutes of the 2015 Annual Membership Meeting. **Motion** to approve the minutes as presented by Bobby Vallarelli; **seconded** by Toska Adams. **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. Bill was asked about expanding the OEP program and if sufficient funding would be available. He responded that funding should not be an issue.

**OLD BUSINESS** – None

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Review Election Procedures:** Tom Kuisle addressed the policies and procedures for election of Board members. Tom explained that the Steering Committee makes officer recommendations but not for at-large positions.

**Nomination of Vote Tellers:** Tom Kuisle conducted the election and presented a proposed slate of vote tellers. **Motion** to approve the slate of tellers by Bill Grant; **seconded** by Danny Blackshear. **Vote: passed by majority**

**Election Results:** Chris Curtis **moved** to elect Tim Pierson as Vice President and Toby Tobiasson as Secretary, by acclamation, since they are both running unopposed; **seconded** by Rod Cozzetto. **Vote: passed by majority.** De Heyman informed the group that attendance at the meeting was 178 members present plus 4 Pairers who are at the event but could not attend this meeting as they are setting up a tournament in the Fargodome. Results of the election with 182 ballots cast are as follows:

#### **OFFICERS**

Tim Pierson, Vice President  
Toby Tobiasson, Secretary

#### **AT LARGE**

Zach Errett  
Casey Brennan-Goesl  
Sam Julian  
Bill Stecklein  
Next high vote getter is: Danny Blackshear  
followed by Jason Salley

Don Tolin **moved** and Na Humma **seconded** to destroy the election ballots. **Vote: passed by majority.**

**Policies and Procedures Report:** John Heyman presented a revised Policies and Procedures document, which reflects action taken by the Board at the October 2016 fall meeting. Greg Van Houten **moved** and Vickie Tolin **seconded** to approve those sections dealing specifically with pairing officials. **Vote: passed by majority.** Rob Wiggs **moved** and Pete Kuisle **seconded** to accept and approve those sections dealing specifically with mat officials. **Vote: passed by majority.**

**Pairing Report:** Ginger Lile gave a report on pairing activities for the year. Ginger also mentioned a proposed new membership system that will change the way we do business. It likely will utilize code scanners and eliminate most of the paper methods we currently employ, including license books, for membership and tournament operations. Much is yet to be finalized but Ginger wanted the members to be aware of the coming changes. **Motion** to approve the pairing report by Ed Gould; **seconded** by Sue Hesser. **Vote: passed by majority.**

**United World Wrestling Report:** Zach Errett presented a handout and gave a report on UWW courses and upgrades, a proposed new Education Pathway and possible rule changes for 2018. Zach also mentioned that additional assignments may be made for our UWW officials if potentially existing funds are made available.

**USWOA Website Report:** Tom Kuisle reported on the progress of the 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 video of the day Tim Pierson is doing. Tom reported on the incredible number of hits on the website and noted that a large number of foreign officials are utilizing the website.

**Officials Education Report (OEP):** John Heyman gave a recap of the OEPs conducted this year and thanked Tim Pierson for stepping in to help while John was unable to conduct the program. Tim Pierson presented an in depth spreadsheet review of the activities of the OEP program and thanked all of the OEP instructors and presenters for their good work.

**Tournament Concerns:** Tom Kuisle said the tournament reports reflect this year's event have been run generally pretty well. Two areas still needing some attention are weighins and the implementation of the stipend program.

**Office Update:** Derek Sikora reported on the transition from the USWOA Administrative Assistant to USAW staff. Derek said there have been some rough spots, as expected, but overall things have gone well. Derek told the membership that Jaimie McNab is still working as the Board Liaison but her other duties require us to contact Derek for anything we need. He can then direct the request to the proper person at USAW. Derek presented an informational handout for the Fargo Electronic Travel Reimbursement Form. All officials need to fill out this form on the designated computer in the pairing area.

**Code of Conduct:** Rick Tucci talked about Flo Wrestling live streaming matches from the tournament. This means the microphones will be operational on all of the mats. They will be located on the Judge's table. Rick cautioned everyone to be professional and always be careful of what you say so we don't have to deal with complaints from something overheard on the internet.

**Hall of Fame Nomination:** Casey Brennan-Goessl reported that Dave Errett will be recommended as the 2017 USWOA nominee for induction into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame.

**USWOA Awards For 2017:** Casey Brennan-Goessl announced that the Sandy Cageao Award will be for Freestyle and the new Tom Clark Award will be for Greco-Roman while leaving the Mort Geller Award as it is.

Casey announced the award winners for this year. They are as follows:

Glen Blackman Award – Na Humma AZ  
Phil Portuese Award – Tom Clark IN  
Mort Geller Award – Mike Swisher VA  
Official of the Year Award – De Heyman FL

Ginger Lile announced the Pairing awards. They are:

Ivan Olsen Award – Renee Schoettle IN  
Bernie Norris Award – Debbi Kallai OH

The 2017 Lifetime Achievement award winners are Ed Bernshausen NE, Carrie Learn MN, Mike Dilworth WA, Dick Wince NC, Don Tolin WY, and Tom Clark IN.

**OTHER BUSINESS** – Rick Tucci encouraged officials to sign up for the U23 Tournament in Chicago over the Columbus Day weekend.

**Announcements:** Rick Tucci welcomed everyone to a social to be hosted by USAW on Thursday night after the wrestling in Room 203 of the Fargodome.

**Adjournment: Moved** by Don Tolin, **seconded** by Rod Cozzetto to adjourn at 9:51 PM CST. **Vote: passed by majority.**