

2012 NATIONAL DELEGATE ASSEMBLY OFFICE REPORT

Executive Summary

As I head toward the completion of a second year in my “temporary” assignment, it is clear that the WASUSA office desperately needs another set of hands. Although BOD members have pitched in with various and sundry projects (i.e., the incorporation of social media, writing articles for the newsletter, etc.), it is clear there are not enough hours in the day for one person to manage the office effectively. When I assumed the responsibilities of the former Director, it was made clear that the day-to-day administrative tasks were not being completed in a timely or effective manner. As a result, I have continued to focus on these tasks, while **key** higher-level tasks are not being addressed:

- ❖ Marketing of WASUSA
- ❖ Grant-writing
- ❖ Building relationships with other DSOs
- ❖ Program Development
- ❖ Planning for future contingencies

We all recognize that the lack of available funds is driving this; however in my opinion, if we are to grow the organization, we definitely need to address and focus on the above.

I. Membership

This past year has been a challenging one for the WASUSA office. The economic downturn affected our meets on a nationwide basis. Comparative meet data we have for both 2011 and 2012, reflects a 22.8% decrease in overall meet attendance. This has affected us in membership, both general membership and the recreational type:

Year	General Nos.	Recreational Nos.	Total	% change
E2011	551	141	692	
2012	534	96	630	-8.9%

This year, we incorporated **active.com** as our membership vendor. The acquisition of this vendor has served to streamline the membership process. We continue to incorporate the "e-membership" card, a cost-effective way of both producing a card, and advising our member we've received and appreciated their payment. New members have also received an attached copy of the latest newsletter.

A perennial problem is that a fair number of meet directors do not support the full WASUSA membership at their meets. This is understandable, as meet costs continue to increase for these local and regional meets. For an athlete to put out \$50+ for a meet....then get hit with a membership fee is a

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considerable hardship for some. The recreational membership has been a solution for most; however some meets do not even bother to collect the recreational membership.

II. Insurance

As most of you know, WASUSA maintains one of the most cost-effective, expansive event-based liability insurance programs in disabled sports. At the end of August 2012, we had processed over 195 certificate of insurance requests....that's close to one per day!

As stated, the coverage mirrors the level mandated by the USOC for their Paralympic Clubs. Last spring, as a result of a census review (the first in four years), we were hit with an approximate 22% increase in the liability insurance, as a result of the increasing number of overnight camps and related events. Although we passed this increase on to some of our non-WASUSA clubs, I have again requested that a census be completed and analyzed. I have also kept an 18 month record based on sports, number of athletes, etc. The plan is to assess the "heavy-hitters" with a retrospective premium rating to compensate for those not using the event coverage on a regular basis.

Finally, I have approached the BOD with the idea of reassessing our relationship with Insurance Professionals of New England (broker). I plan to meet with them in the next two-three weeks in order to discuss alternatives to the current coverage scheme. We have experienced an eight-year run with them and it is probably time to re-assess the situation and relationship.

III. Meet Management and Support

There were a total of 23 sanctioned WASUSA meets this past year. In November 2011, packages were sent out to each meet director; requesting date(s) along with a copy of the meet sanctioning guidelines. This package requested a copy of the meet registration form, when available.

The results were dismal. Out of 23 meets, we received only 11 copies of registration forms; most of them were received by the office after general distribution to the public. There were a number of errors on these forms; ranging from simple typos to significant, glaring errors and omissions in data. For example, one meet was still using the former junior age designations A – E, while another listed a swimming classification as a 3NK (???).

This is an extreme drain on office resources, especially between April and the end of June each year. During this period WASUSA is attempting to process the bulk of 23 meets, process and handle a significant number of memberships (both regular and recreational), provide meet assistance either via phone or in-person, including SAMS technical assistance.

Another way the office has assisted the sport directors was in the analysis and development of qualifying standards for the new field implements and age groups. We were able to parse the available data from our meets and WTFUSA was able to study and analyze the available data from meets in order to develop weights and standards.

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With the support of the NGB/STCs, I've developed a "Meet Sanctioning Template". Its initial use is as a tool for meet directors in determining Level one, two and three events for those sports in which we have not yet developed a firm standard.

IV. ADF Account Administration

There are currently 73 active athlete development fund accounts as of the end of the second quarter. We processed over 375 donor checks, reimbursement checks and Paypal donor payments. We received 12 new applications this year and have released over \$42,000 in funds as a result of claims received in 2012. The 3rd quarter activity statements will go out right after the NDA. We have advertised the benefits of an ADF in our newsletter and will continue to fine-tune both the program and the benefits associated with it.

V. WASUSA Newsletter

For the first time in almost two years, WASUSA released a newsletter to its members, as well as those individuals on the mailing list. There were two editions sent out in autumn and early spring. Once caught up with the meet season, communication was limited to social media, as well as email blasts. There will be another edition highlighting Paralympic successes and the NDA in the next four weeks.

VI. Website

The office continues to work with the webmaster in order to improve the information on the site.

Respectfully submitted,

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