***Draft Minutes***

**TRI-STATE WHEELCHAIR & AMBULATORY ATHLETICS (TSWAA)**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

**SATURDAY, March 9, 2013**

The meeting was held at Childrens’ Specialized Hospital and was called to order at 9:05 am by Ken Brucato.

**Roll Call:**

**Present:** Ken Brucato,Debbie Armento, Carolynne Bethka, Jim Cuevas, Phil Galli, Jennifer Johnson, Dan Martin, Gil Perez, Pat Redden, Trisha Yurochko

**Absent:** Kelly Bucchere, Shawn Bucchere, Joan Wheeler (excused, available by phone)

**Guests:** Ralph Armento, Maggie Redden

**Minutes of Previous Meeting:**

 One correction was to the date of the Tristate swim meet, which was March 2, not March 12. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Debbie Armento, seconded by Trisha Yurochko. The motion passed unanimously,

**Chair’s Report:**

 Ken Brucato welcomed the guests. He announced that Jennifer Johnson had been inducted into the USA Table Tennis Hall of Fame, and he read a congratulatory letter dedicating the meeting to her for her accomplishments. A copy of the letter will be placed with the minutes for the meeting.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

 Trisha Yurochko said that we have a balance of $5857.36. There was a $30 stop-payment charge incurred because the check for security never arrived at Middlesex County College and a new check had to be issued. The Masons owe about $400 from the last two years, but they are “working on it.” Jim Cuevas also has not been paid for equipment costs.

 Phil Galli pointed out that the budget doesn’t show when we are owed money, so Trisha will add outstanding debts to the budget in future reports.

 Debbie Armento moved to accept the budget with the addition of outstanding amounts in the future. Jim Cuevas seconded the motion and it was accepted unanimously.

**Old Business:**

**2013 Meets:**

**March 2 swim meet:** The Tristate swim meet had 24 swimmers (27 had registered), of whom 7 or 8 were new. Debbie Armento and Stephanie Kolterjahn helped, with officials from US Swim (some of whom were new to us) and volunteers from Kohl’s and from UMDNJ Medical School. Applications had gone to veterans groups and other organizations, but the number of registrants was about even. Trisha and Phil are involved in coordinating an IPC swim clinic in Pennsylvania in December. Ocean County YMCA is also interested in getting disabled swimmers involved, and we are challenging other Y’s to get at least 1 swimmer.

**April 13**: Applications are out for the Connecticut meet; they were sent out to teams in Massachusetts and Rhode Island as well as the tristate area.

**May 4:** The applications for the CSH Invitational are not done yet. It will be open to novice adults and veterans in preparation for the Tristate meet.

**May 17-19:** The track is reserved for the Tristate Meet but the facilities for powerlifting, table tennis and the banquet are not available at JFK. Debbie and Ralph are looking for alternative sites in North Brunswick. A suggestion was made to use the hotel connected to Harold’s Restaurant near the Raritan Center; the Police Academy was also mentioned as a possible site. The meet may be switched to South Brunswick if an indoor site is found there, or table tennis and powerlifting may be canceled. There may not be many table tennis competitors, but it would still be better to have it. We also need space on Friday night for classification. Two national classifiers are coming, and we may have to invite additional officials. There may be a possibility of a $500 grant from USATF-NJ, but we would have to run additional events (opens at all distances, some extra events) to qualify; Phil will pursue this. Officials should be at least USATF, preferably IPC, certified. Debbie will ask for USATF officials at the clinic and general meeting for USATF-NJ. If we have to bring in officials from outside, we would have to cover their expenses; this would have to be budgeted and approved by the board, probably by email. A tentative budget will be developed before the end of the meeting. A certificate of thanks will be given to USATF-NJ for their help.

**May 31-June 2**: Ken and Ralph met with Masons, who owe money for last year’s facility costs. The bill must be paid before the meet. Last year’s scholarships were paid, but the $1500 equipment grant for the Navigators has not been paid. A $2200 check from NJ Sports Council was given to the Masons by Ralph with the reminder of their outstanding bills. The Masons are concerned about the quality of the meet and the small number of participants, and they want to add adults. The Wheel Blazers Grand Prix will now include adults in the 5K race, which will move to Sunday so all track is on Sunday. A new person is in charge of the kitchen and is looking at more healthy meals. The board agreed to consider inviting “select” alumni (maybe 20) with reserved slots for the meet, calling them Masons Alumni. Since the NJ Sports Council is trying to add adults, Ralph asked the Masons to consider using the grant money to provide complementary adult registrations; this is in the discussion phase. The meet will be held for the 30th year in North Brunswick, so Ralph suggested we give North Brunswick an award jointly from the Masons and TSWAA. Phil made the motion, Dan Martin seconded it, and it passed unanimously. The Rochester Rookies are not going to NJDC, so that may affect registration for the Masons Meet.

