

Minutes from the LWC 06 Board Meeting on 2/12/2021

The meeting was held via Zoom video conference.

The meeting was called to order at 8:09 P.M.

The agenda for the meeting:

1. Call to order
2. Opening remarks by the president
3. Presentation of the minutes from 12/11/2020 board meeting
4. Presentation of the minutes from 2/5/2020 general membership meeting
5. Financial report
6. Old business
7. New business
8. Close meeting

Roll call was taken and the board members present were introduced.

Chris Smith, President

Jeff Scott, Secretary

Frank Mintz, Technology Chair

Joe Rodriguez, Zone 2 Governor / Treasurer

James McDermott, Zone 3 Governor

Jamie Swagler, Zone 4 Governor

Dena Smith, TOL

Jerry Dunne, TOL

Dr. Richard Siebert, Club rep

Dean Otsuka, Athlete rep

Lyn Kajihara, Athlete rep

Arthur Drechsler, Ad Hoc member

Joe Triolo, Ad Hoc member

Sitting in on the meeting, at the invitation of the President, were the newly elected President (John Fiorel) and Athlete rep (Mark Soloman) from the Niagara LWC.

The President delivered his opening remarks to the board and visitors.

All of the board members were introduced and new members were welcomed to the assembly.

The President welcomed John Fiorel and Mark Soloman from the Niagara LWC. They were invited by the President to participate in the re view of the NYS Event.

The President introduced Jamie Swagler, Zone 4 Governor and meet director for the 2021 NYS Championships. Jamie indicated that they are expecting 150 athletes for the event. The venue is very spacious and the room rate is around \$ 140.00 / night. The event will be held on 10/23 and 10/24 at the Holiday Inn of Auburn, NY.

The President spoke about his vision for the NYS event and how he would like to make it the premier state championship event in the whole country. He delivered a challenge to the board to get involved in the promotion of the event and to do everything possible to make it a success.

The idea of holding championship sessions was presented by the President. A lively discussion ensued. After much debate, the issue was put to a vote. The board was not in favor of having championship sessions. The exact session breakdown will be published once all entries have been received.

The Secretary brought up the issue of funding cash prizes for the event. The Niagara members were not aware of the agreement that had been put in place in a previous meeting with Niagara officials to provide \$ 1.50 in cash prize money based on the respective LWC member counts as of January 1st of the event year. With membership down 40%, there will be fewer funds available for cash prizes.

The discussion turned to alternative ways to fund the event. The President spoke about how he raised almost \$ 1,500.00 for the 2019 NYS event through a Go Fund Me campaign and indicated that he would be willing to conduct a campaign for the 2021 event. He also discussed other ways to raise funds including donations (through USAW) and efforts to secure sponsors for the event.

The minutes from the 12/11/2020 board meeting were presented to the board. A motion to accept them was made. The motion was seconded. The President called for a vote. The vote was unanimous to accept the minutes. They will be posted to the LWC website.

The minutes from the 2/5/2020 general membership meeting were presented to the board. The minutes were reviewed and there were no comments from any of the board members. They will be posted to the LWC website.

The President asked Treasurer Joe Rodriguez to present his financial report. Joe reported that the USAW finance department is still in transition. There has been no change in the LWC account since the 12/11/2020 report. The balance in the account remains at \$ 6,547.54.

The President asked if any members wished to discuss old business.

The subject of NYS event medals and event banner was brought up. It was pointed out that the medal selected for the event did not feature the word "weightlifting." It was agreed that the medal design

would be given another look and a vote would be taken by e-mail. The word “weightlifting” isto be added to the banner. Joe Rodriguez will oversee the process.

The President asked if any members wished to discuss new business.

The award nominees for LWC 06 Outstanding Lifter for 2019 were presented to the board for selection. For each category, the board considered the candidates and voted for their selection. The Outstanding Lifters for LWC 06 in 2019 are:

Senior Female: Jessica Jean-Augustine

Senior Male: Brian DeGennaro

Master Female: Stella Ladao

Master Male: Sigfredo Rivera

Junior Female: Alexis Jones

Junior Male: Larry Mintz, Jacob Senate and Andrew Smith (three-way tie)

Most Improved Female: Lyn Kajihara

Most Improved Male: Andrew Smith

A motion to modify the award criteria was made. The motion was seconded. The issue was discussed from an historical perspective as well as from the present situation of the COVID pandemic. After much discussion it was proposed that the criteria for 2020 be participation in any one event and for 2021, the same. The President called for a vote and it was unanimous. For 2020 and 2021 athletes need only make a total in any USAW sanctioned event, be it virtual or live.

The deadline for 2020 nomination submissions was discussed. It was agreed to set the deadline for submissions as May 15, 2021. The request for nominations will be sent out to the membership shortly.

The President presented to the board his idea for a “grit” award (grittiest lifter). The idea of cash awards was floated, but the board was not receptive. It was agreed that promoting the grittiest lifter would be a good idea and that the promotion could be done through social media. It was not clear who would be spearheading the effort nor when the effort to recognize the grittiest lifter would begin.

There being no further new business to discuss, the meeting was closed at 11:07 P.M.

Jeff Scott

Secretary, LWC 06