**USWOA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES**

**Fargo, North Dakota**

**Saturday, 14 July 2018**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Rick Tucci called the meeting to order at 8:33 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 members who passed away this year including Dave Pelsang jr, Bob Siar, Kevin Martin, Steve Cox, Charles Bates, Chuck Elvin, John Carlson and Mike Duroe. Rick led a moment of silence in their honor. Rick reported the USWOA Education Program is operating at a very high level and he acknowledged the efforts of Zach Errett, Casey Goessl, John Heyman and Tim Pierson. Rick said that even though we have 2459 members this year, 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. Last year there were approximately 80,000 hits but this year there were 294,000 hits. Many of these are from international mat officials. Rick also made special note of Zach Errett and Casey Goessl for their rules work. They are two of the world’s best rule experts. Seventy percent of our UWW officials went overseas basically based on their previous work. Rick thinks the United States officials are the best in the world.

**Secretary's Report:** Toby Tobiasson presented minutes of the 20-21 October 2017 USWOA Executive Board Meeting. These minutes were approved at the 14 July 2018 Executive Board meeting. Toby also presented draft minutes of the 16 July 2017 Annual Membership Meeting, ratified by the Executive Board at the October 2017 meeting. Bobby Vallarelli **moved** and Pete Kuisle **seconded** to approve the minutes as presented. **Vote: passed by majority.** Minutes of the 10 July 2018 Executive Board teleconference that were approved at the 14 July 2018 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**

**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.

**Nomination of Vote Tellers:** Tom Kuisle recommended the following slate of vote tellers to count the ballots: Cody Goessl, Rob Roy, Ed Gould, Yvonne Hady and Kali Phoenix. **Motion** to approve the slate of tellers by Cliff Ramos; **seconded** by J. D. Minch. **Vote: passed by majority**

**Election Results:** Danny Blackshear **moved** to elect Rick Tucci as President and De Heyman as National Pairing Director, by acclimation, since they are both running unopposed; **seconded** by Charles Knox. **Vote: passed by majority**. Toby Tobiasson informed the group that attendance at the meeting was 168 members present. Results of the election with 165 ballots cast are as follows:

**OFFICERS**

Rick Tucci, President

De Heyman, National Pairing Director

**AT LARGE**

Tom Kuisle

Jerry Kuntz

Chris Curtis

Danny Blackshear

Next high vote getter is: John Heyman

**PAIRING AT LARGE**

Sue Hesser

Next high vote getter is: LeeAnn Johnson

Pete Kuisle **moved** and Dave Pelsang **seconded** to destroy the election ballots. **Vote: passed by majority.**

**Pairing Report:** Ginger Lile gave a report on pairing activities for the year. Ginger also mentioned a proposed new category called a TSO (Technical Systems Operator) that will more closely reflect some of the work currently being done by pairers. Much is yet to be finalized but Ginger wanted the members to be aware of the coming change.

**United World Wrestling Report:** Zach Errett gave a report on UWW training courses that are much improved. The first course is a two day session if the official is seeking an upgrade. The second course is a one day session if the official is not looking to be upgraded. Zach also mentioned that Casey Goessl is one of six UWW educators worldwide. Zach reported that Josh Grube will attend the Youth Olympics as the United States representative.

**USWOA Website Report:** Tom Kuisle reported on the progress of the website. It is working well and more information is being added constantly. Tom mentioned the incredible number of hits on the website and noted that a large number of them are from foreign officials. Tom also spoke about the new membership system; how much it has improved and how its utilization has expanded during this membership year.

**Officials Education Report (OEP):** Tim Pierson gave a recap of the OEPs conducted this year and thanked those who attended and those who served as instructors and presenters. Tim informed the group that John Heyman is not here this week as he is preparing for surgery in the near future.

**Tournament Concerns – Fargo Finals:** Rick Tucci reported on the procedures for video review on all the matches to be wrestled this week. He informed the group that all the officials working finals matches will stay on their assigned mat and not go to the first place mat as in the past. Rick said the area around the first place mat during finals will require a wristband to be in that area.

**Official’s Responsibilities:** Tom Kuisle reported on the official’s tournament signup portion of the membership system. It is imperative that officials do this if they expect to have a room at any event they plan to attend. Some officials wait until a few days, and even as late as a few hours before an event clinic, to try to sign up for a tournament. The signup period closes forty five days before an event so the official attempting to sign up after that will not be able to attend unless the head official or clinician allow them to attend but rooms likely won’t be available. Another responsibility of the official is to take their name off the tournament list if they will not be able to attend. In the future, if this is not done, that official will not get a room for any events in the following year. Rick Tucci informed the membership that if they are anticipating an upgrade, the quickest way to get the information is from the minutes of the fall Executive Board meeting which are posted on the website approximately thirty days after the meeting. Rick also clarified that the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) may require Safe Sport certification annually instead of every two years.

**Hall of Fame Nomination:** Rick Tucci reported that Dave Errett will again be recommended as the 2018 USWOA nominee for induction into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame.

**USWOA Awards For 2018:** Zach Errett announced the award winners for this year. They are as follows:

Glen Blackman Award – Nick Mancini OH

Phil Portuese Award – Tod Blank CA

Mort Geller Award – Tim Pierson VA

Official of the Year Award – Rod Cozzetto CO

Ginger Lile announced the Pairing awards. They are:

Alice Riggle Award – LeeAnn Johnson WA

Bernie Norris Award – Jeff Jones WI

The 2017 Lifetime Achievement award winners are Sherry Bullard WA, Jean Whetstone IN, John Welch NJ (received award in Akron), Bill Harper KS, Ashlee Sherman CA, Jerry Kuntz OK.

**OTHER BUSINESS** – Ginger Lile completed her tenure as a USWOA Executive Board member and National Pairing Director. Rick Tucci acknowledged her diligent and faithful service by presenting her with an award recognizing her many years of exemplary service.

**Announcements:** None.

**Adjournment: Moved** by Kenny Osborn, **seconded** by Rod Cozzetto to adjourn at 9:36 PM CST. **Vote: passed by majority.**