

ISWA Monthly Meeting

December 10, 2023

Call to Order: Meeting called meeting to order at 12:00 pm by Pat Culp. Meeting held via Zoom

Attendance:

Pat Culp, Jennifer Pierson, Jimmy Tonte, Tina Fouts, Steve Mathis, Jennifer Ratliff, Jason DeLois, Nick Hull, Danny Struck, Mary Friedt, Lou Silverman, Dalton Halbig, Mark Stevenson, and Roby Webster

Staff: J.D. Minch, Tina Tonte

Consultants:

Guest: Charlotte Miller

Secretary: Tina Fouts

- Tina Fouts presented the minutes for November, 2023, which were sent in advance through USAW Membership website to review and provide updates.
- Mary Friedt made a motion to accept the minutes
- Roby Webster seconded the motion
- Motion passed unanimously

Treasurer: Steve Mathis

- Financials were sent in advance of the meeting through USAW Membership website to review and provide updates.
- Stepped through reports
 - Budget vs Actuals. Through end of November. Charters/hard card/members now has the allocations updated correctly.
 - No change to equipment sales.
 - Expenses mostly will come in later in the year.
 - The following expenses are noted: background checks, insurance payments, payroll, postage, per diem for nationals, leadership summit, referees meeting supplies, training, and wages. Also noted mat tape and travel expenses from last fiscal year as well as cultural exchange from last summer. Heartland duals transportation and Junior nationals' registration and a refund for mat fee from summer.
 - Statement of financial position – 4 accounts and 150000 CD. Reported total bank account totals.
 - Liabilities are taxes due for quarter and early in year, expenses are lower at this point.
 - Looking good financially.
 - Working on getting payments set up in event link to pay referees.
- Roby Webster made a motion to accept the treasurer's report
- Mary Friedt seconded the motion.
- Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

Open Board Positions

- Pat Culp reported that we have received two great applications for the open board position of Logistics Director. Jennifer Pierson is working on getting interviews scheduled for this week.
- Executive Board is looking at setting up a new position on the board. The position will be in charge of making sure the truck arrives at the office and items are delivered to the event. Pat Culp will be writing a job description that the Executive board will review and then the position will be posted.

Elementary Duals

- Jennifer Ratliff and Ryan Parrish to discuss later in the meeting.

Middle School State Duals

- Registration will open the first of January. Will be using a new process, as was used for Elementary Duals registration.

New Business

Scales

- Pat Culp reported that we need to buy some new scales.
- She reached out to USA Wrestling and will pull information together and reach out to the executive board.
- Jennifer Ratliff reported that we cannot fix the TrackWrestling scale.
- A decision needs to be made, regarding the John Hurrle award. We have always presented it at coaches' association banquet. Discussed presenting it at our awards banquet and have a presence at the coaches' association banquet.
- Discussion was held. Mary Friedt feels it would mean more coming from us, at our banquet. Jimmy Tonte asked if we can do both. Pat Culp feels we could do both. If we do, then it would be announced at the coaches' association and the award given. JD reported that there will be a fall reception at the fall coaches' clinic, instead of in February after IHSA State Finals. It will be on a Thursday evening after the clinic. Basically, the change is because the state tournament will be held in Evansville.
- Discussion on extending the deadline on the John Hurrle award. Tina Tonte reported that his grandson was planning to attend the banquet. Family is planning to come to the ceremony and are waiting on details. Tina Tonte recommends a committee to organize the awards banquet. She also asked if the deadline be the same every year, or just this year because of this change. Tina Tonte will put in the book that it is subject to change.

Consultant & Staff Reports

- **Law & Legislation – Steve Pugliese**
 - Not present. No report.
- **Sports Medicine – Nicole Moss**
 - Not present. No report.
- **Technology – Chris Pruitt**
 - Not present. No report.
- **Olympic Wrestling Styles Consultant – Zach Errett**
 - Not present. No report.
- **Membership Staff – JD Minch**
 - Current Athletes – 6,332 – up 10% from last year with 43% new athletes
 - Current Wrestling Leaders – 712 – up 14% from last year with 23% new leaders

- Current Clubs – 159 – up 10% from last year with 7% new clubs
- Sanctioned Events – 77 – up 22% from last year
- Certified Coaches: 1 Gold / 9 Silver / 292 Bronze / 439 Copper
- New athletes - represents mainly 6U, bringing in more leaders – parents to coach at tournaments.
- There are a lot of clubs that have not renewed, some are replacing old clubs or renaming clubs.

