

A general membership meeting was held on January 21st at Brooklyn Barbell Club. The agenda for the meeting was as follows:

1. Call to order.
2. Introduction of LWC officers.
3. Review of recent LWC by-laws changes.
4. Review of recent changes to LWC record procedures.
5. Review of the nominations for outstanding athletes for 2017.
6. Review of the LWC event calendar for 2018.
7. Old Business.
8. New Business.
9. Close meeting.

Immediately following the conclusion of the meeting, Joe Triolo, International Referee Category 1 and Chairman of the USAW Technical Committee, will present a rules clinic. The clinic will focus on the latest changes to the IWF technical rules.

The meeting was called to order by LWC President Chris Smith at 2:12 P.M.

Board members present for the meeting were:

Chris Smith, President
Jeff Scott, Secretary
Sara Soto, Athlete Rep
Steve Tria, Club Rep
Joe Triolo, International Referee Category 1
Dena Smith, National Referee
Frank Mintz, Records Chairman

The Secretary gave a credentials report.

Recent by-laws changes voted on at the 1/14/2018 board meeting were reviewed with the members present. Details of the changes are posted on the LWC website under the Minutes heading.

Changes to the LWC records procedures voted on at the 1/14/2018 board meeting were reviewed and discussed with the members present. Details of the record requirements are posted on the LWC website under the Minutes heading. Look under the Articles heading for the current LWC records and a form to use to submit a record. At this time, only senior division record applications are being accepted.

The nomination process for outstanding athletes for 2017 was reviewed. The board decided at the 1/14/2018 meeting that the original call for nominations had too short a deadline. It was agreed to extend the deadline until 2/28/2018 and to send out a new form for submitting a nomination. Nominations will be accepted by e-mail at lwc06@yahoo.com.

The LWC event calendar for 2018 was established. The following events were identified for scheduling:

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| Jan 28 | Impervious Open, Riverhead NY |
| Feb | No events scheduled |
| Mar 10 | LBH Classic, Rego Park NY |
| Apr 22 | Open meet, Garden City NY |
| Apr 22 | Open meet, Warwick NY |
| May | No events scheduled |
| Jun 9-10 | Crow Hill Open, Brooklyn NY |
| Jul 14 | Larry Mintz Memorial, Location TBD |
| Aug 4 or 5 | Jerry Dunne RLO, Sloatsburg NY |
| Aug 18-19 | Open meet, Brooklyn, BBC Brooklyn NY |
| Sep | No events scheduled |
| Oct 27-28 | Metropolitan Championship, Rego Park NY |
| Nov 18 | Open meet, Brooklyn, BBC Brooklyn NY |
| Dec 1 | Murder of Crows Open, Brooklyn NY |
| Dec 16 | Holiday Open, Garden City NY |

Other events may still be scheduled. Meet organizers should contact the LWC President to verify the availability of dates for events before submitting a sanction request to USAW.

The floor was opened for old business.

Blanco suggested revisiting the requirement to have two referees present at weigh-ins. The LWC by-laws do not require two referees. The requirement is for two people, one of whom is a referee. Chris Smith explained to the members present how he handled this requirement at his events. It was agreed that the board will review the wording of the requirement at the next board meeting.

There being no further old business, the floor was opened for new business.

Sara Soto opened by sharing feedback she and Steve Tria had received regarding the quality of events in the LWC. A lively discussion ensued. Member issues were centered on event location, venue facilities, event schedule and timing and the quality/professionalism of event personnel. Unfortunately, there was nothing presented in the way of specific metrics to illustrate the presence or absence of quality in any specific LWC event. Steve Tria proposed developing an evaluation form that would be used to

assess events based on specific, measurable criteria. The Secretary opined that the competition secretary's report, in its narrative, should address these types of issues. The consensus was that more structure in the evaluation and reporting process was needed. The board will assign someone to develop the metrics and a more formal structure for the reporting process.

The debate about event quality resurfaced later in the meeting. Please read on for further details.

There was a question about the LWC financial reports. Specifically, an inquiry was made regarding how the money from the LWC's LLC account was being spent. The amount in question was the difference between the account balance from last year's report to this year's report. The difference was \$ 840.00 (\$ 7,669.56 – \$ 6829.56). The fund decrease was due to hospitality expenses at three meetings plus the expenses for the awards for outstanding athletes for the 2016 competition period. The rest of the funds withdrawn from the account were deposited to petty cash.

It is standard practice for the LWC to provide food and refreshments for members who attend meetings whenever it is possible and/or practical to do so. This is done as a courtesy to those who take the time and make the effort to attend the LWC meetings, both board and general membership. Based on feedback from the members present at the meeting, this practice will continue.

A member asked if copies of the LWC books would be made available for members to review. The Secretary explained that any member could request an appointment to review the books, but they would not be copied or published for review by any parties. Persons wishing to review the journals for LWC-held funds should contact the LWC Secretary to secure an appointment. For USAW-held funds, the USAW National Office will provide a balance statement upon request from an LWC officer.

The Secretary then explained to the assembly the breakdown of the accounts that currently hold LWC funds: The LWC LLC account, a USAW account and Petty Cash. A brief review of past expenditures of funds was conducted to the satisfaction of those present.

There was some further discussion about LWC fund sources and how they can or should be used

Finally, there was a lengthy discussion about how to improve events in the LWC. Much of the focus was on the Metropolitan Championships. Many different opinions were voiced. It was apparent, however, that there was no consensus as to how improve LWC events and the discussion ended.

There being no further new business, the meeting was closed at 4:20 and Joe Triolo then presented a rules clinic which was very informative and well attended.

Jeff Scott

Secretary LWC06