

Board of Directors Meeting: April 12, 2023

**Next Planned Meeting: May 4, 2023**

**Present:**

Michael Klonowski – Executive Director  
Kerin Banfield – Representative for Referees  
Commissioner – Bob Lopez  
Marianna Duda – Head of Referees  
Sid Christain – Treasurer  
Daniel Curtis – VP2  
Dan Caldwell – Secretary  
Amy Bohn – Head of Classification  
Noah Currier – President  
Michael Cottingham – VP1  
Jen Allred – Lakeshore/USAWR  
Cyndy Ellis - Classifier

**Lakeshore/USAWR (Jen)**

- Had selection camp and chose a new group of 16
- Only 2 comps on the books at this time, one is in October in Paris (world Championship) and the Parapans (over Thanksgiving in Santiago)
- 2 international camps coming up
- It is a short year. Next selection camp will be in December. From that camp will select the team for 2024.
- A number of new athletes in the group
- Excited for the year ahead!
- Thank you to Bob and Mike K. for your efforts in helping with the selections! And to all for supporting the efforts on an ongoing basis.

**Classifiers:**

- Amy:
  - Saw 18 athletes at east coast semi-finals
  - Still working with Jen on summer training
  - Plan to start at noon on Thursday with classification at Nationals
  - Met with OT/PT/Disability Services/MD from UNLV and Toro at West Coast Semifinals. The director or research from UNLV was there as well and is interested in working with us.
- Cyndy:

- Working with database designer and she has helped create a budget for a database
- Proposes using SequelServer
- The budget comes in at around \$10,000
  - Daniel asked about the yearly maintenance and Cyndy was not sure, but she will ask
  - The server itself will be very low as the host has offered to help supplement the cost
- Cyndy will get the maintenance costs to Amy to relay to the team
- Cyndy said we can not function with something like this. What we are working with now is archaic and we have lost too much data.
- Sid asked if we could get a copy of the proposal so we can make comparisons and make sure we are getting a fair cost
- Amy said when we look at the comparison; make sure they are familiar with Microsoft Access. International intends to stay with that.
- We will be able to migrate the current data to the new database?
- Amy said since the majority of the team will be together at Nationals, we need to move on this and if we aren't going to be able to make a decision, we need to discuss with International since they have already granted us an extension last year. Jen is happy to ask and let us know quickly.
- Mike K asked if this was something we should get a second quote on? Amy said if anyone on the call knows someone who is comfortable with Access, then getting a second quote would be great. It was very difficult to find someone who was familiar. Moving off of Access is not an option as that is what International will be using.
- Mike C. asked if there was any opportunity to have Team USA take on any share of the cost. Jen will also ask about that and get back quickly.
  - Jen will send the responses to both to the board at a minimum and leadership if we would like.
- The board thanked Cyndy for all her hard work in getting the proposal and moving things forward.

### **Referees (Marianne):**

- Both semifinals tournaments were successful!
- Joe Bongiovanni and Marianne were both evaluators
- Some east coast officials were paid twice, so Dan Plaxe is working with Sid to work that out.
- Any confirmed low point tournaments on the schedule?
  - The committee is meeting tonight

- Looks to be 4 tournaments on the books – June, July, August & Nationals in September
- As soon as the dates are confirmed, Dan will send to Marianne
- Sid has been given a spreadsheet for Nationals flights and will process those flight reimbursements
- Amy asked about payment for classifiers as well. There hasn't been a decision on how payment would be made (from USWRA or from the Nationals host). Sid will handle the payments.

### **Executive Director (Mike K)**

- D2 trophy is in disrepair.
  - May want to look at replacing
  - Pic was sent to the board and it is missing several plaques and they were not in the box when it was returned
  - The board feels as if that was abuse on the part of the team who had it as it was not given it to them in that state
  - Bob thinks we should have the team who returned the trophy share in the cost of repairing/replacing the trophy and replacing the plaques
  - Dan thinks the trophy can be repaired, but it is not something that can be done prior to Nationals.
- D3 trophy – has sent potential pics
- Dan said he thinks the two trophies we have are the originals and isn't sure how he feels about replacing them. Mike K said he would love to give them something nicer than what we are giving them. Dan reminded him that the one the team gets to keep is very nice.
- Mike C is not opposed to purchasing a new one if needed.
- Team looked at different options for the D3 trophy. Conversation ensued about the size of the 3 trophies.
  - Currently the D1 trophy is largest.
  - It is agreed that the trophies should be varied in size based on the Division.
  - Mike C asked Sid what he thought an acceptable amount would be and he said based on the information we are looking at, \$500 would be good. And that we would be OK to purchase 3 if we had to.
  - Dan would very much like to hold on to the current trophies, but knows we might have to replace the D2 dependent on how damaged it is.
  - Team voted on Perpetual Recognition trophy with USWRA logo on top for DIII

- Coaches' training module for coaches of USWRA
  - Collaboration between USAWR and USWRA to create module for USWRA coaches led by USAWR coach
  - Jen added that the foundation hired a training coordinator who is going to help create the module and push it out
- Will order the USWRA shirts
  - Board has supplied their sizes
  - Refs & Classifiers are holding off
- Plaques for HOF and other awards
  - Mike K will choose the plaques
- KBF is going to give money for clinic
- Connected with Canada WR and WWR
  - Spoke to Richard about the Vesco logoed balls
  - They are going to put something in place that only governing bodies can logo balls
- Athlete Development Plan – still needs further discussion
- Confirmed auction items (Fusion: 3 sets of wheels, SmartDrive, Melrose chair)
  - Will set up auction on ebay
  - Will keep open for 10 days (which we believe to be the max amount of days you can keep open)
  - Suggested that perhaps we keep it open past the end of Nationals (possibly Monday or Tuesday)
- Wreck the Halls awards were sent out – thank you to Oscar Mike for paying for the shipping and getting everything out
- OMF needs the letter from Bob so they can begin printing the programs
- Also need all HOF information sent from Bob to Shawn to include in program
- Move United application is officially submitted
  - If approved, we would be included in the Move United “Hub”
  - Also receive help with grant writing
- Daniel asked how much we would receive from KBF - \$5000
- Noah let Mike K. know about Wells Fargo and their grant process so he can look into that

