

NY WSO Minutes 1/23/22 (Virtual Meeting)

First meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:41 pm by James McDermott.

Board members present:

Christopher Smith, Long Island Rep
Frank Mintz, NYC Rep
John Fiorella, Buffalo Rep
Joe Rodriguez, Hudson Valley Rep
James McDermott, Adirondack Rep

James Swagler, Central Rep
Jerry Dunne, Athlete's Rep
Sara Soto, Athlete's Rep
Alyssa Garrison, Athlete's Rep

James McDermott declared chair for the meeting since he called it.

Frank Mintz made a motion that Joe Rodriguez be Secretary for this meeting. Seconded by Jerry Dunne.

- Meet & Greet – update members on what each rep is doing
- McDermott – spoke about working in Adirondack and looking to start some new initiatives to grow support
- Rodriguez – spoke about recent meet, new TOs made, looking to grow sport locally & together w/ board for state
- Swagler – spoke about developing more and using NYS Champs as springboard to run bigger meets and attract more lifters
- Soto – previously on board as athlete rep. Still lifts w/ Murder of Crows. Now directing 1st meet. Looking forward to meeting upstate reps and working with board
- Garrison – Adirondack area athlete rep. Currently working with McDermott and looking to work with board. With Aevitas Fitness as athlete/coach
- Dunne – formerly LWC Tech Official. Coach, Master's athlete, IWF Cat 1 ref. Now athlete's rep. On other NGB board with kayak sports. In weightlifting over 20 years, HS track coach, lawyer, record holder
- Mintz – LBH Coach. NYC rep. Metropolitan LWC record keeper. Expanded records for youth, junior, masters and now NYS Championship records. Former technology chair
- Fiorella – Former Niagara president. Now Buffalo rep. In sport since 1980s. Looking forward to building sport locally and statewide
- Smith – Long Island Rep. Also in sport since 1980s. Former Metropolitan LWC president since 1988. Great success over years - gave credit to Mintz for taking on website/records. Passionate about weightlifting. NE chair of President's advisory committee. Major contributor to restructuring/creation of WSOs. USAW restructured the WSOs using the Metropolitan LWC framework as the foundation. Former NYS Championships mentioned (2009, 2014). USAW now using state championships as an important meet (university qualifier).

McDermott asked about old business. None – new organization. Brought up ideas:

- Getting more referees – make new athletes take the LWC referee exam
- Background checks – club pays for athletes who are really interested in being a TO

Dunne asked if athletes are required to become USAW members. McDermott replied – no. This is only for athletes who joined and actively compete. McDermott asked for other ideas to recruit TOs

- encourage athletes and helps them take the course in person. Put on a referee clinic. Certification is not needed to teach the material. USAW has slides online to teach material.
- setting aside a day and hosting an LWC referee event to teach and have people take the test.
- can do it on a Zoom link to encourage more people to learn and then take the referee test.
- shouldn't just rubber stamp TOs. Make sure they get some experience
- do a mock meet to also give TOs experience. Invite higher level referees to do clinics to get to next level
- Rules clinics by region. Maybe do one quarterly by region – live
- Rules clinic just before local meets
- Motivation for more participation. Important to take care of officials/volunteers – paying them/hospitality (food). Other ways to improve: after action plans, overseeing referees – helping groom them. Look for more ways to grow ranks
- new TOs can shadow an experienced referee
- setting up a regional referee online list
- use max out days to also train referees

Dunne – spoke to Phil Andrews asking what guidance there would be for new WSOs. Was told there would be an orientation at the Arnold (hybrid – live and online).

Soto asked if anyone had heard feedback from USAW regarding appointment of president – there was none.

McDermott also brought up promoting athletes from the state, especially, high level NY athletes like Juliana Rose. Some conversational suggestions included:

- Inviting a high-level lifter to lift for free at the local meet
- Moved onto setting up regional meets to be like a mini state championship meet
- Regional meet winners maybe get free entry into state championships
- Sponsorship prizes
- Referees in proper attire – dress up meets
- Fundraising efforts (e.g.: scholarships for youth athletes to help pay expenses for major meets) would need to apply, make up committees to choose lifters

Closing notes: Looking to have monthly meetings to keep communication active amongst board

- General membership meetings - with zoom
- End General meetings with Q&A
- Gather pre questions/concerns from members to be brought up at meeting to up attendance

McDermott closed meeting at 8:58pm