

ISWA Monthly Meeting

February 16, 2025

Call to Order: Meeting called meeting to order at 12:01 pm by Jennifer Pierson. Meeting held via Zoom

Attendance:

Pat Culp, Tina Fouts, Jennifer Pierson, Melissa Strayer, Steve Mathis, Jimmy Tonte, Lou Silverman, Danny Struck, Roby Webster, Ryan Parrish, Mary Friedt, Jonah Odum, Patrick Rowles, and Linda Robinson

Staff: Tina Tonte

Consultants:

Guest: Dave Mathews, USA Wrestling

Secretary: Tina Fouts

- Tina Fouts presented the December draft minutes as previously supplied through USA Wrestling membership website.
- Jennifer Pierson made a motion to accept the minutes.
- Steve Mathis seconded the motion.
- Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer: Steve Mathis

- Steve Mathis Shared reports on screen.
- First went through the Statement of Financial Position. Explained that this was basically our balance sheet.
- Provided balances in all accounts, including CDs.
- Reports are available to all directors in the ISWA library on the USA Membership site as well as the director's resource page at ISWA.com
- Provided Budget vs Actuals report in summary form.
- Stepped through income and expenses for Folkstyle Nationals, Middle School State Duals, and Elementary Duals.
- We have also had some deposits for the upcoming Folkstyle State tournament in Columbus.
- Went through admin expenses, such as office salaries, office rent, etc.
- We are running pretty close to plan.
- Roby Webster made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report.
- Mary Friedt seconded the motion.
- Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

Open Part-time Office Position

- Jennifer Pierson reported that this position will be open until February 24, 2025.
- We have currently received 4 resumes and the position was publicized again this week.
- Will forward all resumes to the executive committee once the position has closed and resumes have been received.

- Jennifer Pierson also reported that she has been in contact with University of Indianapolis to begin the process of obtaining 2 interns for the summer.

Streaming

- Jennifer Pierson reported that we have streamed the last 3 events that we hosted, using our YouTube channel.
- We are at 989 subscribers currently.
- We need to reach 1,000 in order to get to the pay wall.
- Jen Ratliff is still working on understanding some of the set-up from a pay wall standpoint. She is also running some scenarios to see how things will go. After testing, we should have a better idea of how things will go for Folkstyle State.
- Jennifer Pierson stated she has heard nothing negative in the feedback on the last 3 events that we have streamed on YouTube.
- Steve Mathis asked what we are planning to charge for the streaming.
- Jennifer Pierson said she had heard that we were looking at around \$4.99 but we need to know what YouTube is going to charge us. Jen Ratliff is trying to determine all costs involved.

New Business

Publication

- Pat Culp reported that she would like to see the events on our website revamped. It should show a listing, like on the National page, for example. The flyer attached and a link for registration.
- Pat Culp reported that we need to set up a way for people to order the annual publication online. In addition, Tina Tonte is working hard to make sure it is published by December 1st each year.
- Jennifer Pierson is working with Andy Oberlin to get links out on the website.
- With USA Bracketing, wrestling leaders get 2500 text messages for free. Pat Culp will obtain clarification on this,

Folkstyle State

- Held a walkthrough last Monday. The facility is very nice.
- Laid out where we wanted things to be.
- Will fill full report in tournament committee report.

Consultant & Staff Reports

- **Law & Legislation – Steve Pugliese**
 - Not present. No report.
 - Pat Culp reported that this will be his last year with us and he is helping us find a new attorney to help.
 - We will determine whether or not this role will continue to handle SafeSport issues.
 - The coordinator does not have to be an attorney.
 - We will be making a decision, once we have added a new Law & Legislation consultant.
- **Sports Medicine – Nicole Moss**
 - Not present. No report.
 - Preparing for Folkstyle State.
- **Technology – Chris Pruitt**
 - Not present. No report.
- **Olympic Wrestling Styles Consultant – Zach Errett**

- Not present. No report.
- **Membership Staff – JD Minch**
 - Current Athletes – 10,066 – up 5% from last year with 48% new athletes, this ranks us 5th in the USA for athletes. Increase of 3,183
 - Current Wrestling Leaders – 1,193 – up 2% from last year with 26% new leaders. Ranks us 13th in USA. Increase of 430
 - Current Clubs – 199 – up 5% from last year with 10% new clubs. Ranks us 6th in USA. Increase of 23.
 - Sanctioned Events – 104 – up 2% from last year. Ranks us at 6th in USA. Increase of 35.
 - Certified Coaches: 1 Gold / 8 Silver / 392 Bronze/ 694 Copper