State Services - Staff – Tina Tonte

- Has been working on the final proof of the book – almost there.
- Planning to meet with Jennifer Pierson to review a few pages.
- Once reviewed and ready, will put on the website in Directors' Resources and send an email to review.

Directors Reports

Vice Chair– Administration – Jennifer Pierson

- Disciplinary Committee report that at a tournament violated USA Wrestling having all participants have USA Cards – 12 kids did not have valid card. One of the children got injured. Parents tried to process a claim for the injury and had no valid card. USA double checked all entrants for cards. Working with disciplinary committee to determine resolution. We asked for their process of verifying for club and practice as well as the tournament.
- Reminder to Section Directors about reaching out to clubs and pairers, there is the opportunity to select the box that will only allow verified wrestlers USA card to register, otherwise liable.
- Working with Tina Tonte on the book. Meeting early this week to finalize, to send to printers. She and Steve Mathis had a call with Sitesearch. Good conversation about expectations, what we need from them, report, and impact to the economy of the areas in which we host.
- Working on getting us a login so that we can log into our events to check booked rooms, etc., through registration process and to see if there is anything else we need to do to promote.
- Will send summary reports after every event.
- Discussed hotel types that the client will be looking for. More like Holiday Inns, etc.
- They have our tournament dates for 2024. They are going to be bidding those out to the hotels, and we can review to determine if they meet our criteria. Hotels could provide breakfast and/or free lunch to go. We will be looking at perks and locations.
- Currently our hotels stop taking bookings 2 weeks out and they explained that we are still accepting registrations until Thursday night before the event, so we explained to them and they have an open link in that 2-week time period, that would pick up an Expedia connection and we could still get benefit and some compensation. They will turn that on so that we have that as a benefit. We get \$10 per night per room and talked about comp rooms for staff. We have to book staff rooms so far in advance, we wouldn't be able to utilize it for the tournament because we already have to have these booked.
- Kid's Nationals - form sent to Mary Friedt to review.
- Met with Mark Mundy and Jim Littlejohn a couple of weeks ago, going through conversations regarding increasing officials' numbers and retaining them. We have established rules of every club having an official and that is one way to help with recruitment. Looking at other ways to recruit/retain.

- Working on google form for scholarship applications since we are changing websites.
- **Tournament Director – Roby Webster**
 - Present but having computer issues. No Report due to this
 - Jennifer Pierson reported that Jimmy Tonte is unable to attend the elementary duals tournament meeting on Wednesday. She will try to figure out what all is needed since not everyone can meet. She will send a text. Still doesn't have information from Warren Central on their bid (costs).
- **Hospitality Director – Linda Robinson**
 - Not Present. Charlotte Miller attended in her absence.
 - Reported that they will be prepared and in attendance for upcoming tournaments.
- **Pairing Officials Developmental Director – Jennifer Ratliff**
 - Spent 3 days with Pat Culp setting up tournaments, updated all computers, updated clock software on computers.
 - Reported missing charger for new and charger for think pads - will order replacements.
 - Clubs are utilizing USA registration. There is about a 30% savings on the cost compared to TrackWrestling to use this.
 - She has developed a lot of training videos and documents for Duals registration and regular registration and they are linked to FAQ USA wrestling section.
 - Picking apart folkstyle from last year to try to optimize our times. Predicting around 3200 wrestlers for this year. Trying to narrow it down to fit everything in.
 - We have met with additional venues for the future tournaments.
 - Meeting about girls tonight and working with pairers.
 - Need at least 3 new scales.
- **Indiana Representative to National Pairings – Jean Whetstone**
 - Not present. No Report.
- **Equipment Director – Jonah Odum**
 - Not present. Report via email
 - Designs finalized for team gear and spoke with Rudis this week. Has information for Heartland and will reach out to Jason Delois regarding women's.
 - Text sent with google form to all board members requesting response.
- **Mat Officials Developmental Director – Mark Mundy**
 - Not Present. No Report.
 - Jennifer Pierson met with Mark and Jim Littlejohn this past month.
- **Folkstyle Referees Developmental Director – Jim Littlejohn**
 - Not Present. No Report
- **Logistics Director – Vacant**
 - Working on setting up interviews in the next week or so.
- **Section 1 – Mark Galka**
 - Not present. Report via email.
 - Section 1 has 30 wrestling clubs sanctioned for the 2023-2024 season
 - There are 23 clubs from the 2022-2023 roster that still haven't turned in their paperwork to charter their clubs.

