

USA Taekwondo

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS Thursday, April 27, 2023

Attendance:

P = Present; L = Late Attendance; A = Absent

P	Carol Lewis, Independent Director, Chair	P	Bongseok Kim, Affiliated organization Director
A	Brianna Salinaro, USOPC AAC Athlete Rep	A	Rahul Bawa, Independent Director
P	Cheyenne Lewis, USOPC AAC Athlete Rep	P	Daniel Chun, Independent Director
P	Jaysen Ishida, USOPC AAC Athlete Rep	P	Yuki Richardson, Independent Director
P	David Turgeon, USATKD AAC Athlete Rep	P	Kim Voss, Independent Director
P	Ron Southwick, Coach Director		
P	John Holloway, Referee Director		

Also Present:

USA Taekwondo Staff Members Steve McNally, Jay Warwick and Christy Strong Simmons.

Chair's Opening Remarks:

Ms. Carol Lewis called the meeting to order at 11:10 am CT and presided.

Roll Call and Conflict Declarations:

A quorum of directors was present. No Board members declared a conflict of interest.

Board Training:

Board training was facilitated by Mr. Stephen Hess.

Update - Taekwondo Educational Session:

Mr. Ron Southwick, working with Mr. David Turgeon, will be providing educational training open to all Board members but especially for the Independent Directors. The training will include discussion of the mission statement, a historical perspective of the USA Taekwondo and other resources. This education will be available to the Board in the coming weeks.

Ms. Lewis thanked Mr. Southwick and Mr. Turgeon for putting this together for the Board.

Strategic Planning Update:

Mr. Steve McNally stated that in 2019, a ten-year Strategic Plan was developed by the Board of Directors. In 2021, the Strategic Plan was reviewed and revised. It is time to review the plan again with a working group that will be facilitated by Ms. Carol Lewis. Mr. McNally will send the Strategic Plan to the Board.

Ms. Lewis discussed the seven committees and determining if members are interested in serving on those committees. She also mentioned adding a Board Secretary and has asked Mr. Ron Southwick to fill this role.

Nominating Committee:

Ms. Lewis stated that Mr. Bawa is leaving the Board and the Nominating Committee recommended a possible replacement for this position. The Board will review the recommendation.

CEO Update:

Mr. McNally mentioned that it has been a very long time since the United States hosted the World Championships. USA Taekwondo is submitting a bid to World Taekwondo at the end of April and will present the bid to the WT in late May 2023. There maybe two other bids for this competition.

Mr. McNally talked about the significant accomplishments of our athletes in both sparring and poomsae on the world stage. The new coaching pool initiative is going very well, and this is reflected in our medal success. The upcoming Cadet Worlds will be a tough competition.

Real Response is a new partnership for USA Taekwondo. They work with many universities, the NFL, other National Governing Bodies to provide a mechanism to report concerns anonymously. Initially, this will be rolled out to the Academy and staff and then across the organization. Mr. McNally said that adding this reporting is another tool we can provide to keep athletes safe. Mr. McNally and Mr. Sherman Nelson will manage the cases and they will assign these to the appropriate person to resolve and/or manage.

Mr. McNally reviewed the growth of membership and clubs over the last few years. There are more clubs in 2023 than in 2019, pre-COVID. Membership has rebounded to 2019 levels. More State Championship qualifiers were held in 2023 and the goal is to bring more on line in 2024. Sponsorships and revenue continue to increase year after year.

Operations Update:

Mr. Jay Warwick thanked the Board for its support of USA Taekwondo and Staff. Ms. Salena DiMatteo joined the staff in 2022 and brings experience and knowledge from serving as an auditor for the USOPC as well as work she had done with other National Governing Bodies and businesses. The 2021 Audit was clean and the 2022 Audit is currently underway. The 2023 financials are on track and on budget.

Competitions in 2023 have shown a significant increase in registration including the US Open which had 2358 athletes. There have been 19 State Championships Qualifiers and most have already been held. We continue to work with State Associations to increase their competition participants and to ensure their success.

Approximately half of the staff is in Colorado Springs and the others are in North Carolina. Mr. McNally and Mr. Warwick are comfortable with the current structure as it is working for the staff.

Mr. Warwick provided information regarding his role as Secretary General for USAT. He is assigned to several working groups and said USA Taekwondo enjoys broad support from other countries. The 2025 World Taekwondo President position will be open.

Mr. McNally mentioned that we have a great relationship with PATU now and they are on board with the 2025 World Championships bid. There are two other people from the US on the WT Council. We are respected and listened to now.

Mr. McNally recognized Aaron James, Member Services Manager, for his customer service and the positive impact this is having on the increasing Membership. He also mentioned Katie Cleveland, Events Manager, as a new member of the staff who is working hard for USA Taekwondo Members.

Calendar:

Ms. Lewis was recently in Colorado Springs for the USOPC Alumni event and noticed that the Team USA store was sold out of USA Taekwondo shirt.

Ms. Lewis would like to move to quarterly Board Meetings with committees meeting more frequently. She discussed an in-person meeting in the Fall of 2023.

Other Business:

Mr. Turgeon said that the AAC recently updated their Bylaws and asked about the process to get the USA Taekwondo Bylaws to align with their changes. Mr. McNally and Mr. Stephen Hess will review the updated AAC Bylaws.

Adjournment:

Ms. Lewis called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Southwick motioned to end the meeting, and this was seconded by Mr. Bongseok Kim.