State Services - Staff – Tina Tonte

- Her report has been uploaded in USA Membership library as well as Director's Resource page on the ISWA website.
- January and early February were spent working on event prep which included ISWA Elementary Duals, USAW Folk Nationals & Middle School State Duals.
- Folkstyle State prep is underway.
- Working on checklist items & attending committee meetings.
- 2025 Publication is available online on ISWSA website home page and within the Director's Library in USAW Membership, and outlook's shared OneDrive.
- working with Jennifer Pierson on an online store option for members to purchase a printed book from: The Book Patch.
- Ordered a sample to share.
- Book cost under \$30 with taxes/shipping/handling, taking 5-10 business days to ship.
- Impressed with quality and pleased with price considering the book has 74 pages.
- 2025 ISWA Publication Link Book Patch online website (Print company/website for ISWA book): <http://thebp.net/417616>
- Website updates underway daily to event schedule, Folkstyle State page, newsletters, articles including ISWA, YouTube TV subscriber link, Freestyle/Greci season news from Dalton Halbig for club events coming up, new Folkstyle rules for Jared Curcio.
- Awards/result announcements with the 2025 Neil Segó awardee: Parker Stanisz of Bull Dog Premier.
- 2025 Elem State champions small team: Garrett WC; Medium: Bloomington South; Large: Dragon WC.
- 2025 MS State Dual team champions Bulldog Premier.
- The tournament went smoothly alongside USAW Kids Nationals.
- Worked with Jennifer Pierson on John Hurrle Nomination Google Form.
- New deadline March 31st for the John Hurrle nomination.
- Nomination extended to later date for award ceremony.
- Website and link updated.
- Next year form will be within www.usawmembership.com.
- We will also be using the membership site for the 2026 Scholarship Application process.
- Website and link updated for both.
- We will also be using the membership site for the 2026 Scholarship Application process.
- Website and link updated for both.
- Updated info for the 2025 Scholarship Application. Deadline April 1st.
- Spoke with Linda Robinson and Jennifer Pierson about next year's using the membership site for the 2026 Scholarship Application.
- Updated RTC page with Josh Curry.

- Updated Coaches Application page with Danny Struck.
- Folkstyle State Gift is a lapel pin.

Directors Reports

Vice Chair– Administration – Jennifer Pierson

- Tournament committee –items have developed since the initial walkthrough, including parking, a plan for weigh-ins and spectator entrance.
- Mat layout has been established.
- There will be 5 rows of 6 mats.
- Will encourage lawn chairs for spectators.
- Bleacher providers met us there to discuss.
- Roping, we will be using construction cones with roping through the loop.
- Went through security – Columbus police will be on hand and we will need staff to work the ends of the mat access.
- We will need everyone for loading/unloading and set up of the facility.
- We will be pushing to have people there for the set-up and tear down.
- Truck will arrive at noon on Friday.
- Goal on Sunday is to be finished with wrestling at 5:00.
- Will need board members to take down wires, clocks, loading the truck.
- We will limit inflatables (not allowed) and hard coolers.
- Will encourage lawn chairs.
- Lou Silverman asked if there will be one location for admissions. Yes, this was confirmed.
- Jennifer Pierson said multiple entrances to the mall, but there will be one entrance into the tournament facility.
- No Disciplinary Committee report.

• Tournament Director – Roby Webster

- Will try to get a map out to all directors.
- There is a parking lot (lot that comes in off of 31), that they are providing for us, a different lot to come in. He believes door 4 is the number.
- Will need things staged so that we can get stuff unloaded as quickly as we can.
- Has 10 mats lined up for now and is continuing to reach out.
- Will not be able to set up the mats until Friday after 3.
- Will stage kids on the bleachers for weigh-ins like we do for Central Regionals.
- Will get the workers list out this week.
- Jennifer Pierson will be sending out table help assistance requests, and will be paying for covering a table.
- Jennifer Pierson asked for a follow up Tournament Committee meeting this week.

▪ Dave Mathews, USA Wrestling

- Shared his screen to show a new development in USA Bracketing – Fantasy Leagues.
- This feature can be turned on for an event.
- Can be set up as public setting.
- A group can be added and name it whatever they wish.
- This is a way for fans to interact with the tournament.
- The person responsible for setting up the tournament on USA Bracketing can set up to use this feature, if desired. Not automatically set up.

▪ Hospitality Director – Linda Robinson

- Asked about notification regarding scholarships to the schools.
- J.D. Minch printed a list of the current schools that have a wrestling program.
- There are now over 300 schools.
- Walkthrough at facility for Folkstyle State went well.
- Scholarship committee squared away and mentioned by Tina Tonte.

