

Ohio Regional Sports Organization
Annual Report - October 2012

Ohio Wheelchair Games 2012

The Ohio Wheelchair Games had some changes this year. Our first change was our date. We moved our Games from the middle of May to the middle of June. This change allows us to bring in more juniors for competition and also allows us to be one of the last qualifying Games for NJDC and other such competitions.

Change number two (2) for Ohio Wheelchair Games was our location. Our field, track and swimming competitions were held on the campus of Ohio Wesleyan University in Delaware, Ohio. Track events were held at Selby Stadium, the home of the OWU football team and the Ohio Machine, Ohio's only lacrosse team. The field events were held at the same location OWU holds their field events. OWU's swimming facility is state of the art and was a great venue for our athletes to compete. Our only swimming athletes were juniors.

Ohio Wheelchair Games welcomed several "guests" this year. The first guest is an annual occurrence with the reigning Ms. Ohio Wheelchair speaking at our awards banquet. The second, third and fourth guests this year helped with officiating of track, field and swimming: Charlie Sheppard, Deb Armento and John Reynolds (U.S. Swimming). Our last guest was an honor to host: Dan Schwieder, US Paralympics Central Region Manager. The conversations with Dan were very eye-opening. We discussed working together to improve our number of athletes, sharing those athletes and improving getting out the word regarding Paralympic sports.

Normally the Games plays host to track, field, swimming, weightlifting, bocce, bowling, billiards, air guns, archery, slalom, prognostication and table tennis. Our numbers were down this year due to US Paralympic Trials and the National Veteran Games being the same time frame as our Games, so we only had competitions in track, field, swimming and air guns. Our numbers were small, but we still had a great competition.

The Ohio Games is proud to announce one of our athletes, Zena Cole, competed in London at the Paralympic Games and won a bronze medal in discus.

Ohio Wheelchair Sports Association

The Ohio Wheelchair Sports Association went through some changes in the past year also. As an organization, in existence since 1970, it was time to change. The organization originally started specifically for the Ohio Wheelchair Games. In later years we added tennis, basketball, quad rugby, swimming, handcycling and softball. As years passed, interest in tennis, softball and handcycling dwindled.

This past year the Board of Trustees voted to remove the remaining teams of basketball, quad rugby and softball. The Board felt the athletes, the head representatives of these sports and some of the other Trustees were not fulfilling the mission and duties set forth in our mission statement, Policies and Bylaws of the Ohio Wheelchair Sports Association.

After the removal, the remaining Board of Trustees put out notification to parties we thought would be a perfect fit for our Organization and help it to grow. On October 2, the Board voted in new Trustees, Officers and Committee Chairs. Along with filling vacant positions, OWSA is also adding three new organizations under the Ohio Wheelchair Sports name and partnering with two other entities.

Strong as Steel, a team from Pittsburgh will be joining Ohio Wheelchair Sports Association. They came to us asking for support as they are just starting out and need “guidance”. They have two junior athletes that compete at our Games and we look forward to helping their team to grow.

Beyond Limits is a local gym and the host of the Buckeye Classic International Natural Bodybuilding Federation bodybuilding and weightlifting competition. They have a wheelchair division and asked to partner with us to “get the word out” about what they have and what they offer. Along with their own competition they also have a show during the Arnold Classic held in Columbus every year.

The third addition to OWSA is a new organization being started by an athlete that has competed in our Games for several years; The-Rite-Move. Amy Riter is a member of Paralyzed Veterans of America-Buckeye Chapter. Her new endeavor is a non-profit to assist other veterans in handling anything they may need in the way of assistance, guidance, support or anything else on a personal, one-on-one level.

Ohio Wheelchair Sports Association has reached out to the Adventure Center for Children in Strongsville, Ohio (also known as Camp Cheerful) to assist them. Mike Urban is our contact there and he is also the head coach of the

Cleveland Cavaliers Junior Wheelchair Basketball team. ACC runs camps every summer for people with disabilities of every nature. We hope this partnership opens up the door for OWSA to become like other RSO's with programming.

The second partner we have teamed up with is The Mobility Resource. The Mobility Resource is a network of mobility dealers. They also have a blog on their website. We had two of their writers travel to Columbus to cover the Games and now they are members of the Board of Trustees. They have covered not only the Games, but the National Disabilities Forum in Columbus and will be covering the National Delegate Assembly for WASUSA this year in Rochester, Minnesota.

With the election of Officers and Trustees, this is the current roster:

Board of Trustees

Bruce Schreiber - Chairman of the Board and Treasurer Pro Tem

Daniel Barker - President and Executive Committee Chair

Jen Gorman - Vice President and Membership Chair

Marcia Schreiber - Secretary

David Pohlable - Fundraising Chair

Jeff Gorman - Public Relations Chair

Sam Murphy - Medical Liaison

Nancy Harris - Member At Large

Rich Lauro - Member At Large

The Future of Ohio Wheelchair Sports and Ohio Wheelchair Games

- ❖ Reaching out to Ohio colleges and universities for new athletes, volunteers
- ❖ Collaborate with Ohio High School Athletic Association on State track and field competition. Ohio now allows wheelchair athletes to compete at State level and they have contacted OWSA to assist with growing wheelchair athlete knowledge.
- ❖ Work closer with US Paralympics and their sports clubs to improve numbers at Games
- ❖ Increase number of athletes via contacting surrounding state PVA groups, high schools
- ❖ Help promote wheelchair bodybuilding and weightlifting
- ❖ Host Junior Wheelchair Basketball tournament

- ❖ Partner with Adventure Center for Children to start programming in OWSA
- ❖ Reduce Ohio Wheelchair Games events to focus on bigger, more popular events OR
- ❖ Host two (2) Games, summer and winter, to improve numbers of all events
- ❖ Host Wheelchair tennis tournament at Ohio Wesleyan University
- ❖ Decrease registration fees of Games for veterans to increase registration numbers of Veterans