**Commissioner (Bob):**

- Bob has the write up for the HOF inductee and will send tonight or tomorrow
- Also has started his letter to send to OM for the program
- Nationals schedule was sent out last week
  - Questions have rolled in since then
    - 3 games per day?

- Some not happy with the schedule
  - This feedback is evidence that people don't read what was proposed or was voted on
- Pushed back deadlines for nominations and proposals
- When we pushed back the deadline for nationals bid proposals, there was some pushback from one of the teams who had put in a bid on social media
  - Mike K said that the majority of the comments were on his personal page
  - Mike C said that the others were on Wheelchair Rugby Players of America page which is not a USWRA sanctioned page
    - If we choose to respond, let them know that if they would like to have a formal discussion they can reach out to the board
- Was at the selection camp. Was very appreciative of the hard work that was put in by staff there.
- Would like to reach out to the teams to get their uniform colors so he can assign colors prior to the tournament.
- Mike C said he didn't think that it was stated anywhere in the by-laws who chooses the host for Nationals based on the bids. Bob said it is written that it will be the Commissioner and VP2. In past discussion, it was talked about that we would include everyone on the board. Due to Oscar Mike putting in a bid, Noah and Mike K would abstain.
  - Noah said they have had internal talks within Oscar Mike and the possibility of not putting in a bid. He had intentions of making connections with larger sponsors and helping hand off those relationships, but thinks perhaps he has misread how that relationship was working and he had no ulterior motives in the support he has provided the league. Noah appreciated everyone's sentiments and said he just didn't want their hosting Nationals to create any kind of controversy. Bob said at some point there has to be more onus on the teams/players to be up to date and in the know about what things are happening in the league.

### **VP1 (Michael Cottingham)**

- New safety committee name has been approved
- Brief discussion around policies pertaining to minors
  - Perhaps should have a meeting later
- Bylaws committee is ready to roll when the proposals are in
- Bob asked about an incident at west semifinals regarding a player at WASA who had a cardiac issue and went to the hospital. He received an email from Gwen Deby about AEDs and having them available at tournaments. Mike C will respond to her email.

- Jen said her grant writer said there has been a little bit of a flurry surrounding this issue in light of what happened in the NFL, so she will ask about that and report back.

## **VP2 (Daniel)**

- We are ready to cut checks to those who are receiving grants
  - Will draft a letter that each recipient will sign as a good faith that they will be spending the dollars in the way they are intended
- Wants to make sure we have a slideshow of photos that will be shown at Nationals. Has been following the FB page that Terry Vinyard is running that is posting all of the very old pics on that are very cool and would be nice to have.
  - Mike K said he can reach out to Terry
  - Amy will share the slides that were used at the conference she was at this weekend
  - Noah said they have a large database of photos from the last 2 years at Nationals that we can use.
- There was talk about possibly livestreaming the banquet. Noah said that all the livestream equipment will be set up on Court 8 so it might be difficult to get the good equipment over, but might be able to do something a little more grassroots with iPads or phones.
  - Noah will talk to Floodstream to see what it would take to do that.
  - Noah said we have a YouTube page, so that might be a good avenue.

## **Treasurer (Sid)**

- Sent financial report
- Is working to get everything in order and cleaned up to close his tenure on a positive note
- The only expenses really hitting are salary and benefit related and some small tournament expenses recently.
- Has moved to QuickBooks online recently, due to the increase in the desktop pricing. He finds it very convenient since you can access it anywhere you can get on the internet.
- Sid will be resigning his position after this season and he is working to make sure that transition is smooth.
- He wanted to make sure to express his deep appreciation for this leadership team he has been a part of. He has enjoyed it thoroughly. His goal has been to give back in service what the USWRA has meant to him. He still plans to play...as long as his shoulders will hold out.

## **Secretary (Dan)**

- Low Point – 2 teams signed up so far and have also gotten some questions from places to combine forces. Players and staff registration will open ASAP
- Nominations and proposals:
  - Currently have 14 proposals
  - 2 nominations for Treasurer
  - Bob and Daniel both intend to rerun for their positions
  - Sid asked if there had ever been conversation about extracting the rules from the Bylaws, and having something separate for Constitution and Bylaws, and then a Rule Book.
  - The goal will be to get things cleaned up, host a couple of town halls to talk about the things that will be updated to reflect accurately
  - Jen said something that SafeSport does is send out the current version, the amended version, give people a limited amount of time to comment and then take that in and make changes and approvals as needed.
  - Amy asked if we could please send the proposal regarding the one-arm drive to her so she can review and make sure that
  - The ASIA conference is this weekend. Zac Bradley and Steve Kearley will be there and will be representing USWRA. Jen is also coming over from Lakeshore and bringing equipment. The pre-conference is all around Adaptive Sports.
    - Jen gave a huge shoutout to Amy for all the work she has done bringing together some very disconnected folks to make that happen.
  - Texas Women's University has a Capstone student who will be coming to Nationals and Amy will be sure she gets the opportunity to meet as many of the board as possible.