

**NWCA Board Meeting**  
**July 31, 2015 - Fort Lauderdale, Florida**

Attendance: Mike Moyer, Darrell Randall, Joe Geiger, Don Shelly, Mark Cody, Tom Ryan, Chris Ayres, Mike Rogers, Steve Garland, Nick Mitchell, Dave Pacheco, Jason Valek, Kevin Ward, Lonnie Morris, Randy Steward, Nathan Shearer, Dave Crowell, Dennis Stromie, John Cook, Jason Bryant, Pat Tocci, Anthony Holman, Bob Colgate, John Licata, Ron Mirikitani, Jeff Voss, Rich Bender, Lee Roy Smith, Jim Guinta

At 5:45, Mark Cody opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the Board meeting. He thanked the board and the NWCA Staff for their hard work and time on the convention and board meeting.

Mike says a few opening words thanking the board for their work and time.

Action Items:

**Approval of minutes:**

A motion was made by Dave Pacheco to approve the 2014 minutes. Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by Joe Geiger.

Motion to pass the 2014 minutes passes unanimously.

**Strategic Plan:**

Mike Moyer presents his strategic plan for approval by the board. Strategic plan focused on the acronym CASE to grow participation numbers for wrestling at all levels. CASE stands for Coaching Development, Advocacy, Student-Wrestler well-being and Ensuring the financial sustainability of the NWCA.

Rich Bender talked about how USA Wrestling numbers are up but Bob Colgate mentioned that NFHS numbers are down.

Concern about the numbers at the high school being down. Few of the reasons centered around fewer coaches who work in schools, sports specialization and shrinking enrollment.

Chris Ayres talked about the importance of the singlet and changing to an alternative uniform. The NWCA board as a whole felt that an alternative uniform is a good idea.

A motion was made by Mark Cody to approve the 2015-16 strategic plan. Motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brian Anderson.

Motion to pass the 2015-16 strategic plan passes unanimously.

**Mission Statement:**

Chris Ayres presented to the board a newly proposed mission statement.

“The NWCA brings the wrestling coaching community together to advance the sport and ensure that current and future generations have the opportunity to engage in a safe and educationally based wrestling experience. This primarily done by strengthening existing programs, creating new programs and providing coaches with progressive educational opportunities.”

A motion was made by Mark Cody to approve the 2015-16 strategic plan. Motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike Rogers.

Motion to pass the NWCA Mission Statement passes unanimously.

#### **Budget:**

Darrell Randal provides a budget and financial report to the board. He explains about the available cash to the NWCA. Darrell hits on some major parts of the budget which include:

- \$25,000 of the HS Academy will be pushed into the 2016 budget
- Did not budget for the National Duals; we will be hoping for sponsorships
- Will be sponsoring the Pittsburgh Classic which will be a revenue source for the NWCA

Darrell mentions that the budget is still very fund raising heavy.

Rich Bender questions about the cut in the budget on the NCAA tournament. Darrell says we will need to review that and adjust accordingly.

A motion was made by Mark Cody to approve the 2015-16 budget. Chris Ayres 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.

The 2015-16 budget was approved unanimously

#### **DISCUSSION TOPICS:**

##### **Board Re-structuring:**

Joe Geiger gives a presentation on the concept of re-structuring the NWCA board from a 30+ board to 18-22 size board board. The purpose of this change would be to make the board more focused and be more efficient. The concept of this re-structure was borne out of an executive committee meeting. In addition, this would help the board have more meetings with a smaller group.

Some seats of the board would still be reserved for content experts.

The initial concept of this would have affiliated members go to a non-voting status. The collegiate structure would more closely follow the NCAA organizational model. The scholastic community would not be affected by the change.

Steve Garland asked what the downside would be and the consensus was that there would not be one.

Lee Roy Smith brings up that you do not want to lose contact with your constituents by changing the structure but he does understand the need to be efficient.

Joe Geiger mentions that we understand that we cannot lose the contact with the groups. Mike Moyer also mentions that he would be against this if he felt we would lose momentum.

Rich Bender says USAW would support this. He does mention that he would encourage the board to know their responsibilities to the organization. You want to make sure you do your due diligence in choosing these representatives.

Bob Colgate also asks why HS gets 4 reps and not just one which Darrell mentions that it is because of the number of wrestling programs.

Rich Bender mentions that this board will have to approve this change. Pat mentions that we will put our recommended new by-laws to the board for review and vote.

Darrell Randall also makes mention that we want to make sure that each of the groups have autonomy on how they manage themselves.

Joe Geiger asked the board to submit to him in writing and thoughts they had before we start to re-write the by-laws.

### **Strategic Plan Long Term Outlook:**

Mike Moyer presents a plan on a long term strategic plan for the NWCA. He mentions that Rich Bender has been invaluable in his help to the NWCA.

Rich Bender mentions that we need to work with the NWCA to make sure they succeed. We want to make sure that wrestling is financially solvent.

Mike talks about the Olympic Sports coalition fight to keep Olympic Sports viable on college campuses. We are in a larger coalition of sports that we want to get as big as possible. The larger the group, the louder the voice.

Darrell mentions that our business plan is strong but our finances do struggle from these fights. We do not have the funding for it and it impacts the NWCA's sustainability.

Anthony Holman mentions that wrestling needs to tell its story and money can come from it.

