



## **Annual Members Meeting Minutes**

September 14, 2024

**I. Call to Order** - The meeting was called to order at 10AM.

Ms. Warren thanked everyone in attendance, adding that we have many members attending in person and remotely.

### **II./III. Approval of Agenda – Conflict of Interest Disclosure**

There was no conflict of interests with any agenda items disclosed.

### **IV. Approval of 2023 Minutes**

*Motion to Approve the Minutes of the 2023 Member Meeting by Ms. Mousaw. Second by Mr. Simkin. Passed*

### **V. President's Report – Erin Warren**

Ms. Warren introduced herself giving an overview of her involvement as an athlete and her return to the Board of Directors with the encouragement of our beloved Dmitry Feld, Ms. Warren thanked the Organization and explained that she will move off the Board and will serve in a committee role.

Ms. Warren reported that her focus this past year has been on international relations side as well as the recruitment and filling of the CEO position.

On the International side we hosted the FIL Congress thanks in part to our close relationship with ORDA, who now have former luge athlete Ashley Walden as CEO and a World Cup in Lake Placid and one in Park City also.

Ms. Warren thanked Mr. Leahy for his dedication to the time with Luge. His input and assistance were integral in conducting a thorough CEO search. We welcome Mr. Riewald. As a former partner and friend of luge we are excited to have him on board.

There are some key challenges facing the organization –

**Funding** - Our funding level from the USOPC has remained flat, but our costs have increased so we need to find ways to maximize our impact with the funding we have.

**Development** - development remains critical as we work toward the SLC 2034 Games.

## **VI. CEO/Staff Report – Scott Riewald**

Mr. Riewald introduced himself expressing that he is honored to work with the entire Team we have in place and looking forward to capitalizing on opportunities ahead of us for Milan-Cortina and SLC. He thanked the Athletes, the Staff and Board of Directors for their dedication and work on behalf of the Organization. Mr. Riewald highlighted the following points:

Strategic plan - explaining the pillars of the plan. Although we are doing great things, we have been spending more than we are bringing in. In the past couple of years, we have been operating in the red. Our budget has been scrubbed and is lean and we now need to find ways to raise our revenue and find ways to engage new donors as it is incumbent upon all of us to close the budget gap.

Technology -looking to directing our efforts to what matters most. Evaluating where we are getting peak performance and the greatest return on our investment.

Staffing and Structure – we have a great staff in place but also need to ask what our staffing needs will be in the future and our strategies for getting there.

Compliance - there is increased focus on compliance that affects the organization and the staff, giving a brief overview of the many USOPC compliance items required.

International Relations - Mr. Riewald stated that we are lucky to have strong USA representation on the international but need a succession plan in place going forward.

### **Sport Report – Mark Grimmette**

Mr. Grimmette gave an overview of athlete performance last season, also highlighting the season ahead and the races that we will be focusing on this season. He also highlighted the technical projects and count.

### **Marketing – Gordy Sheer**

Mr. Sheer introduced Yuliia Tychevych and noted that we are happy to have her in Dmitry's former role. He additionally spoke of our 5 main areas of marketing including our sponsorship partners.

Mr. Riewald added that the strength of our relationship with our Sponsors is impressive. The importance of the 2025 Lake Placid and Park City World Cups was also highlighted as they fall within the qualification period for our 2026 Olympic Team and the FIL's sled allotment qualification period for Nations.

The bid for the 2029 World Championships in Lake Placid has been submitted.

## **VII. Reports**

### **International Athletes Council Report – Summer Britcher**

Ms. Britcher stated that the athletes were tasked with the formation of a formal Internal Athletes Commission (IAC) to become compliant with USOPC bylaws. She gave an overview of

the formation of the IAC and elections that were held to fill out the spots on the IAC. The IAC's full Bylaws are available on the website under the Governance tab if anyone is interested in reading them.

#### IAC Members:

Chris Mazdzer – Team USA Athletes Commission Representative  
Ashely Farquharson – Team USA Athletes Commission Representative  
Tucker West – IAC Representative to the Board of Directors  
Zack DiGregorio – IAC Representative to the Board of Directors  
Emily Sweeney – National Team Representative  
Shane Hook – Retired Athlete Representative  
Ansel Haugsjaa – Jr. National Team Representative

#### Club Reports:

##### Eastern Club Report - Don Simkin

Mr. Simkin reported that increased cooperation with staff and ORDA has helped to program track time. It didn't completely work out for a number of reasons including weather, but the foundation has been set for upcoming seasons to increase participation on the recreational side and for the development of athletes.

Larry Dolon will be taking over as this Representative on the Board. Mr. Dolan reiterated that we hope to improve the number of sessions we get from ORDA.

##### Western Club Report - Michael Thomas

Wasatch Luge Club – Ken Yonemura is not here but the incoming Western Club Representative Michael Thomas is here. Mr. Thomas thanked Mr. Yonemura for his service and gave a report of WLC activities highlighting the WLC cooperative placement of buildings at the track. Also, Jans Winter Welcome and individual fundraising opportunities for the athletes. Looking forward to having the various National Teams in town and hoping to schedule welcome receptions for those teams when they are in town.

##### Race Committee- Peggy Mousaw

Ms. Mousaw reported that officials training is scheduled for October 19 in Lake Placid and tentatively planned for November in Park City, just before the National Races. We have a new training system that will include videos and the integration of an online course. This will include an integrated course for new officials and a refresher course for current officials.

Last year training was done at all 3 tracks. Ms. Mousaw stated that without the officials there are no races. Our Officials are all volunteers, and we are very appreciative of them.

There was further discussion on the state of the Officials program and the ongoing need for officials. There was additional discussion on the standardized sled and the FIL Start Championship on Lake Placid.

#### VIII. Discussion Q & A

#### IX. Bylaw Changes

Ms. Warren gave an overview of the items of the changes made in these bylaws. There was no discussion on the Motion.

*Motion to Accept these Bylaw changes proposed by Ms. Mousaw, second by Mr. Simkin.*

*PASSED*

*Auditor Approval: Motion to approve by Auditor as required in Bylaws by Ms. Mousaw, second by Mr. Dolan. PASSED*

#### **X. Election of Directors**

Ballots were distributed and once collected the tallies were added to the Proxy Ballots that were already received as specified prior to the meeting. Election results were tabulated, and the elected parties were announced.

Ty Danco – General Director

Jeff Young – General Director

Rob Pokelwaldt – Independent Director

Jennifer Wesselhof – Independent Director

Will look forward to the election of the officer positions from within the Board over the next week or so.

Ms. Warren thanked all members of the Board and other Committee members for their involvement and participation today.

#### **I. Adjournment**

*Motion to Adjourn by Ms. Mousaw, second by Peggy Motion to adjourn at 12:39PM, second Ms. Mayers.*

*Meeting adjourned at 12: 39PM*