

ISWA Monthly Meeting

December 08, 2024

Call to Order: Meeting called meeting to order at 12:01 pm by Pat Culp. Meeting held via Zoom

Attendance:

Pat Culp, Tina Fouts, Jennifer Pierson, Melissa Strayer, Jared Curcio, Steve Mathis, Jimmy Tonte, Lou Silverman, Danny Struck, Nick Hull, Dalton Halbig, Dan Mikesell, Payton Halbig, Mary Friedt, Jonah Odum, and Linda Robinson

Staff: JD Minch, Tina Tonte

Consultants:

Guest:

Secretary: Tina Fouts

- Tina Fouts presented the November draft minutes as previously supplied through USA Wrestling membership website.
- Payton Halbig made a motion to accept the minutes.
- Steve Mathis seconded the motion.
- Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer: Steve Mathis

- Steve Mathis Shared reports on screen.
- Athlete membership is almost half way to budget.
- Club charters are over half way to budget.
- Donations \$900.
- Equipment sales are from annual meeting.
- Interest shown is from the 3 CDs that we currently hold.
- We are at almost 50% of budget from hard cards. Most income is from membership allocation.
- Team Indiana income is rollover from last year.
- Women's Duals grant from last year.
- Expenses – typical office expenses.
- Officials is for reimbursement memberships.
- Some expenses showing are from 2024 annual meeting.
- Payroll expenses.
- Deposits showing are for deposits on buildings and equipment for upcoming tournaments.
- Statement of Financial Position – mostly cash and CDs.
- Jared Curcio made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report.
- Mary Friedt seconded the motion.
- Motion passed unanimously.

Pat Culp took a moment to welcome Dan Mikesell to the board. She also wanted to give a shout out to Thomas Pompei and Danny Struck who are now on USAW Board of Directors. Thomas is the representative for NAIC colleges and Danny is the representative for coaches. She wanted to give a huge shout out to Ryan Parrish, for earning his Silver Coach's Certificate. Also, for the 3rd year in a row Contenders Wrestling Academy was recognized as being in the top 50 clubs in the nation. We are very Indiana proud. These items build upon our reputation with USA Wrestling. With Jennifer Ratliff

going to work part time with USA Wrestling, all the awards we have received, the fact that we now host 2 national events, we continue to build pride in what we do on a daily basis. Thanks to all.

Pat Culp also reported that Indiana is one of the 3 states testing the new bracketing system. We are THE state testing the weight management system, which is another feather in our cap. Robert Faulkens asked for Indiana to be the state to test this.

Old Business

Open Board Positions

- The interview committee has been working hard the last month and a half.
- Have filled, last month, the 16U/JR Director's position with Dan Mikesell.
- Over last month, the committee has been working on the Women's Director and Communications Director (new position). Job descriptions have been updated and/or written and have had several applicants.
- They went through the interview process and came away with one person that they wanted to recommend for the Communications Director, Andy Oberland. He is part of The Fort and Homestead Wrestling. He has technical background and experience with social media. The committee feels he is the best candidate for the job. Jennifer Pierson proposes the board accept him for the Communications Director position.
- Steve Mathis seconded the motion.
- Motion passes unanimously.
- Jennifer Pierson will have him reach out to all directors to get an idea about how their specific area needs to be promoted, and the schedule (trip planning, travel programs, etc.).
- She wants to get an annual plan put together. Creating scheduling content so that everything is well planned out and being covered, instead of as an after-thought.
- The Women's Director position has morphed a little bit in the process of reviewing the job description and past experiences. We have had a lot of good candidates.
- The committee and executive board felt there is enough work that this warrants 2 positions.
- Out of the pool of applicants, it has been determined that the two positions should be 16U/Jr Women's Director and Girls/Kids Director (14U and under). With that in mind, she reported that we have two candidates that they felt fit 16U/Jr Women's Director position. Doug Strayer has done many trips with the ISWA, and has a lot of experience and passion.
- Jennifer Pierson motioned to recommend Doug Strayer for the position.
- Mary Friedt seconded the motion.
- Motion passes unanimously.
- The new Girls/Kids Director will work collaboratively with the other Director to promote Women's wrestling and with Jason Miller on the boy's side.
- Patrick Rowles from Jay County is a well-organized person, and has a deep interest. His daughter is older, but feels he can make a difference in this area.
- Jennifer Pierson made a motion to accept Patrick Rowles as the Girls/Kids Director.
- Mary Friedt seconded the motion.
- Linda Robinson asked if any females were interviewed.
- Jennifer Pierson feels that we need to reinvigorate the Women's Committee. There was one woman that interviewed.
- Motion passes unanimously.
- Jennifer Pierson stated the whole process brought notice to many people that we can pull into the ISWA in different capacities. Team leaders, committees, etc. She will encourage that we use them in different ways. This helped to identify people that we can strategically utilized. This will help to get more people involved.
- Part-time position – will be the primary focus moving forward.