Jim Guinta asks what's our lifeboat if this coalition fails? Mike mentions that the sports that will survive are aligned with the academic standards of the institutions. We need our wrestling program to increase its APR.

Tom Ryan makes the comment that raising our APR is doable and we need to set a goal of raising by ten points and seeing this through a broader lens.

Mike also talks about the leadership academy in that we have had over 400 scholarships given out. We are not seeing the schools coming back. We are investing in the coach and program and it is not being given back by supporting the convention.

Nathan Shearer brings up a valid point in that many of the top programs are not represented.

The concept that the coaches provide a \$250 commitment fee to the academy. This fee then would be applied to a future convention. This shows a commitment from the coach and program. All on the board were in agreement about this concept.

#### **Preferred Program Designation:**

Mike Moyer talked about the idea of creating a report card on the success of wrestling programs.

We could create a preferred status based on how a program performs in several different areas including eligibility/graduation rates, fan base, attendance, athletic success, healthy roster sizes, marketing/promotions and forfeits.

The concept was felt positive about trying to develop something but being careful in how it is done so not to completely pin point schools. You want to make sure that it is done in a way that will help schools get better.

There was some feeling that it would help motivate schools.

The NWCA would develop an internal report card to send to the individual schools.

#### **Health of Wrestling at the Collegiate Level Discussion**

Mike Moyer talked about this discussion topic following a NCAA summit meeting with Dr. Brian Hainline (NCAA Chief Medical Officer). One of the areas that was discussed was the academic 'struggles' of wrestlers. Mike centered much of this discussion on why our wrestlers have strong academic backgrounds going into college but we struggle as a sport.

Many of the board members discussed certain elements about the academic area at the collegiate level for wrestlers. These items included:

- Not scheduling teams with low APR (Darrell Randall)
- Start a campaign promoting high APR (Lee Roy Smith)
- We are in a red-alert status and this has to be at the front burner (Tom Ryan)
- Put together a video targeting HS athletes emphasizing how APR impacts your college career (Tom Ryan)
- Recruiting the right type of wrestlers (Steve Garland)
- A minimum 15-20% scholarship requirement on a set ACT score (Tom Ryan)
- Coaches getting bonuses for strong academics (Nick Mitchell)
- Look at a one semester sport as a solution (several board members)

Anthony Holman talks about what baseball and basketball did to help with their APR scores. They made it a top priority. It has helped in them achieving a higher/improved APR scores.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

#### **WIBN:**

John Licata gives an update on Wrestler's in Business and the chapters growing across the country. He also provides a short update on some new initiatives and events that WIBN is undertaking.

John talks about the All-Star match which will be hosted by WIBN-Atlanta. They are excited to bring this event to the south and will be held at Georgia Tech. They are also currently working on the event being televised live on ESPNU.

#### **National Duals:**

Tom Ryan gives an update on the new format for the National Duals for 2016. The concept for the event will be the top 8 Big Ten Teams will wrestle a dual at home against the conference champion of the 7 conferences and one wild-card team. The top ranked big ten team and the highest ranked non-Big Ten team will be the feature match will be the National Dual Meet championship match. This concept will be more of a bowl structure. The top programs have all committed to this format. The following year the Big Ten teams will travel to the non-Big Ten Teams.

The feeling is that a 'Final Four' concept is needed but we need to get this format off the ground. There is some flaws in how all this might work but the hope is that we can have a successful year and grow the event.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

##### **Affiliated Reports and Updates:**

##### **NAIA:**

- Growing wrestling 4-6 teams a year
- Will have more regionals in 2016
- Will seed like Division II

##### **WOMEN:**

- Need more coaches
- Most programs need at least 30 wrestlers
- Currently 8 NCAA Schools with women's wrestling

##### **NFHS**

- Bob informed the board he will be moving to a new position and will no longer be overseeing wrestling
- He reiterated the information that was in his on-line report
- Wrestling needs to continue to monitor its participation numbers
- Will continue to follow the weight class information
- Very few rule changes

Mike Moyer thanked Bob for his years of service

##### **CCC:**

- Hoping to have 6 women's programs by next spring

#### **Hall of Fame:**

- Major renovations in Stillwater, Dan Gable Museum and the traveling museum
- Trying to have a more transparent process in selecting of individuals
- Women want in and need to develop the infrastructure

#### **USA Wrestling**

- Most important 7-8 months of the sport
- College wrestling is critical to the success of international wrestling
- World Championships in September in Las Vegas

#### **Scholastic:**

- Spoke about the NWCA online programs and importance of them
- Scholastic congress this weekend
- State organizations could have a huge impact

#### **NCAA:**

- DII working on realignment / regional changes
- Spoke about the O'Bannon case and TV Revenues
- New governing structure of Legislation, championships and student-athlete welfare

#### **NCWA:**

- Added 23 programs in the past 3 years
- Have developed a best practices for building a successful program
- Need strong coaches
- Must have an adult coach to go to conference event

#### **NWCA Convention:**

Pat Tocci gives a short update on this year's convention. We are looking at our highest number of attendees. Next year's convention could have some conflict with the Olympics and Fargo.

#### **NWCA Technology:**

Pat Tocci talks about the new Salesforce platform and online portal. Pat gives a demo of the board portal and the access they have to all the materials.

Pat also shows the college and scholastic portals as well.

Mark Cody asks if there is any additional comments. With no further comments, the board meeting is adjourned at 8:05PM.