- Has reached out to most of these clubs.
- Some clubs have slowly sent their information and fees to the office. Will again reach out to them in hopes they will respond directly to me if they are still a ISWA club or not.
- Some of the clubs have said paperwork on its way. Is not so sure of this, so will keep after this. Thanked the office for keeping him updated weekly as clubs respond with their information.
- Tournaments this month in section 1:
- The King of the Ring Christmas Bash continues today at Lowell high school.
- On December 17th, Hobart will hold its Holiday Folkstyle Brawl.

- **Section 2– Mary Friedt**
 - Section 2 has 68 clubs chartered
 - 6 Unsanctioned tournaments that were bid.
 - 4 have answered her (2 have been sanctioned and 2 said not having the tournament).
 - All East Allen schools in Ft. Wayne area are no longer allowing Sunday events.
 - They are scrambling looking for alternate sites.
 - Kids Folkstyle Nationals – 17 firm of the 20 mats needed, a couple of probably(s).
 - Has been working on creating a form to get table help. Struggling there.
 - Trying middle schools and clubs.
 - Believes high school teams will come in to help.
 - Will contact other schools and provide information regarding the perks, to enable us to staff.
 - 20 mats on Saturday and 12 kids and 8 middle school mats on Sunday.
 - Mat tape and disinfectant. Reached out to Bill from Jim’s wrestling supply, and he stated he is no longer doing mat tape. They will be closing completely.
 - Has been working with the office to determine where to order from.
 - Bill referred them to Amazon.
 - Jennifer Pierson ordered mat tape through Amazon. Need to determine who will order and how much.
 - Need disinfectant – Tina Tonte has been working with Nicole Moss.

- **Section 3 – Dalton Halbig**
 - 42 of 72 clubs chartered. Has seen some double-ups on clubs. Numbers may be off a bit.
 - Working on getting the remaining chartered.
 - No issues with tournaments so far.
 - Beech Grove wasn’t able to get their tournament sanctioned with USA Wrestling, they ended up privatizing the event.

- **Section 4– Mark Stevenson**
 - 32 chartered out of 55 clubs – sent emails to 23 that haven’t chartered yet
 - Seeing a lot of new directors in the section.
 - Will be working elementary county tournament at Indian creek on Saturday and Sunday.

- **Section 5 –Payton Halbig**
 - Not Present. No Report.

- **Vice Chair – Jim Tonte – Programs**
 - Has an Elementary Duals meeting coming up. Looking at possibly 8pm on Wednesday.