Streaming

- Pat Culp has spoken with Jen Ratliff regarding streaming
- Would like to get away from Flo for ISWA streaming.
- She has looked at other vendors and we can put up a pay-per-view window.
- She will move forward on this and will have a little more information soon.
- We have an event today in Rochester and Brooke is testing that today.
- Yesterday, TrackWrestling started running very slowly.
- While we have this opportunity, we should move on to another vendor for streaming.
- Opened to questions.
- Mary Friedt feels it will be a good thing to do, due to past issues.
- We have spoken with a few vendors and has it narrowed down to one or two.
- Jared Curcio wondered about the approach we were going to take.
- Jen Ratliff is narrowing it down and will have a little more detail at the next meeting.
- Dalton Halbig asked if we will be testing at the upcoming events.
- He would like video review process to be looked at for tournament aspects. Will possibly test on our duals, if we are ready, and probably not charge anyone on the initial trials.
- Some other states have reached out to see what Indiana is going to do and then may follow suit. Pat Culp stated we want to take our time and find the right vendor.

New Business

Elementary Duals State

- Pat Culp reported that Ryan Parrish and Jen Ratliff, and the office are working on this event.
- Tina Tonte was asked how many teams we have currently. She said that we have 2 medium spots open.
- The office received an inquiry yesterday, but didn't know what school it was, she is waiting on a response.
- Jennifer Pierson said that there are several different scenarios that came up in their tournament meeting – possibly allowing 9 medium teams and allow New Palestine to move up to the large division.
- Jen Ratliff is checking with a few schools before she finalizes everything.
- Changes could possibly reduce the mat count by one, but that will not change the number of officials needed.
- If there is a change, there will be an announcement, with a deadline.
- The event will be held on 1/12/25 at Franklin Community.
- Adams Central just sent an email and they would like to enter.
- Pat Culp sent the email to the office, Ryan Parrish, and Jen Ratliff.

Middle School state Duals

- This event will be held on 1/26/25 at the Fort Wayne Coliseum.
- Opens for registration on Tuesday, January 7th.

Folkstyle Nationals

- The social will be held at the Coliseum. People will be staying in 2 different hotels. Workers, Officials, and board will not all be in the same hotel this year.

Consultant & Staff Reports

- **Law & Legislation – Steve Pugliese**

- Not present. No report.
- Pat C has worked with Steve P on a couple of issues, nothing bad.
- **Sports Medicine – Nicole Moss**
 - Not present. No report.
 - Jennifer Pierson will ask Roby Webster to reach out to Nicole Moss for upcoming events.
- **Technology – Chris Pruitt**
 - Not present. No report.
 - Talked to Chris Pruitt regarding issues with emails, to Gmail and Yahoo accounts
- **Olympic Wrestling Styles Consultant – Zach Errett**
 - Not present. No report.
- **Membership Staff – JD Minch**
 - Current Athletes – 6,883 – up 11% from last year with 43% new athletes (2840 registered from November’s numbers)
 - Current Wrestling Leaders – 763 – up 9% from last year with 17% new leaders (204 registered since Novembers numbers were reported)
 - Current Clubs – 176 – up 12% from last year with 7% new clubs (up 36 from November)
 - Sanctioned Events – 69 – up 8% from last year (up 15 from November)
 - Certified Coaches: 1 Gold / 8 Silver / 291 Bronze (increase of 45) / 427 Copper (increase of 86)
 - Membership is doing quite well.
 - 710 athletes per week
 - Leaders 51 per week last month.
 - As noted previously in the meeting, Ryan Parrish earned his Silver Coaches Certificate

