

NY WSO Board Meeting – Sunday, January 25, 2026.

Zoom Meeting

The meeting was called to order by WSO President James McDermott at 7:05 PM.

Board Members Present: Erica Caso, Jerry Dunne, Alyssa Garrison, James McDermott, Chris Smith, Michelle Woogen, and Joe Rodriguez.

Absent with Notice: Frank Ford, Brian DeGennaro.

Agenda

General:

1. Financial Report.
2. New WSO Website Preview.
3. WSO Awards.
4. WSO Scholarships.

NYS Championships:

1. Medals Update.
2. I Love NY Listing.
3. New Apparel & Plan.
4. AED & Medical.
5. 2028 Hotel Contract.
6. General Updates: Photography, PT & Massage, PT Students, Team Award Banners.

Meeting Minutes

[General Topics]

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

- \$24,257.14 Available Balance:
 - \$557.63 Opening Balance.
 - \$5,000 Budget Allocation for 2026.
 - \$19,000 Estimated Revenue for 2026 NYS Championships.
 - \$300.49 spent this year, outlined in document.
 - Additional \$336.96 spent after receiving statement.

- James informed the committee that Storage Unit Rentals of America has increased the monthly rent to \$252.
- The annual website bill was paid for the years of 2026 and 2027 totaling \$336.96 (\$168.48 each). James was able to obtain a 50% discount for each year.
- James confirmed that the DoubleTree by Hilton received deposits for 2026 & 2027.

WSO Website: James showed the committee a preview of the new upcoming WSO website. The new website is being designed by WSO member Anna Oberkircher. The new design will be functional on mobile phones, have better integration with USAW's website, and have a layout and flow that makes it easier to find things such as state records, NYS Championships info, and upcoming events.

WSO Awards: Outstanding Athlete and Coach of the Year award winners have been determined.

- Outstanding Juniors: Angelina Mintz and Robert Rohde.
- Outstanding Masters: Nidia Pardo and Byran Jow.
- Outstanding Seniors: Nidia Pardo and Marc Marquez.
- Coach of the Year: Bryant Illenberg.

WSO Scholarships:

- **Youth and Junior:** James discussed offering the opportunity for local businesses to contribute to the scholarship and sponsor an athlete attending National Championships week. This scholarship will be announced publicly soon.
- **Coaching Development:** After discussion, James moved for the WSO to not offer coaching scholarships in 2026 and for the committee to reevaluate the program in the fall ahead of 2027.
 - **Seconded:** Joe Rodriguez.
 - **Results:** All in favor – motion passes.
 - Scholarships offered directly through USA Weightlifting:
<https://www.usaweightlifting.org/resources/scholarships-and-support-services>

[NYS Championships Topics]

Medals and Awards: 79 gold, 36 silver, and 18 bronze medals are needed to replenish what was used in 2025 (purchase already approved in the 2026 budget). James showed the committee examples of new best lifter awards and explained switching to Velcro lanyards for medals to make it easier to change year to year. The committee opted to change the lanyard color from red to blue for the 2026 event.

I Love NY: The event has been listed on the I Love NY website under the sports and gaming section: <https://www.iloveny.com/event/2026-new-york-state-weightlifting-championships/67724/>

New Apparel: Discussion was had hiring Bryant Illenberg to create a new apparel design for the event. James moved to hire Bryant Illenberg to create a new NYS Championships apparel design and to pay him \$150 for the work.

- **Seconded:** Erica Caso.
- **Results:** All in favor.

AED & Medical: James discuss recent findings on purchasing an affordable AED. After discussion with the committee, it was decided that the best route for now is to table the idea. Discussion was also had on medical procedures during weightlifting events. James reached out to USAW and they'll be working on providing meet directors with more guidance and resources.

2028 Hotel Contract: Discussion was had on whether or not the current committee should pay a deposit for 2028. In 2028 the majority of the current committee will term out and the thought was for the current group to set up the future group with the option of returning to Binghamton. James discovered that many changes within the new proposed contract would make it now too expensive to return to the DoubleTree in 2028.

General Updates: James updated the committee that the following has been accomplished ahead of this year's meet: photographers secured (6/6 Media), PT & Massage Therapist signed on, PT Students contacted, Team award banners updated to current dates.

Meeting adjourned at 8:23 PM.