- Jennifer Pierson is looking for a date/time that will work for Jimmy Tonte. She noted that she may have to meet with him in advance and then get together with him after the meeting takes place.
- **State Coaches Director – Danny Struck**
 - Reported he has coaches starting to apply for trips.
 - Working on pushing silver certification. Trying to organize a coaches' caravan for April 19-20, 2024 at Penn State.
 - This is a side thing, not using ISWA money until they finish the silver syllabus.
- **Cadet/Junior Director –Jake O'Neill**
 - Not Present. Report via email.
 - Working with Jennifer Ratliff on sanctioning and setting up qualifiers for IHSWCA Middle School State and coordinating tournament series
 - Working with Lou Silverman and a Japanese connection on a Cultural Exchange trip to Japan
- **Olympic Styles Development Director – Nick Hull**
 - Development – moving forward with ladies' stuff.
 - Getting teams for freestyle duals.
 - Got back from OTC for US men's and women's senior camp. Great experience working with the athletes. Great Indiana presence.
 - There are higher end women who want to get involved here in Indiana – Adeline Gray and Dakara and Helen.
 - Nick is excited about pursuing bringing them to Indiana. Has a plan to bring them in with the virtual program. Finalizing dates. Plans to launch in March.
- **Kid's Director – Jason Miller**
 - Not Present. No report.
- **Regional Training Center Director – Josh Curry**
 - Not Present. No Report.
- **Team Leader Director – Thomas Pompei**
 - Not Present. No Report.
- **Women's Director – Jason DeLois**
 - More than ½ way through High School girls' season. System has grown due to Emerging Sport status.
 - Seeing 200-400 wrestlers at most tournaments. Growing pains.
 - At Lebanon yesterday and 2 weight classes (125 and 130) had 37 wrestlers. Had to get creative with brackets. Great problem to have.
 - State tournament this year, believes we will have 1200-1500 wrestlers.
 - Would like to have a solid number of girls wrestling in the state, maybe if we could get hydration tests. How do we obtain that number?
 - Jimmy Tonte said maybe we could send a message to every school athletic department with questionnaire as to how many are actively on their rosters. Then we could try coaches if we don't get a response from athletic department.
 - Talked about hosting some beginner girls' tournaments after girls' high school season is over. This would be good because of having a large number of newer girls to the sport.
 - Jen Ratliff stated a lot of clubs are having a girls' division at their tournaments.

- We could possibly have girls high school divisions to be added to tournaments that have already been bid.
 - Dalton Halbig wanted to promote more in the folkstyle tournaments. We need to make sure it is clear that if a girl decides to wrestle in the boys' tournaments, they cannot wrestle in the ISWA girls' tournaments.
 - Asked if there is a girl's state duals tournaments. Would like us to start one and continue to run it. Thinks it would be a good idea for us to jump on that now before someone else establishes a tournament.
 - Tina Fouts and Jennifer Pierson recommended that Jason work with women's committee to work with Pat Culp and whomever on the IHSAA or coaches' association to look at some of these ideas.
 - Don't want us to overstep our boundaries.
 - Jennifer Pierson asked that any new tournaments to be added that weren't bid, to send to her and she will take them to the tournament committee.
 - Steve Mathis stated he thinks it would be beneficial to add to currently bid tournaments, to recommend adding a high school girls' division.
 - Jason will look at tournaments hosting during high school season to see who could potentially add.
 - Nick Hull stated this also coincides with Olympic development. He has a flier created that has months listed (for off season wrestling), Sarah Hildebrandt's picture, and is posted on ISWA website.
 - Created for the purpose of bringing this topic to the forefront.
 - Recommended tweaking the flier and have copies at the head tables of tournaments and send on an email blast to coaches and clubs.
 - Nick has a tournament bid on the books and maybe he will change it to only ladies and have a clinic.
 - Jennifer Pierson recommended the women's committee meet and come up with a transition process and then come back to the executive committee to provide the plan.
 - Jason stated he would like to add some girls RTCs. Tina Fouts recommended he reach out to the RTC Director, Josh Curry, to discuss.
- **Cultural Exchange Director – Lou Silverman**
 - Received confirmation this week for hotel rooms in Hawaii. Moving forward on plan airline tickets. July 1 – 10, 2024 for the middle school trip.
 - Will send information out to the entire state, once prices are set.
 - Japan has their meeting December 17th to determine if we are able to come in July. If agree, will move quickly to get the trip finalized.
 - **Folkstyle Developmental Director – Ryan Parrish**
 - Not Present. No Report

Mark Stevenson motioned that we adjourn the meeting.

Jason DeLois seconded the motion.

Motion Passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned @ 2:10pm

The next meeting will be February 11th at 12:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Fouts
ISWA Secretary