State Services - Staff – Tina Tonte

- State tournament preparation.
- Ordering supplies and planning awards.
- With location changes on security, will we need at Nexus Park? Jake Massengale asks for communication early, to enable him to arrange.
- Sanctions are being added to the website and the publication.
- Asked to add to library.
- Instructions are also on the Directors Resources section of the ISWA website.
- Pat Culp stated we need reports this week so that we can get the publication to the publisher.
- If no changes to pages, please send email to office stating approved so that she knows it has been looked at.
- Pat Culp said that we may need to use officers from that county, for Folkstyle State. She needs to check with Jen Ratliff to verify.
- Dalton Halbig said tried to pull up his report for the ISWA publication and it doesn’t pull up. Tina Tonte said you have to clear the cache and cookies. Draft will be under director’s resource page, about us.

Directors Reports

Vice Chair– Administration – Jennifer Pierson

- Has been working on interviews to fill open positions.
- Tournament committee meeting was held earlier this week.
- Elementary and Middle School Duals were discussed.
- From awards to shirts have been taken care of.

- Roby Webster is working with Nicole Moss and Jake Masengale on security.
 - Facility is all taken care of.
 - Jen Ratliff is coordinating access based on the fact that she will already be there for team state.
 - Worked out getting the clocks there as well as other equipment.
 - Jen Ratliff is working with Ryan Parrish on a couple of scenarios with the open positions and will get back via email or text to determine if we are opening medium division back up.
 - Everything is on track for Middle School Duals.
 - Nothing to report for Disciplinary Committee.
- **Tournament Director – Roby Webster**
 - Not Present. No Report.
- **Hospitality Director – Linda Robinson**
 - Ready for Elementary Duals and then Pat Culp will be doing social at the coliseum for Kids Nationals.
 - Room will be set up, determining where in the facility that we will be having it. One option that she would like to have a closed in room.
 - Steve Mathis had a question that was emailed to her
 - He needs to know how much we spent last year for alcohol during the tournament. He also needs to have her send the same information for all national events.
- **Pairing Officials Developmental Director – Jennifer Ratliff**
 - Pat Culp has been working with her on streaming and training on new USA bracketing system. It is going fairly well.
- **Social Media/Marketing Director – Vacant**
- **Equipment Director – Jonah Odum**
 - Elementary Duals t-shirt design is complete and will be in within the next week.
 - Middle School design is under way.
 - Designs finalized for team Indiana for this year.
 - Will reach out to Ryan Parrish to talk about Heartland.
 - Has a new rep with the vendor. Has finished up wrestling at Ohio University.
- **Mat Officials Developmental Director – Dalton Halbig**
 - Not a lot going on right now. Waiting until the first of the year.
 - Started looking at dates.
 - Things are looking heavily loaded toward the end of the season.
 - Will be hard to get officials for some of these events.
 - Should we look at moving dates?
 - There are 23 events (20 of them are in the last 3 weeks of the Freestyle/Greco season).
 - Thinks we need to look at bylaws. How do we handle this in the future?
 - Tina Tonte suggested sending the concern to the disciplinary committee.
 - Would also like to look at the volunteers get credit for their mat officiating time as well.
- **Folkstyle Referees Developmental Director – Jared Curcio**
 - Things are going well getting officials for January events.
 - Middle School Duals are filled from officiating perspective.
 - Tournaments going well as far as getting officials so far this year.

- New Folkstyle mat officials for 1,3, and 4.
- Kenny Young is interested in Section 3.
- Tim Welch has been easing out of section 4. Kevin Lilly is interested in that position.
- Section 1 – Chuck Barnett resigned. Having trouble filling that one.
- Will try to get this ironed out before 2025 guide is out and give to office.

- **Logistics Director – Melissa Strayer**
 - Everything this going well,
 - Hotel for Elementary State is set up.
 - Need to know who needs rooms. Email her who needs rooms.
 - Conversation with Thomas Pompei and Jennifer Pierson about 16U Boys arrangements.
 - Needing to know about airplane tickets.
 - Junior Boys Duals are in Wisconsin.
 - Need to know from Directors’ position, who needs rooms.
 - Deadline for Elementary Dual – in the next week or so.
 - Jennifer Pierson asked office to send out email for directors who need rooms for Elementary State Duals.
 - Freestyle State – was able to obtain better room rates than what we had last year.

