***Draft minutes***

**TRISTATE WHEELCHAIR & AMBULATORY ATHLETICS**

**Conference Call**

**TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 17, 2013 @ 7:00 PM**

The call began at 7 pm on September 17.

**Participants:** Ken Brucato, Debbie Armento, Jim Cuevas, Phil Galli, Jennifer Johnson, Pat Redden, Bill Schneider, Trisha Yurochko, Joan Wheeler

**Chair’s Report:**

Debbie and Trisha talked last week to the Eastern RPO group by conference call. A proposal will be made at 2013 NDA that the US be divided into 4 regions (RPOs), with the central region the first to organize. Trisha has a PowerPoint to explain the organization and will send it out for all to see. She has some “discomfort” because of unanswered questions about the organization, as does Ken.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

The checking account has a balance of $4087.40. There is still an outstanding balance from Masons, who felt they gave enough money for the facility’s increased expenses, team gifts and scholarships. Their payment should be $5 per athlete, for 75 athletes. They didn’t pay last year either, and they insisted on the new venue even though it was more expensive. We need to convince the Masons that money is needed for new equipment.

Phil asked if we submitted a request for money from the Paralympic Sports Club NJ and a grant from BP to support local games. The budget set aside $1000 for Tristate and we need to submit the request; Trisha will follow up.

Phil made a motion to accept the report, seconded by Joan. It passed unanimously.

**Approval of the minutes of last meeting:**

The minutes from the March 9 meeting were apparently lost in a sea of electrons, so they will be approved at the November meeting.

**Old Business:**

**501(c)3 status/progress:** Trisha is in constant contact with the lawyers, who are in constant contact with the IRS. Tomorrow Trisha is going to sign the power of attorney for the lawyers. All the paper work is in and looks good, but the IRS is not giving us an answer. The old number was lost because our balance was always so low we didn’t have to pay taxes, and so didn’t send in the postcard to file at some point in the past. We were issued a new number and then found out the old number was still on file, so they have to determine which number is the one to use.

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

Ken asked what we need to do to start transitioning, since we had no guidance from the central group. He suggested we gather more information at NDA and bring it back to the next board meeting. All board members should look at Trisha’s PowerPoint to generate questions and funnel them to Ken, Trisha or Debbie.

**Tristate Reunion:**

Jennifer is working with Carolynne but Carolynne is doing most of the work. She is trying to get sponsors. We have to come up with a budget. The planner says we need $1000 deposit for 180 total rooms, but we may only want 75 rooms. There is no breakdown on food or availability of meeting rooms. There is an October 1 deadline to avoid an additional 18% fee per room, and that is probably unrealistic. There is a need for a face-to-face meeting, preferably at Burke after the NDA. Ken suggested a planning meeting immediately after the next board meeting, with more information.

**Social Media:**

April Martin volunteered to work with Joan Wheeler on the Facebook page but can’t get access yet. Phil will pursue getting the password but noted that we can post without the password.

**New Business:**

**NDA Conference:** We are entitled to 5 delegates, and some go in different capacities. The meeting is October 31-November 3 in Ames, Iowa. Ken and Trisha are interested in attending; Bill and Joan may be interested. Phil and Pat would be going with USATF, Debbie as chair of the Junior Committee. USATF gets 10 votes/delegate, the region gets 5/delegate, and the board gets 1/delegate. Last year we sent 4 people with a stipend of $425 each for a total of $1700. The cheapest flight from Newark to Des Moines is $385, and then it’s 40 minutes to the hotel with no shuttle. Room rates are about $111/night. Other possible delegates are Stephanie Kuebler, Kevin Crytzer, Don Chaffee, Bobby Jenner, Jen Armento, and Janet Connolly. Paul and Phil will be working with the NY Marathon so can’t attend. Phil suggested we pay for ½ room for 2 nights ($111), registration ($80), and $250 for transportation, for a total of about $450 per delegate or $2250 total. Phil moved that we give a stipend of up to $450 each for 5 delegates; Joan seconded the motion and it passed 8 aye, 1 nay.

**Tristate Games:**

Debbie stated that we need to set a date now to advertise for new athletes. Jim’s proposal to have the games at Pascack Valley HS (which has a mondo track) is still on the table. We need a written proposal from the Tristate committee (Phil, Trisha, Jim, Debbie). A better facility would attract more elite athletes.

**Equipment needs:**

Trisha and Debbie will review our needs and submit a request to the board.

**New Tristate Adult Team:**

A grant application last year suggested we develop an adult team, and Joan and Debbie are trying to start one with transition athletes from current junior teams. They want to meet with some athletes after Burke or over dinner, see how many are interested and what equipment would be needed as well as how much money is in the grant.

**Board Member Attendance:**

We need to look for board members without a direct connection to disabled sports but with expertise in grants, to bring new blood to the board. We also need to encourage board members to participate more fully in activities.

**Grants:**

We need the 501(c)3 to pursue more grants.

**Election of officers:**

Ken Brucato (chair) and Trisha Yurochko (treasurer) have terms that are expiring. Dan, as chair of the election committee, asked both to continue, and no one else is interested in running. Ken stated that this would be his last term as chair, if elected. Phil moved their nominations, Jennifer seconded the motion, and they were unanimously elected by acclamation.

**Miscellaneous:**

Board members were urged to continue to vote on the STRIVE website for NJDC to win a $5000 prize.

Debbie thanked Phil and Jim for their work on IWAS.

Ken thanked Debbie and the committee for their work on NJDC and IWAS.

John Stephens was “overwhelmed” by our award at NJDC. Joan will provide a picture of him receiving the award for the website.

**Upcoming meetings:**

November 16 at Burke

**Adjournment:**

Debbie moved the meeting be adjourned at 9:30 pm, Trisha seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.