

2018 USA National Masters Annual Business Meeting Minutes

Sat April 7, 2018

Buffalo Adams Mark Hotel ball room / Livestream Access link

Welcome and Call Meeting to Order (Howard Cohen)

Howard Cohen welcomed all attendees and recognized the long-standing contributions made by those who have served on the Masters Weightlifting Board, various committees and notable Cohen family members. Michael Cohen (Vice Chairman), Sheryl Cohen (Webmaster) and Carol Cohen (longtime secretary and administrative / hospitality support for the many masters meets held in Savannah.)

He also noted his honor and pleasure to have served 22 years as the USA Masters Weightlifting chairman, taking over from Walter Imahara in 1996. He also related several colorful stories about the evolution of the Masters Weightlifting program.

Award Presentations (Howard Cohen)

Howard Cohen presented Master Weightlifting Chairman's Awards to Corinne Grotenhuis (Womans Chair), Jeff Scott (Records Chair), Jason Farrow (Treasurer) and Van Cramer (Hall of Fame Chair).

Grand Slam Awards (winner of National Masters, Pan Am Masters, World Masters and American Masters meets in one calendar year) were presented to Deborah Werenko and David Meltzer.

Approval of 2017 Annual Business meetings minutes (Howard Cohen)

Howard Cohen noted that last year's minutes have been posted to the USA Masters website for a considerable time and asked if there were any additions or corrections and if none for the minutes to be approved as posted. The motion to approve the minutes was made by Art Donahoe and seconded by Lauren Hatmaker and was approved by the membership.

Treasurers Report (Howard Cohen)

Jason Farrow, Treasurer, was unable to attend the meeting and in his absence, Howard Cohen covered the financial highlights. Funds increased from ~ \$64,000 at 12/31/2016 to ~ \$70,000 at 12/31/2017, the latest balance sheet. Howard Cohen also noted that Jason Farrow was participating with USAW auditors to facilitate a financial review (as required by newly implemented USA WL Bylaws) and that there were no identified issues. The motion to approve the financial report as of 12/31/2017 was made by Robie Dinero and seconded by Art Donahoe and was approved by the membership.

Hall of Fame Report and Presentations (Van Cramer)

Van Cramer reported the Hall of Fame status noting that the latest report is on the USA Masters website which also includes all the Athletes and Significant Contributors who have received the award. The Masters Hall of Fame is awarded to Athletes who have won 10 Nationals Championships and to nominated Significant Contributors to our sport. Currently there are 76 Athletes and 21 Significant Contributors in the Hall of Fame.

For 2018 we inducted three individuals into the Hall of Fame – Henry Deimel, Dane Hussey and Jodi Lynne Stumbo. Henry and Dane were unable to attend the meeting and received their award plaques separately. Jodi Lynne Stumbo received her award plaque from Van Cramer and several additional items from Women’s Chair Corinne Grotenhuis. New recently completed Hall of Fame plaques will be displayed in York Pennsylvania at the York Barbell Club museum from this summer. Photos will also be posted on the USA Masters website.

Meet Director’s Award (Howard Cohen)

Howard Cohen presented Robie Dinero with the Meet Directors Award for an outstanding job hosting the 2018 USA Masters National meet this year.

2017 Nationals USA Masters Report (Michael Cohen)

Michael Cohen noted that the 2017 Masters Nationals held in Savannah were very successful and the largest ever with ~ 575 registrations.

2107 Pan Americans Masters Report (Corinne Grotenhuis)

Corinne Grotenhuis reported that the 2017 Pan Am meet held in the Dominican Republic was a challenging meet for logistics but that the meet hotel has been remodeled and proper officiating was in order. There were no positive drug tests.

2017 World Masters Games (Auckland, New Zealand) / IWF Masters World Championships Report

(Van Cramer, David Meltzer, Art Donahoe)

All three participants noted that was an excellent meet with a good venue, friendly participants & staff. The overall experience was enhanced with the addition of the many thousands of athletes from the other 27 sports that were included in the World Master Games. David Meltzer also noted that the IWF Masters Congress revised the IWF masters handbook effective April 26, 2017 which can be found on the IWF Masters website.

Records Report (Jeff Scott)

Jeff Scott noted that USA Masters records can now be set at nine annual drug tested events / in 2017 records were set at seven of those nine. (Masters - Nationals, Pan Ams, Worlds, Americans, American Open Series, etc.) One point of emphasis is that the World Masters Cup is not a record-eligible meet due to it being non-drug tested.

