

NY WSO General Membership Meeting – Sunday, April 24th

Board meeting called to order at 7:36PM (via Zoom)

In Attendance:

James McDermott, President

Chris Smith, Long Island Rep

Frank Mintz, NYC Rep

John Fiorella, Niagara Rep

Joe Rodriguez, Hudson Rep

Sara Soto, Athlete Rep

General Membership Attendance:

15 Non-Board Members

Board Member Introductions

- Brief intros from President & Adirondack Representative James McDermott, Athlete Representative Sara Soto, Long Island Representative Chris Smith, Hudson Valley Representative Joe Rodriguez, NYC Representative Frank Mintz, and Niagara Representative John Fiorella.

Introduction of Committees

- James announced that committees will be made up of both board members and WSO members to help bring about inclusion and encourage participation in our form of local governance. These committees are newly formed and will be meeting in the near future.
- Athlete Support Committee: Alyssa Garrison (Athlete Rep) is the chair; Sara, James, Jerry Dunne, and Amiee Lazar-Illenberg round out the rest of the committee.
 - o Donations have already been made to this fund, notably \$1000 from James from the successful 2022 ADK Regional Open.
 - o Main points of focus for this committee will be to provide monetary & resource support to athletes and women pursuing coaching advancements. There will be grants that these potential recipients can apply for.
 - o All of these plans will include follow up & outreach with the recipients.
- Events Committee: Joe Rodriguez is the chair; Joe Triolo (current Tech Chair of USAW as well as the Pan American Weightlifting Federation), Jeff Scott, and Joelle Von Bischoffshausen complete the committee.
 - o This group will help the WSO meet the best they can be through resources that are being created, including but not limited to guidelines & checklists which will be available on the WSO website.

- Joe cited his upcoming meet, which will also serve as a fundraiser for the Cancer Research Institute.
- Historical Committee: Frank Mintz is chair; Artie Drechsler and John Fiorella complete this committee for now, as they wait on hearing back from some others.
 - This committee is responsible for admitting lifters into the New York Weightlifting Hall of Fame.

General Membership Discussion

Athlete Support Committee

There were questions regarding funding and possible sources. Suggestions included percentages possibly coming from annual budget, competitions (like NYS Championship).

Events Committee

The role of this committee was briefly discussed and some possible directions it may go, including mentorship. The focus is to be a resource for meet directors.

NYS Championships

General competition information was reiterated (September 10 & 11, 2022, DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Binghamton – more information available on BARS & metropolitanweightlifting.com). There was discussion regarding the elimination of cash prizes, and the additional medals being given to youth/junior/master athletes. With USAW now controlling the championships via the NY WSO, monetary awards would have to be given later, and with tax forms being required. 2021 awards were to come from a combined purse from the meet director and the Metropolitan and Niagara LWCs. There was great difficulty working this out with USAW, and athletes are only now finally about to receive their awards.

Additional discussion revolved around better representation from different regions and a desire to grow more clubs, especially in regions with little activity.

Meeting was closed at 8:58PM.