

NY WSO Board Meeting – Sunday, March 28, 2026.

Zoom Meeting

The meeting was called to order by WSO President James McDermott at 7:01 PM.

Board Members Present: Frank Ford, Jerry Dunne, Alyssa Garrison, James McDermott, Chris Smith, Michelle Woogen, Brian DeGennaro, and Joe Rodriguez.

Absent with Notice: Erica Caso.

Agenda

General:

1. Financial Report.
2. Conflict of Interest Paperwork.
3. Q1 Newsletter.
4. WSO Website Domain Renewal.
5. Hall of Fame Member Bio Updates.
6. Youth and Junior Scholarships.
7. WSO Award Designs.

NYS Championships:

1. New States Apparel.
2. 2028 NYS Championships Location & Deposit.

Meeting Minutes

[General Topics]

Financial Report: James shared a spreadsheet sent by USA Weightlifting that outlined our current financial position. As of March 25, 2026:

- \$11,136.24 Available Balance:
 - James informed the committee that USAW staff were asked to include placeholder entries on the balance sheet for significant anticipated expenses later in the year.

- While the current balance is \$24,557.63, these placeholders reflect committed future costs, reducing the effective available balance to approximately \$11,136.63.
- Expenses for the rest of the year's storage unit payments, NYS Championships barbells, States Volunteer Rooms, and the youth and junior scholarships have been accounted for already.

COI Paperwork: James discussed receiving annual conflict of interest paperwork from USAW. Other committee members did not have emails containing the documents. James will follow up with USAW for guidance on if this is needed for the rest of the committee.

Q1 Newsletter: A newsletter recapping the events from January, February, and March will be sent out to the membership soon. It will also be posted to the website blog for those unable to receive emails, but want to stay in the loop.

Website Renewal Update: James met with USAW staff recently to put the WSO card on file for the GoDaddy web domain renewal coming up on April 13th.

Hall of Fame Member Bio Updates: Write ups for Murray Levin and Artie Drechsler have been added to the website along with a much more substantial article for John Davis. Obtaining or writing articles on the remaining HOF members lacking bios is ongoing.

- [Murray Levin](#)
- [Artie Drechsler](#)
- [John Davis](#)

Youth and Junior Scholarships: There are currently 3 applicants who have filled out the online form for the scholarship. This initiative will be promoted more in Q2 in the lead up to National Championships week. [Click here](#) to submit an application.

WSO Award Designs: The committee reviewed updated designs for Outstanding Athlete and Coach of the Year awards. A few tweaks were suggested and they will soon be finalized.

[NYS Championships Topics]

New States Apparel: James presented the committee with a design created by Bryant Illenberg. Discussion was had and committee members enjoy the art direction. James will move forward with compensating Bryant and building the online store for NYS Championships apparel. The possibility of using the design for team awards banners was discussed and it was ultimately agreed upon that keeping consistency with the classic design was best.

2028 Event Location & Venue: It has been noted, reference the 2026 Q1 meeting minutes, that a majority of the current committee will conclude their terms at the end of 2027. The committee also learned that venue pricing at the hotel in Binghamton has increased significantly, making it financially unfeasible to return. The WSO's last contracted year at the hotel in Binghamton is 2027.

It has been discussed that it may be both difficult and costly for a new committee beginning in January 2028 to secure an appropriate venue on short notice. James informed the committee that he contacted nine potential venues across the state in an effort to find a suitable replacement.

After discussion, the committee agreed the best course of action is to find a venue now at 2026 pricing, with the understanding that the future committee may choose to utilize the venue or pursue an alternative.

The most affordable venue found was Gold's Gym LaGrange in Poughkeepsie. Venue management has agreed to accept an initial deposit of 10% of the 20% deposit with the remaining balance due in March 2028.

- **Vote:** Jerry Dunne motioned to approve paying 10% of the deposit and signing the contract.
 - **Seconded:** James McDermott.
 - **Results:** All in favor – motion passes.
 - USAW staff will sign the contract.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.