**TriState Wheelchair and Adaptive Athletics Virtual Board Meeting**

**January 23, 2020**

The meeting was called to order by Ralph Armento at 7:04 pm.

**Present via phone:** Ralph Armento, Debbie Armento, Pat Redden, Jimmy Cuevas, Ken Brucato, Phil Galli, Ryan Chalmers, Caitlyn Goerlich, Danny Maratin, Trisha Yurochko, Joan Wheeler

**Absent:** John Guimaraes

**Governance:**

At Ken Brucato’s request, Ralph Armento organized this meeting to reinvigorate the organization and its board. This was particularly important since the board had not met in over a year, did not hold elections last March, and has two members who have moved from New Jersey. Ken does not want to continue as chair and Danny Martin (currently vice-chair) does not want to be chair. Trisha Yurochko and Pat Redden (currently treasurer and secretary respectively) are willing to continue in those positions for another year or two. Phil Galli and Jimmy Cuevas now live outside of the TSWAA geographical area. Phil will not physically attend meetings but can do so virtually; he will continue to provide officials’ updates, review the bylaws, and maintain the website. Jimmy will generally be in the NJ area on Saturday mornings so may be able to attend meetings in person, but he wants to continue his participation on the board; his work with the meets will continue.

A short discussion focused on the need to increase membership. Phil proposed expanding the geographic area to include Maine to Virginia, and west to Pennsylvania. Ralph suggested including anyone who wants to be a member and participates in our meets, regardless of geography; perhaps a membership fee can be added to the meet registration form. Expanding our boundaries and membership would allow more creativity in scheduling events and expanding the sports offered at meets.

The board agreed on the need to have younger members stepping into leadership roles. Ryan Chalmers is getting married and would not commit to being chair, since the next few years would leave little free time. He was willing to serve as vice-chair, if Danny did not want to continue. Caitlyn Goerlich volunteered to serve as chair. Trisha nominated Caitlyn as chair, Ryan as vice-chair, and Phil seconded the nominations; they were unanimously elected. Ralph and Ken agreed to work with Caitlyn and Ryan during the transition.

**Bylaws and Annual Meeting:**

Phil and Trisha will review the bylaws, which are over 10 years old, with a focus on the size of the region and membership in the organization and on the board in particular. We need a date for the annual meeting, and the suggestion was made to hold it during the TriState games, as has been done in the past. The schedule of the games would only allow this to be on Thursday night. A conference call would probably be best, but that would logistically be a problem with non-board members calling in.

**Meets and Athletics:**

We are probably not up-to-date on background checks for board members and officials. Some insurance companies now demand concussion protocol training. Officials and coaches need current Safe Sport training.

IWAF had rule changes in October; these are not yet validated and will be published by February 1. SAMS is being updated with a 3rd party in India; the update is promised in 5 weeks and will cost $11,000. A Level 2 officials’ course is in the planning stage.

The meet schedule is:

Swim meet: February 29 at Rutgers University

Invitational meet: May 2, Rahway River Park

Tristate meet: May 22-24, Pascack Valley High School

Masons meet: June 6-7, North Brunswick High School; this needs confirmation from the Masons. If that is not available, Middlesex County will be approached as a sponsor.

Junior Nationals: 2020 and 2021 will be in Denver

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 pm.