

Alabama WSO Board Meeting – March 27, 2022 6:00CST

In Attendance: Les Simonton, Jason Kelley, Noah Oliphant, Nasma Mekdad, Karen Pugh, Jeremy Shepard

Topic #1: WSO Structure

Since USAW did not fully define WSO organization, it's up to the elected boards to determine and allocate individual roles and responsibilities.

The Alabama WSO has \$3,924.80 in the bank as of January 1. The first role that needs to be filled by the board is a treasurer to ensure proper stewardship of the available finances. Due to the interaction of USAW with the WSO, all official correspondence goes through the President, requiring a separate and independent individual to assist as Treasurer to keep track of receipts, financial obligations, and current assets. Karen to take on role of Treasurer with Jason to assist, as necessary.

Action Item: Karen to take on role as official Alabama Treasurer

Topic #2: State Championship Meet

As part of the WSO charter, we are required to host a WSO championship meet. As our WSO only encompasses a single state, this will double as the state championship.

Luan has previously mentioned the possibility of hosting the state championship at Wheelhouse. In determining a date, present board members agreed that Fall is preferable to an earlier meet. Choosing a weekend where both the University of Alabama and Auburn University are both not playing locally is likely ideal for maximum participation. The only weekend that meets those criteria is October 15. Noah is going to contact Luan to ensure that date works with the Wheelhouse schedule.

The proposed weekend is during a virtual championship (Garage Championships), which may offer the possibility of athletes competing in both meets simultaneously. This would allow lifters the potential to compete nationally in a virtual setting, while having the structure and officiality of a local competition. Les is going to reach out to Pedro at USAW to determine if this is a viable option.

Action Item: Luan to confirm gym availability for meet

Action Item: Les to ask Pedro about simultaneous competition setup

Topic #3: Social Media and Website

The Alabama LWC had previous social media accounts including Instagram, and possibly Facebook and Twitter. Luan and Daniel are assumed to be the ones with the relevant login information. Nasma is going to reach out to the two of them to confirm which accounts were created and the login information. No one currently volunteered to take over the social media responsibilities.

A website previously used for East Alabama Weightlifting is available for the WSO at www.alabamaweightlifting.org. Initially, the website would hold contact information of the WSO representatives, contact information for Alabama weightlifting clubs and coaches, notice of upcoming events, event results, as well as board meeting minutes. Noah volunteered to begin helping with standing up the website.

Action Item: Nasma to reach out to Luan/Daniel about social media information

Action Item: The board needs to find an interested party to handle social media to bring awareness to upcoming events and increase interest in the sport within the state

Action Item: Les to send Noah login information so he can begin working on website architecture

Topic #4: School Outreach

The topic of the Alabama State Games was brought up. Les has spoken with them in the past and volunteered to reach out again to determine the viability of and process for including weightlifting in their competitions.

The state of Florida was brought up as a model to emulate regarding getting weightlifting into high schools. They have long had the clean & jerk as part of their state competitions, and it is believed that they recently added the snatch, as well. Les to reach out to USAW to determine a point of contact in Florida to find out the process that was used to get weightlifting throughout the state.

The board members discussed the need to determine members of the Alabama WSO who are also teachers, coaches, or administrators in high school. It is assumed that people who live in both worlds are likely the best way forward to bring weightlifting to a broader student population in the state. Initially, this will likely be a fact-finding mission more than anything. Contact information for basic data gathering is sufficient for the first pass at this attempt.

Action Item: Les to email Alabama State Games to inquire about including weightlifting in upcoming competitions.

Action Item: Les to email USAW to find Florida contact to help determine how weightlifting became part of high school competitions

Action Item: All to consider potential weightlifting contacts that are already affiliated with the public school system