

Wheelchair & Ambulatory Sports USA
National Delegate's Assembly
October 11-14, 2012 Rochester, Minnesota

Chairperson's Report

Year in Review

The 2012 London Paralympics proved that Wheelchair & Ambulatory Sports USA provides a viable, valuable link to the Paralympic Pipeline. Over 45 current and former WASUSA members competed on the US Paralympic Team in the 2012 London Games, raking in numerous gold, silver, and bronze medals. We are incredibly proud of the success of our programs throughout the country that have nurtured and trained the current generation of elite-level athletes representing the USA. Our "recently junior athletes" were especially spectacular! Leading the pack was Raymond Martin and Tatyana McFadden. Raymond's dazzling performances earned him the Paralympic Athlete of the Year, 2011-12. Congratulations to all!

- Junior Committee
 - Thank you Junior Committee Chair, Debbie Armento and the Junior Committee for all the work you have put in this year to insure the success of the NJDC and regional competitions. You all have dedicated so much time to reviewing procedures, making needed updates to keep up with our changing population. Especially challenging was the rule changes and change of field implements.
 - 2012 National Junior Disability Championships was held in Mesa, Arizona. Congratulations to Lane Graham and Arizona Disabled Sports for hosting a fabulous event! You even made it an international spectacular with Thailand presence. What scheduling challenges you had with the "dry heat" of the Arizona desert, and crazy weather events (I know that the "NJDC haboob" was quite a popular Facebook post)! Congratulations, again, for a job well done!
 - 2013 NJDC will be held in Rochester, Minnesota. There have been bids for 2014 (which will be awarded this weekend). Representatives from some of those organizations will be at the NDA this weekend.
- WASUSA and US Paralympics on-going conversations
 - US Paralympic financial support of Level 3 Meets through Grants

- Identify Level 3 Meets, offer technical Support (more in WTFUSA report)
- Support for emerging elite athletes at IWAS competitions

WASUSA Moving forward

- **First and foremost:** Continue to get the Wheelchair and Ambulatory Sports USA brand out and emphasize our national importance in providing grassroots programs and quality competitions for all. WSAUSA cannot be forgotten as the founding organization for disability sport in the United States! There have been many opportunities that have passed us by, which must not happen.
- Continue to develop the Strategic Plan Committee will present an update of this year-long project and planning lead by Phil Galli.
- Continue to nurture the relationship between Wheelchair and Ambulatory Sports USA and US Paralympics
- Communication
 - Launching immediately if not sooner the "new and improved" WASUSA Website!!! Thanks to Darlene, Jessie, Phil, and Ralph!!
 - Social Networking... Are you a "friend" of WASUSA on Facebook?? Thanks to Jessie Galli and Darlene Hunter for posting events and keeping things current. Every conference I have been attending has expressed how important it is to use Social Networking in today's culture: Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube. We've dabbled with Facebook and Twitter, but have not formally done much on YouTube... Time to fix that!
 - "Calendaring" with other disability sports organizations to avoid programming over each other (to include our own contingencies).

Barb Moving Forward... Or something

I will not be seeking re-election due to work and personal obligations. Being in education during this tremulous economic time has been challenging at best, and has required way more time this year than ever before. I'm paddling like crazy to keep my department and my 61 teachers afloat.

I'm confident in the slate of nominations to fill the Chair's position. I'm pleased to hand over the gavel and let WASUSA enter a new era. I will continue to be involved in WASUSA wherever needed, especially with the International Teams committee.

I accepted the Chair's position, or actually it was "willed" to me by my dear friend Jan Elix. With Adam getting married, I feel a little closure and obligation fulfillment.

Highlights of my seven-year tenure include:

- WASUSA continues to be solvent post-USOC support unlike many other disability sport organizations.
- Because of some disability sports organization disbanding, Wheelchair sports picked up membership, becoming all-inclusive. The organization went through a name change to better reflect the membership, from Wheelchair Sports, USA to Wheelchair & Ambulatory Sports, USA.
- IWAS 2009: Working with Paul DePace, Denise Hutchins and I "encouraged" International Wheelchair & Amputee Sports Federation to open their competitions to athletes with cerebral palsy. Currently IWAS & the International CP association are working on a "memorandum of understanding".
- CEO/Director/Office Manager changed four times from Denis Runyan, to Ralph One, to Kelli Kellen, to Ralph Two.
- The Office physically moved four times, also. And as the office moved, many things were lost and needed to be recreated (Thank you Ralph One and Two)
- 2008: WASUSA (WSUSA) hosted IWAS Junior Disability Championships in New Jersey in conjunction with NJDC (thanks to Phil, Trish, and Paul).
- Agencies, Sports Commissions, etc. are bidding to host NJDC events, and are lined up several years in advance! Rochester will be the first "non-disability sports" group to host NJDC in 2013. Contact with these agencies was made possible through our participation in TEAMS conferences (Travel and sports industry). NJDC makes a marketable economic impact to hosting communities. Through compiling and sharing the "heads-to-beds" stats at the TEAMS conference, and other sports industry conferences, we have made lots of new friends. Everyday either Ralph or I get emails from sports commissions (from places I may or may not know the location).
- Bylaws were streamlined and Policy & Procedures Manual expanded to include expanded interpretations of what is in the Bylaws. P&P is still a work in progress, but thanks to Denise and Jessie, we're closer!
- I lived through two abdominal surgeries, and didn't miss a meeting ☺ I was prone for a couple...
- I still have some loose ends to tie up that I'll still work on including P&P and Personnel contracts (DOO).

I have lots of thank yous, starting with the very dedicated WASUSA Board of Directors. Everyone has dedicated countless of volunteer hours moving this organization forward. Thank especially to: Debbie, with her incredible remake of the Junior

Committee; Jessie and Darlene for trying to take WASUSA into the multi-media and social networking era... Kicking and screaming; Mike for keeping us honest©; Phil for being Phil; Pauly for being Pauly, and keeping us current on the worlds stage; Denise, for being there for me ALWAYS; and of course, Ralph... My "work husband, putting in "above the call of duty effort" into everything he does. You guys are the BEST and I know that you'll support the chair-elect, as you have me.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Chambers, Chair