- **Section 1 – Mark Galka**
 - Not present. Report via email.
 - Still working on membership of clubs that were chartered in 2023-2024 but have not rechartered.
 - Also looking to set up dates with their staff to talk with them.
 - Busy with Middle School season.
 - Will go to active club meetings as available. Will speak with presidents.

- **Section 2– Mary Friedt**
 - Contacted clubs and requested that they charter and keep checking ISWA social media.
 - Attempting to line up mats for Folkstyle Nationals.
 - Has 11 of the 20 confirmed at this time.
 - Pat Culp has been checking with Penn to see if they want to work the tournament this year.
 - Pat Culp said that we are looking for a group to pick up Penn’s coverage from last year.
 - Will need approximately 40 volunteers, but possibly not working all day.
 - Has been working with interviews for board positions.
 - Pushing groups to get their paperwork in and support local tournaments.
 - Let her know if there are some people that would like to work at the national tournament.

- **Section 3 – Georgia Bartley**
 - Not Present. No Report.
 - Was reported that she is continuing to talk with clubs and reaching out about their dates and sanctions

- **Section 4– Mark Stevenson**
 - Not Present. No Report
 - At a meeting.
 - Has worked with his clubs
 - Talked to all who have not chartered.
 - Talked with those for events, explaining what is required and they are on the schedule.

- **Section 5 –Payton Halbig**
 - Currently 28 of clubs in section 5 have chartered for this year.
 - Working to get the rest of the clubs called this week.
 - Tournaments – Jasper and Mater Dei are the only clubs in the next month or so to get their tournaments sanctioned. Will call them this week.
 - The rest of the tournaments are scheduled for February and March.

- **Vice Chair – Jim Tonte – Programs**
 - **State Coaches Director – Danny Struck**
 - Coaches pool currently has 28 coaches.
 - Will reach out to new directors that were voted in and review coaches selection process with them.
 - Congratulations to Ryan Parrish. Thinks Indiana has had more silver coaches than any other state. Will get that confirmed.
 - Looking at ways to incentivize coaching licensure.

 - **Regional Training Center – Josh Curry**
 - Not Present. No Report.

 - **Cultural Exchange Director – Lou Silverman**
 - Middle School trip to New Orleans. Initial contact made.
 - He assured we will be able to get this done. No details yet.
 - Marlene from New Zealand is stepping down in March and provided name of the new person to Lou.
 - The new person hasn't made contact with him as this point.

 - **Team Leader Director – Thomas Pompei**
 - Not Present. No Report.
 - Jimmy Tonte said Thomas has been working on team leaders' assignments.
 - Will get coaches council set up and Pat wants to attend.

 - **Kid's Director – Jason Miller**
 - Not Present. Report via email.
 - In the next few months, we will be getting the committee together to begin building Elementary and Middle School Heartland teams.

 - **16U/Junior Director –Vacant**
 -

 - **Olympic Styles Development Director – Nick Hull**
 - Developing virtual training center.
 - Shared USAW Deck. Aether is the name of the virtual training platform.
 - Finalized contract with USAW.
 - This provides training opportunities for athletes, income generator for trainers, etc.
 - Has taken cutting edge technology to provide resources for wrestling.
 - Free platform to connect and network.
 - Athletes will be able to hop on to their state governing bodies camp at no charge.
 - This is a subscription-based model.
 - The free access is with the state governing bodies.
 - \$25 per month.

- Teams, schools, and governing bodies have income stream with a promo code.
- Will have the opportunity to sign up at registration of the athlete for their membership. ISWA will receive 20% of the fee.

- **Women's Director – vacant**
 -

- **Folkstyle Developmental Director – Ryan Parrish**
 - Not Present. No Report.

Jennifer Pierson motioned that we adjourn the meeting.

Jimmy Tonte seconded the motion.

Motion Passed unanimously.

Linda Robinson thanked the ISWA for all of the condolences and the planter and cards, regarding the passing of her mother.

Meeting Adjourned @ 2:06 pm.

The next meeting will be February 16, at 12:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Fouts

ISWA Secretary