

USA WEIGHTLIFTING ANNUAL MEETING  
& BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS  
JUNE 6, 2009  
Recorded by Megan Tornstrom DeFourny

Meeting called to order Saturday, June 6, 2009 at approximately 6:40 a.m. by Mark Cameron, Chairman.

BOD present: Mark Cameron, Regis Becker, Dragomir Cioroslan, Megan Tornstrom DeFourny, Rachel Hearn, Leo Temoshenko, Emmy Vargas, Mike Wittmer. Staff present: Laurie Lopez with the following presenters: Mike Gattone (HPD), Paul Fleschler (OTC), Andy Tysc (NMU), Kyle Pierce (LSUS), Derrick Johnson (Lindenwood). Absent due to personal reasons: Mike Cayton, Jack Lano.

Chairman Mark Cameron explained the meeting's Rules of Order, stated there was no Old Business and introduced the newly seated Committees:

Coaching Education & Programs: Marty Schnorf, Jim Schmitz, Tim Swords, Leo Totten, Carissa Gordon (AR).

Competition Committee: Marty Schnorf, Scott Bond, Danny McDermott, Fred Lowe, Henry Brower (AR).

Judicial Committee: Joe Puleo, Bob Giordano, Danica Rue (AR)

Ethics Committee: Bull Ternus, Dan Bell, Don McCauley, Joe Cook, Melanie Roach (AR).

USAW AAC Committee who voted on the ARs for these Committees on Fri., June 5 in Chicago were: Matt Bruce (Chair), Jackie Berube, Carissa Gump, Amanda Hubbard, Cheryl Haworth, Jeff Witmer and Emmy Vargas (BOD representative).

The Board would select the Chairs for the Ethics and Judicial Committees, as these were Board-elected. Committees voted in by membership would vote for their own chairpersons from within the Committee.

#### 2010 National Meet Bids

Mr. Cameron explained the bidders would now present to the Competition Committee, who would recommend to the Board for a Board vote under the new Bylaws. Since National Juniors had presenters present and due to timing, presenters from both bid cities of Rochester, MN and Altamonte Springs, FL made brief presentations. Upon Board member request, a quick survey of the audience by clapping was taken for each bid city. The Competition Committee was then tasked with reviewing both bids for National Juniors and forwarding their recommendation to the Board Chair within 2 weeks. [During later presentations, both NMU and LSUS expressed desire to host 2010 National Collegiates, which was also tasked to the Competition Committee.] With no bids for the Nationals, the Board and Competition Committee are looking into various options for that meet.

#### Policies

Mr. Cameron next stated the Board was reviewing all policies, including any legal review needed, and tabled this item for a future meeting until this review could be completed.

#### Financial Report and Budget

Ms. Lopez presented the Financial Report and Annual Budget, a copy of which was distributed to all those in attendance. In summary, approximately \$ 300,000 had to be cut as funding from USOC and sponsorships decreased. USAW lost OTC resident slots and had to decrease by OTC resident coaches to one coach. WerkSan's sponsorship was renewed for another 4 years with an additional sponsorship added by WerkSan for Youth Weightlifting. Gold Medal Fund was also announced as a fund of personal donations from the present Board of Directors. Prior Directors were also invited to donate. Ms. Lopez answered a few questions from the audience and WerkSan, Joe Delago, MuscleDriver and Glenn Pendlay were praised for their efforts and generosity in fundraising for the Junior Worlds and to Joe Delago for the Youth World Championships.

## Foundation Report

Regis Becker presented a summary of the Foundation Report prepared by Mike Cayton, Chairman of the USAW Audit Committee, who compiled a factual report of the Foundation over the last few years from account statements. A copy of this report was distributed to all those members in attendance and will be made available to all members. The losses to the Foundation were catastrophic and the USAW Board (as the Voting Members of the Foundation) voted to remove the Foundation Board who did not resign. The remaining funds were transferred to the USOC Foundation for safekeeping, diversification and to minimize the expenses to invest them. An interim Foundation Board of Directors was emplaced until nominations from the membership could be attained for a longer-term Foundation Board with financial expertise. A member in attendance announced the Foundation Board failure to follow the Foundation's Investing Guidelines caused the substantial losses.

## Status Report of Weightlifting Programs

Mr. Cameron asked the coaches from OTC, NMU, LSUS and Lindenwood to give a brief status report of their respective program. Andy Tysc presented for NMU stating the program was starting to expand with a new elite development program and explained how he had secured additional funding to keep it open when USAW reduced its funding to NMU last year. NMU's program is currently being run at no cost to USAW.

Paul Fleschler presented next for the OTC in Colorado. He stated 16 slots had been reduced to 11 and how the athletes' performance measures were reviewed semi-annually. An injury rate of 4 of 11 OTC athletes was noted. Ms. Hearn requested the Athlete Selection Criteria be posted on the USAW website.

Kyle Pierce presented for LSUS, the most recent center to be funded by USAW with some of its USOC grant funds. Mr. Pierce gave a brief overview of the program, its participants and the recent fundraising efforts including securing a grant for 9 new barbell sets placed throughout Shreveport to develop a satellite system. He reported recent meet results and stated a Paralympic program onsite with a bench being donated by CJ Bennett.

Derrick Johnson presented for Lindenwood University ("LU"), who recently added Weightlifting as a sport at no cost to USAW or USOC. Mr. Johnson stated LU's desire for Weightlifting and the school's generous support for unlimited Weightlifting athlete spots including both full and partial scholarships. The Board asked Mr. Johnson to prepare a how-to paper on starting a University-funded Weightlifting program. He received many congratulations from both the Board and the audience.

## High Performance Plan Update

Mr. Gattone presented an update to the High Performance Plan ("HPP"). Highlights of a very detailed powerpoint presentation included: Pre-scheduling of Coaching Courses, Compiling a Regional Coaching Course Manual by last quarter of 2009, Getting into High Schools nationally by the first quarter of 2010 and Organizing International camps and coaching seminars. Mr. Gattone stated his plans for a first re-draft of the HPP by July 3<sup>rd</sup> with a Framework to the CEP Committee by July 15<sup>th</sup> to be able to present a Revised HPP to the Board for approval by August 1<sup>st</sup>, since the HPP is due to the USOC for approval in August. Lastly, he stated the HPP would be posted on the USAW website and would be updated annually as a living document.

## New Business

Mr. Cameron announced the Board is discussing additional Committees, such as: a Technical Committee, Junior/Schoolage/Collegiate Committees, Recognition Committee and a Marketing/Fundraising Committee. Mr. Garza next made a motion to make the American Open to non-US citizens who are permanent residents of the US. Seconded by Ms. DeFourny. After brief discussion, this was tabled to investigate the legalities of such request. Lastly, the Board tasked the Competition Committee with looking at the timing of all National meets and recommending a schedule of national meets better timed with the IWF calendar for future years.

Mr. Cameron adjourned the Open portion of the meeting, thanked the membership for attending and the Board moved into an Executive Session to interview CEO candidates.