In 2017 there were a very large number of records partially driven by the new women's 90 and 90+ weight classes. Overall, there were 197 records (151 women / 46 men) with 32 of those records set in international competition. It should be noted that you must be registered as a USA Master to set USA Master records so if a USAW 35-year-old lifter is not registered as a Master but exceeds a Masters record it would not count.

Woman's Chair Report (Corinne Grotenhuis)

Corinne Grotenhuis noted the exponential growth of female master athletes. In this year's 2018 National Masters meet there were more woman than men (237 female / 209 male registered athletes).

Especially gratifying is the increase in female referees / officials which reflects and supports the growth of female master athletes and the growth of the masters weightlifting sport in general.

It was noted that longtime female lifter Barbara Boyer passes away at the age of 75.

Corinne Grotenhuis also provides a link to the IWF Masters as she participates at the IWF level representing the entire Pan American Masters organization.

Proposed USA Masters Bylaws Discussion and Approval (Howard Cohen)

The purpose of the discussion and request for approval of the proposed USA Masters Bylaws, is to align USA Masters governance concepts and bylaws with USAW's newly revised bylaws.

Jerry Dunne, an attorney and masters lifter who drafted the proposed USA Masters Bylaws, was also instrumental in the development of the recently revised USAW Bylaws. This greatly helped with the alignment process.

Phil Andrews, CEO of USAW, was an active participant in the development process of the proposed USA Masters Weightlifting bylaws and supported approval by the masters membership. The proposed USA Masters Weightlifting bylaws align with USAW Bylaws in Section 8.24 – USA Weightlifting Masters Committee under the nonprofit group exemption of USAW.

The proposed USA Masters Bylaws were previously published on the USA Masters website. Kathy Cromwell made the motion to accept the bylaws as written and published on the USA Masters website and this motion was seconded by Joe Triolo.

Discussion followed and was primarily focused on a request from David Meltzer to vote against the proposed bylaws and then add back several amendments which he distributed to the meeting. A robust and detailed discussion followed. In summary, the proposed amendments were to investigate the

feasibility to hold an electronic annual general meeting to provide input and real time voting, a provision for membership override for USA Masters committee governance decisions and a provision for USA Masters bylaws amendment by membership vote.

Various members offered other views and after lengthy discussion the motion to approve the proposed USA Masters Bylaws as published on the USA Masters website was called for a vote. The motion was overwhelmingly approved with only three dissenting votes.

Upcoming Online Elections

Per the newly approved USA Masters bylaws, online electronic elections will be held in May 2018 to be conducted by USAW. Three of the five elected officers USA Masters officers will be up for election including the Vice Chairman and two “At Large “representatives. The new Bylaws stagger the election of the Chairman and Treasurer for another two years until 2020 to provide organizational continuity.

The five elected officers will be responsible to appoint the six committee chairs (Records Chair, Hall of Fame Chair, Woman’s Chair, Competition Chair, Technical Chair and a Nominations & Grievance Chair). The six committee chairs will actively participate in any discussions regarding the governance of USA Masters Weightlifting but do not have voting rights which are reserved for the five elected officers.

Bids for 2019 USA Masters Nationals and American Meets (Michael Cohen)

Michael Cohen reported that there were no bids received for the 2019 Nationals and Americans. While historically, Team Savannah would step in in the absence of bids and hold the meet in Savannah other options were considered to give greater geographic variety.

USA Masters Nationals - Given the very good job Salt Lake City had done with several high level USAWL meets (including the Olympic Trials) they were approached to hold the 2019 USA Masters Nationals and accepted. Salt Lake City has local sports council funding and is already holding the 2018 USA Masters Americans.

USA Masters Americans - Evaluated options to hold the Americans meet at Orlando FL or Biloxi MS. Orlando was selected due to the better accommodation value, logistics and overall appeal.

Old Business

None.

New Business (Joe Triolo)

Joe Triolo gave encouraging news regarding expanding testing opportunities to test and certify new National Referees. At this 2018 Master Nationals he led the effort to test LWC referees who aspire to become National Referees. Four individuals passed and advanced to National Referee status – Dan

Boland, Kathy Cromwell, Erin Martin and Joe Rodriguez. Congratulations to all and thanks to Joe Triolo for spearheading this effort.

Meeting Close (Howard Cohen)

After New Business was concluded Howard Cohen closed the meeting and thanked all for their attendance.