

USATOWANationalBoardMeeting
January14, 2017
Peosta, IA
MeetingMinutes

Call to Order

President Shelby Richardson called the meeting to order at 10:00am.

Present: Shelby Richardson, President; Joe Hunter, Vice President; Lisa Heindel, Secretary; Ginny Nyhus, Treasurer; Harold Heindel, Chief Judge; Larry Heindel, International Representative; Herb Warren, WI State Representative; Bill Gallagher, MN State Representative; Dave Kruse, IA State Representative; Joel Larson, USATOWA Member, Rick Peterson, USATOWA Member; Steve Moorman, USATOWA Member.

Absent: Rachel Biagioni, IL State Representative; Dick Richardson, International Delegate

President's Report

It's a new year, hopefully we will all be able to move forward and work for the good of the Association and not just for everyone's individual clubs. Personal agendas need to be put aside so that we can accomplish this.

2017 is the 40th Anniversary of the Association. This is a big deal and we have clubs from other countries interested in coming to help us celebrate this, need to work on organizing this.

Vice President's Report

One of the Swedish teams from Stennisrood(?) is planning on coming over for Irish Fest, will have a men's and women's team.

On that note – there will be 35 rooms blocked at the Best Western by the airport that will be available until July 15,2017. Two night minimum, roughly \$115 per night, online booking. **Let our guests get booked first!** Shelby will send an email to let the teams know when it is ok to start booking their rooms.

This location will let the Swedish team be able to shuttle from the airport to the hotel and from the hotel to where they can catch the shuttle to Irish Fest. This will eliminate a need for us to arrange transportation for them.

After Irish Fest, unknown what their plans are. Will have to find out if they are staying for a while and would like to stay with our teams or if they will go out on their own to sight see.

INDOOR dates:

- 2/04/27 Competition begins at 1:00pm
- 2/25/17 Competition begins at 1:00pm
- 3/25/17 Competition begins at 3:00pm following the membership meeting

Dave Kruse would appreciate a 2 week notice if no one will be showing up for any of the above dates.

OUTDOOR dates:

- 5/20/17 Elko, MN
- 6/10/17 Minneapolis, MN Open event fundraiser. No pulling on our part
But plenty to do.
- 6/17/17 Greeley, IA pull starts at 12:30(560, 640, 680, co-ed, 600)
- 6/24/17 Oregon, WI during the day
- 6/24/17 Orfordville, WI possible 6pm start
- 7/01/17 Embro, Ca No word yet
- 7/22/17 Monroe, WI 2017 Nationals
- 8/12/17 Kasson, MN No word from Bruce yet
- 8/12/17 Tug Fest
- 8/19-20/17 Irish Fest
- 9/16/17 Davenport, IA Celtic Highland Games.

Secretary's Report

Joel Larson moved to approve the minutes from the Executive Board Meeting Minutes from November 5, 2016. Lisa Heindel seconded. The motion passed.

Membership numbers – 143 total

DJ's	34
Powertrain	20
Mt Vernon	27
Oregon	14
GLD	05
Unaffiliated	03
Black Fab	22
Stockton	01
Muddy River	17

Treasurer's Report

Ginny distributed a detailed 2017 budget. Motion made by Shelby Richardson and seconded by Joe Hunter to accept the 2017 budget as proposed. All in favor, motion passed.

International Representative's Report

TWIF Congress Proposals 2017

1) Weigh in Proposal:

Weigh in of athletes be held the morning of the weight class being competed that day.

Reason:

Athletes being weighed on Wednesday and not competing until Sunday have unfair advantage of gaining weight over teams that are of natural weight. Extreme dehydration and other health issues are a concern. The integrity of the weight class is preserved by weighing in the morning Of the event.

2) Weigh in lottery

At the briefing the evening prior to the even, a weigh in time lottery take place of countries participating in the event. Barriers(roping, fencing, railings etc) should be in place to insure that the line remains only 5 persons wide(5 scales are usually used in official weigh in).

Reason:

Weigh ins are very stressful. The teams standing in line for several hours is not a reasonable request. The fact that everyone shows up at the same time results in a lot of pushing, crowding, and stressful actions. If each country knew the time they were to show up to weigh their individuals, the results could be favorable. If individuals do not

show up at the time they were assigned, those individuals would be weighed at the end of the weigh in. This will ensure that people respect and honor the rule.

3) Additional day be added to the World Championships

Add an additional day to the TWIF program to ensure that all weight classes are completed in a timely fashion, as well as provide a day for extra weight classes to be added to the agenda.

Reason:

The 2016 WC had a large number of classes and the days were very long. If an extra day were added, we could add other weight classes or move one of the larger classes to that day. The day could also be used as an educational day for the countries – seminars on boot construction, techniques, indoor information/techniques, etc. We have many aspects of the sport that could be shared.

Chief Judges Report

Need to set a date for another Judge's course, possibly before one of the February indoor dates? Have a couple of people interested(Keenan Campbell and Dan Bayliss), will reach out to them to see which date works.

Suggestion: code of conduct we are working on should not be just limited to say Athletes, should apply to all members of the Association.

Equipment

Storage of equipment and properties:

Need a bigger trailer – running out of room for what needs to be transported To the pulls. Bill Gallagher said that he would look into what is available.

Storage shed/location? – There is a lot of stuff in storage in several places. Historical information, ropes, medals, trophies, and other items. Should we look into getting a storage shed to store what needs to be stored all in one place?

Indoor mats

Need to look at what is out there for mat material and get samples so that we can try it out to see what will work best and then get mats made so that we can move ahead on improving out indoor technique.

2021 World Indoors is in Birmingham, AL

We need to develop our indoor teams. Need to get a gantry set up so the teams can get the time in pulling, learning, and working on a style of pulling That works for us.

State Representative Reports

IA – getting a gantry set up before the next pull in February

W – nothing to report

MN – nothing to report

New Business

Birmingham, AL - Jr World Games to be held at the same time as the regular Worlds. Contacted by a Jr High group that is interested in including Tug of War and would like a rope. Agreed by all to send a rope to them.

Once they get going, they would be interested in having a couple of people come down to Alabama to work with them for training. They are willing to pay for us to come down. This group is reaching out to other countries but unsure yet how many other countries will be participating.

Agenda for March

Elections:

President

Treasurer

Chief Judge

Board nominations: President – Shelby Richardson

Treasurer – Ginny Nyhus

Chief Judge – Harold Heindel

Dave Kruse made a blanket motion to accept these nominations. Joel Larson seconded. Passed with no opposition.

Code of Ethics

Rules updates

Nationals T-shirt design – update?

We have until Feb 25, 2017 to get Agenda out for Membership meeting on March 25.2017.

Adjourn

Motion made by Herb Warren; Joel Larson seconded. Meeting adjourned at 11:35 am