- **Pairing Officials Developmental Director – Jennifer Ratliff**
 - Not Present – No Report.
 - Jennifer Pierson reported that she has proposed we use USA Bracketing at Folkstyle State.
 - Dave Matthews did a nice presentation.
 - Streaming, Jennifer Ratliff will be testing next week and gathering additional information about the pay wall.
 - Working on Folkstyle State.
 - Staying on top of everything to make Folkstyle State work.

- **Social Media/Marketing Director – Andy Oberlin**
 - Not Present – No Report.
 - Jennifer Pierson reported that she has been working with him on some access issues.
 - Has been putting together some timelines and information and is ready to get going on updates.
 - Working on a couple of special projects and will have some proposals at the next meeting.

- **Equipment Director – Jonah Odum**
 - Has been working on gear orders for boys and girls
 - Gas been talking with Rudis.
 - Starting to work with them on pre-packaged for the athletes.
 - Coaches gear will come in bulk.
 - T-shirts should be in within the next 2-3 weeks.

- **Mat Officials Developmental Director – Dalton Halbig**
 - Not Present. No Report.
 - Jennifer Pierson reported he has been officiating and working on Freestyle/Greco season.
 - Has been working with section directors as he noticed some overlap by geography and asked directors to work with tournaments in their sections.

- **Folkstyle Referees Developmental Director – Jared Curcio**
 - Not Present (officiating today). Report via email.
 - Jennifer Pierson reported he is doing well for officials for Folkstyle State, this being his primary focus.
 - Other events, USA events have gone well with very little issues.
 - Still seeing trouble with understanding girls’ modification rules, continue to focus on education at events.

- **Logistics Director – Melissa Strayer**
 - Folkstyle State – rooming list is due this Friday, has 60 rooms reserved.
 - We may need more, due to officials.
 - Freestyle/Greco rooms reserved for volunteers
 - Heartland rooms were reserved in the Spring.
 - Central Regionals, will finalize hotel for team Indiana.

- Trying to secure same hotels for Utah.
- Jennifer Pierson – tournament committee reporting, Avon will be hosting FS/GR again.
- **Section 1 – Mark Galka**
 - Not present. No Report.
 - Jennifer Pierson reported he has been working with Crown Point, who requested to add a Freestyle/Greco tournament on 4/6.
 - No tournaments in the area were bid, so this was approved.
- **Section 2– Mary Friedt**
 - Folkstyle Nationals tournament was a success.
 - Had a lot of help from locals, Indianapolis board members, and USA Wrestling folks.
 - This was the largest number of wrestlers since we have hosted it.
 - Folkstyle State new venue has been communicated to her clubs.
 - She mentioned that maybe we need to consider paying more per mat if we have to go further out from the venue, to obtain mats from clubs.
- **Section 3 – Georgia Bartley**
 - Not Present. No Report.
 - Jennifer Pierson stated she is working through some clubs on tournaments, reaching out to current clubs to charter for the year.
- **Section 4– Mark Stevenson**
 - Not Present. No Report
- **Section 5 –Payton Halbig**
 - Not Present (officiating today). Report via email.
 - Jennifer Pierson reported that he has been attending tournaments in his section.
 - Continues to reach out to clubs to see if there is anything they need assistance with.
- **Vice Chair – Jim Tonte – Programs**
 - **State Coaches Director – Danny Struck**
 - Application process for coaches has about 40 applicants at this time.
 - Working on an opportunity for the Fargo team and coaches, talking with Mike Clayton about using our coaching fund for a clinic.
 - Would like to use for primarily mindset and techniques.
 - **Regional Training Center – Josh Curry**
 - Not Present. Report via email.
 - Finishing the schedule for RTC this week.
 - Good improvement on the girls only RTC, as it is becoming officially sanctioned sport and Doug Strayers promotions.
 - Getting with Nick Hull this week to make sure we have practice plans ready for the first 2 weeks of RTC.
 - Will be posting the schedule on Indiana Mat, as well as sending on social media and ISWA office website.
 - **Cultural Exchange Director – Lou Silverman**
 - Regarding the trip to New Zealand, made contact with Mark in New Zealand; currently setting up their stay.

