

An Open Letter From Rick Puerto, NJ State Chair

Dear USAW/NJ Members:

It is with great honor to have received the acclimation to serve as the next Chairman of the USAWNJ State Governing Body. I have served USAWNJ for 12 years in several different roles including initially sitting on the formerly-named “Kids Council.” Over six years, I attended both the Kids Council meetings as well as the SGB meetings to broaden my knowledge of the inner workings of the organization. I ultimately ran for Kids Council Chair position and held it for an additional six years and coupling that with the State Vice Chairmans position last year until ultimately deciding not to run for the position this year.

During my run as Kids Council Chair, I am proud to have been a part of the orchestration of migrating the Scholastic State Championships from a high school setting to an arena setting providing our wrestlers the proper venue to highlight their accomplishments. I’ve also had the pleasure of building Schoolboy Teams over the course of 3 years (when the responsibilities still lay within the kid’s council) bringing home 5 team All-America honors. The Mason-Dixon teams that I’ve been fortunate enough to assist in building and that we’ve brought to Maryland over the past 8 years have seen 7 championships and one runner-up, and I hope to continue that trend while guiding our new Scholastic Chairman (Marc Yodice) this coming year. We will once again bring both men and women’s teams to compete this year, and I’m confident we will once again have a great showing of NJ’s finest athletes.

I would like to personally welcome all the newly elected officers of the corporation, council/committee chairs and at-large members to this great organization. I look forward to my tenure as being that of change and progression. We as an organization have so much to offer the wrestlers, coaches, leaders, officials, and clubs of this great wrestling state and so many smart, capable, and energetic people as part of the SGB to lead them. This is going to be a collective effort to continue to bring our great state to new heights. The SGB is so eager to start this season and will be forming councils and goal setting in the days and weeks to come.

Lastly, I would like to thank William Terrell for his patience and posture this past year as he was able to lead our organization in what had proven to be our most challenging year to date. Bill provided steadiness and offered a calming presence when the state needed it most. I am proud to have worked side by side with Bill this past year and am confident we’ll continue to lean on each other and guide this organization collectively in the coming years.

Yours in wrestling ,

Rick

Rick Puerto
State Chairman
USA Wrestling – New Jersey

