

A general membership meeting was held on Friday 2/5/2021 at 8:00 P.M. via Zoom conference.

The meeting agenda was as follows:

1. Call to order
2. Opening remarks by the LWC President
3. 2021 Calendar of Events
4. Member questions & answers
5. Close meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:37

Board members present:

Chris Smith, President  
Jeff Scott, Secretary  
Jerry Dunne, TOL  
Dena Smith, TOL  
Joe Triolo, Ad Hoc Member  
Frank Mintz, Technology Chair  
Arthur Drechsler, Ad Hoc Member  
Jamie Swagler, Zone 4 Governor  
Dean Otsuka, Athlete Rep  
Lyn Kajihara, Athlete Rep  
Joe Rodriguez, Zone 2 Governor / Treasurer

Nine members of the LWC joined the conference.

The President delivered his opening remarks. He thanked everyone for joining the Zoom conference and announced that the 2021 LWC event schedule would be set at tonight's meeting. In spite of the on-going challenges posed by COVID-19, he stated that he wanted to see more live events in the LWC this year.

The President gave a brief report on the status of USAW membership in the LWC. Membership has dropped from close to 1100 at this time last year to around 620. The president emphasized how important it is to reverse the downward trend and start to grow membership once again.

The President reviewed the status of gyms in various Zones of the LWC. NYC is under the most severe restrictions. Jamie Swagler (Zone 4) reported that his gym has ample members and that they are on a close-to-normal schedule but using extensive COVID precautions. Kurt Roderick reported that Zone 1 had a few gyms operating, including his own. Restrictions make it tough for him to train large volumes of athletes. LBH, a NYC building, is closed indefinitely.

Members of the board were introduced individually to everyone in attendance.

The calendar of events for the LWC in 2021 was established as follows:

January – there were no events

February – no events scheduled  
March – American Open series EAST – see USAW website  
April – Larry Mintz Memorial (Zone 1) 4/10 (Chris Smith)  
May – Level 1 course (Murder of Crows) 5/8 and 5/9 (Kurt Roderick)  
May – Spring Open (Zone 4) 5/15 (Jamie Swagler)  
June – Hudson Valley Open (Zone 2) 6/12 (Joe Rodriguez)  
June – Crow Hill Open (Zone 1) 6/18 – 6/19 (Kurt Roderick)  
July – Stan Bailey Memorial (Zone 1) 7/17 (Chris Smith)  
August – no events scheduled  
September – no events scheduled  
October – NYS Championships (Zone 4) 10/23 – 10/24 (Jamie Swagler)  
November – no events scheduled  
December – Nick Curry Memorial / Holiday Open (Zone 1) 12/11 or 12/12 (Chris Smith)

The president opened the floor to Q&A.

A number of topics were brought up by individuals from the general membership and the board.

Kurt Roderick asked if the board would consider modifying the record procedure in the LWC. Currently a lifter who sets a record must fill out a form (available on the LWC website) and submit the completed form to the records chair. Kurt suggested combing the USAW results on BARS to discover records. A lively debate ensued and several individuals offered opinions and anecdotes from their own experiences. The issue will need to be looked into further before a decision can be made.

LWC member James Malone offered to help the LWC efforts as a volunteer.

The President explained that events in the LWC, specifically Zone Championships, the LWC Championship and the NY State Championship might, in the future, all be considered qualifiers for USAW events and that this would enhance their importance and should attract more competitors.

USAW Technical Chair Joe Triolo reviewed the new USAW referee testing procedures. The new procedures make use of a Zoom conference for the clinic and testing. Referee practical exams can be conducted virtually and can be completed up until 12/31 of the testing year. Joe Triolo also presented to the assembly important information regarding USAW hybrid events and how local sites can have a designated observer assigned to them and become a virtual lifting venue in a USAW event. It was noted that it would be beneficial to have a designated site in each LWC zone. Not all present, however, were enamored with the concept of virtual / hybrid events.

There being no further questions or points of discussion, the meeting was closed at 9:14 P.M.

Jeff Scott  
Secretary, LWC 06