- Looking at 6/17 to 6/30 right now, but flexible.
 - Lowest cost for flights right now is around \$2700, trying to reduce.
 - Regarding Middle School trip to New Orleans, some communication issues, so slow back and forth to get information.
 - Will continue to work on this.
 - This trip hasn't gotten very far.
- **Team Leader Director – Thomas Pompei**
 - Not Present. Report via email.
 - The following team leaders have been reached out to and are willing to work their trip dependent upon board approval. Will update when more is known.
 - Heartland Elementary Duals: Ryan Parrish; Heartland Middle School Duals: Jason Miller; Heartland Middle School Duals: Doug Strayer
 - Women 14U Duals: Justin Cooper; Women 16U Duals: Doug Strayer; Women Junior Duals: Sara Tellechea (waiting on her response).
 - Boys 14U Duals: Steve Livingston; Boys 16U Duals: vacant at this time; Boys Junior Duals: Zac Johansen.
 - Boys Fargo 16U – Greg Schaefer; Boys Fargo Junior: vacant at this time; Women Fargo 16U: vacant at this time; Woman Fargo Junior: vacant at this time.
- **Kid's Director – Jason Miller**
 - Not Present. Report via email.
 - Working with Ryan Parrish on final states of Heartland Duals trip.
 - Gear has been ordered
 - Coaches are being selected based on qualified/quality parent selection.
 - Coaches are instructed to complete necessary documents through Danny Struck.
 - Friday 2/28 wrestle-offs at Avon.
 - In process of contacting kids that were selected.
- **Girls/Kid's Director – Patrick Rowles**
 - Looks forward to meeting everyone.
 - As of 12/12/24 – we have 799 girls registered in Indiana, now larger since the last tournament.
 - 10U, 12U, 14U are the larger groups.
 - Appears to be growing in exposure and should increase as they go into high school.
 - Girls' middle school state program 172 girls entered..
 - Putting team together for Heartland Duals.
 - First team is set and will be working on second team.
 - Will be looking at parents that will be attending, to assist in determining coaches.
 - Gear has been finalized.
- **16U/Junior Director –Dan Mikesell**
 - Not present. Report to Jimmy Tonte.
 - Has been working with Josh Curry on RTC.
- **16U/Junior Women's Director –Doug Strayer**
 - Not present. Report via email.
 - I was on several USA Wrestling zoom calls in the past few weeks.
 - It was stressed how much women's wrestling in Indiana is growing.
 - At the time of the meeting, our IHSAA state tournament was the most viewed event on USA Bracketing with 5,780 views.

- We've come a long way in the past 7-8 years, from a State Tournament that had about 80 girls to an amazing IHSAA sanctioned event.
 - I was at Middle School State this past weekend to pass out flyers and gather information from girls for this year's Heartland Duals trip. Patrick Rowles and I are working on filling those team(s) right now.
 - UPCOMING ISWA/USA WRESTLING EVENTS (I'll be attending): Folkstyle State, 16U/JR Folkstyle Nationals (Iowa), Heartland Duals (Iowa), U15/U17/U20/U23 WTT (Spokane), Freestyle State, 14U/16U/JR National Duals (Indianapolis), Fargo.
 - National Duals: Sent sizes to Jonah Odum; verified cost with Steve Mathis (\$700); secured camp space at Carmel HS with Ed Pendorski. We held 14U/16U camp there last year and it was in a terrific location.
 - Melissa Strayer has been working to find us a suitable hotel. We need a hotel that has a conference room that we can have food catered into. Between camp and 3 days of competing, we need to feed these girls for 5 days.
 - We are going to have about 50 girls (12-19 years old) plus coaches. Will be working through those details in the next few months.
 - RTC'S: One of the projects I have been working on is getting a few Girl's RTC's set up throughout the state. I have basically been making phone calls to coaches invested in women's wrestling, then directing them to Josh Curry. So far, the following coaches have committed to hosting Girl's RTC's: Ty Olds/ Columbus East (in conjunction with Jennings County); Justin Cooper/Whiteland; Andrew Oberlin/The Fort; Yancy Gradeless/Mishawaka.
 - That's four places in different parts of the state that we can keep High School girls on the mat, for the cost of a USA Wrestling card.
 - If anyone on this call is interested in starting a girls RTC, let me know and we can start working towards setting that up.
 - I really don't know what our numbers will be like this first year, but it's a start. Once everything is in place, I would like to get a social media campaign going to promote these.
- **Olympic Styles Development Director – Nick Hull**
 - Not Present. No Report.
 - **Folkstyle Developmental Director – Ryan Parrish**
 - Working on Heartland Duals. Getting things finalized.

Pat Culp reminded everyone to read the minutes prior to each meeting. She asked all to have any information for reviewing tournaments, for the June tournament review meeting.

Tina Tonte stated that she had sent the John Hurrle email out to all.

Jimmy Tonte reminded all that we, as board members, need to do our part to assist with the upcoming state tournaments.

Mary Friedt motioned that we adjourn the meeting.

Roby Webster seconded the motion.

Motion Passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned @ 2:00 pm.

The next meeting will be April 13, at 12:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Fouts
ISWA Secretary