**September 28:** Ralph talked to the chairman of the Burke meet about how to handle the ID classification. Burke is reluctant to have them included. They are often not classified as ID by US Paralympics, so their results don’t go to national, and it is not a sanctioned meet. We can specify on the application what qualifies as ID: IQ of 75 or lower, primary diagnosis of a physical disability, and the ability to perform the sport without assistance. If the athletes require too much assistance, we can let them compete that day but remind them of the qualifying standards and refer them to Special Olympics. The suggestion was made to put the definition of ID on the website. Phil suggested (no motion) that all competitors must be at least recreational members of WASUSA; Ralph said they should also pay the Tristate fee of $3.

**501(c)3 status/progress:**

 Trisha met with the lawyer (Tom Phelan) 3 weeks ago. He has reviewed all the paper work ad doesn’t understand why we haven’t been approved yet since all is in order.

**Report from Eastern RPO/RSO meeting:**

 Debbie reported that there are 3 regional RPOs (regional point organizations) nationwide, with RSO’s under the. Each RSO has representatives on the RPO. The eastern area is just pulling together and other groups (New England, Appalachia) will add when it is fully organized. There is a database on disability organizations with athletes or programs in the regional area, and we can send meet information to all on the database and get professional help or guidance. The Dixie Games will be IPC certified but no national classifiers will be there. THE RPO is preparing letters for high schools about available services and the new rules, and they are looking into developing a 501(c)3 for the RPO distinct from the RSO. Elections for the new board are scheduled for 2 years from now.

**Tristate Reunion:**

 Carolynne reported that she is making progress, with a goal of fall 2014. Bailey’s, Caesar’s, Showboat and Harrah’s are all being looked at, and she will hear this week from “our” sales representative. She needs information about the cheapest time of year, handicapped rooms, cheapest brunch, early arrival on Friday and late departure on Sunday, and hotel-provided accessible vans from the airport if possible. She hopes for an attendance of 60, with a reception on Friday night, brunch on Saturday or Sunday, tickets for a show, possibly a “memories” slide show and/or speaker. Contacts will be through the WASUSA database, Facebook, Twitter and magazines such as S’nS, New Ability. She needs to put a bid packet together and submit it to the board, then send it to tourism and hotel groups in Atlantic City. The budget will have to be developed and will take into account Carolynne’s expenses.

**Online Officials Certification Course:**

 Debbie reported that one group of National level officials met to complete the test. A second group at the Apprentice level (Stephanie Kolterjahn, Jim Cuevas, Isabel Cuevas, Ken Brucato, Gil Perez, Carolynne Bethka, Maggie Redden, Dan Martin and possibly others) will meet on March 24 at St. Peter’s University and via Skype on March 23. IPC certification requires that the candidate be USATF certified, view the training PowerPoint and take the online test.

**Social media:**

 Joan Wheeler has the password and will handle the Facebook page with help from April Martin. All material should be sent to Joan.

**New Business:**

**2013 world games:** They will be held in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, with 10 countries to date.

**NJDC 2013:**

 Plans are going very well. The Mayo Clinic is very excited to be involved and asked if the athletes could visit children in the hospital. The only direct flight into Minneapolis/St. Paul is very costly, and it is an 18 hour drive from NJ. The meal plan is $125 for 5 lunches, 5 dinners and the banquet, with meals provided at all venues; this may be split since the sports are split. The hotels all offer breakfast and have more disabled rooms than ever. Registration is $175. Two swimming officials have been approved and invited and they are waiting to identify the need for other officials.

 The 2014 games are in Ames, Iowa.

**Question/answer period:**

 Carolynne asked if congratulatory letters were sent to tristate athletes going to IWAS and London. Ken said he would do it.

**Elections:**

 Dan Martin has 3 letters of intent for 4 positions on the board: Carolynne Bethka, William Schneider (not specifically invited to this meeting and with no resume shared with the board), and Ken Brucato. Maggie Redden was nominated for the fourth position from the floor by Debbie Armento. Trisha moved to accept the nominees unanimously; the motion was seconded by Debbie and passed unanimously. The voting by acclamation was 9 in favor, 1 opposed, so all were elected to the board.

**Upcoming Meetings:**

Phone conference call: Wednesday, June 5, at 7:30 pm

Saturday, September 14 in Jersey City

Saturday, November 16 at Burke

Phil asked all to review the website and send him corrections and updates.

**Adjournment:**

 Debbie moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Carolynne. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 12:51 pm.