



# USATOWA

The Official Newsletter of the United States Amateur Tug of War Association

April and May 2016

## **Membership vote:**

The members at the Annual membership made the motion to change the following bylaw:

Reference: Article VIII Section 2. The officer or agent having charge of the membership records of the Association shall make, at least twenty (20) days before each meeting of the general members a complete list of the members entitled to vote at such meeting or any adjournment thereof, arrange in alphabetical order with the address of each general member. This list for a period of ten (10) days prior to such meeting shall be kept on file at the registered office of the Association and shall be subject to inspection by any member in good standing at any time during conventional business hours. This list shall also be produced and kept open at the time and place of any membership meeting and shall be subject to the inspection of any member during the entire duration of the meeting. Members shall be noticed at least thirty (30) days in advance of any membership meeting.

Discussion from the National Board: Discussion on what determines “members entitled to vote” in Article VIII Section 2 of bylaws. Currently, “members entitled to vote” is defined as those who have paid their current-year membership by March 1<sup>st</sup>. Concern that continuing with this definition could result in a voting population that is unfamiliar with our association. Another concern included the short period in which the Secretary has to count the number of eligible votes per team prior to the annual Membership meeting. Definition of “members entitled to vote” for purposes of voting at the annual Membership meeting will be an agenda item for the 2016 Membership meeting. Ideas and rationale include:

Definition	Rationale
Paid member as of last sanctioned pull of prior year	A more informed voting membership, having been a member of USATOWA for a year prior to voting at the annual Membership meeting. Avoids the rush of receiving and counting all the new memberships before the March 1 <sup>st</sup> deadline
Paid member as of last sanctioned pull of prior year, PLUS, must also be current year member as of March 1st	A more informed voting membership, having been a member of USATOWA for a year prior to voting at the annual Membership meeting. Demonstrates a continued, vested interest in USATOWA.

***Motion made by Dave Kruse to amend wording of Article 8, Section 2: “[A person entitled to vote must be a] paid member as of the last sanctioned pull of prior calendar year.” Second by Rick Peterson. No discussion. This amendment to the bylaws will be put to a membership vote via the newsletter. Coaches are responsible to return the votes from their team; they may be sent via group or individual.***

***Please vote yes or no to this motion.***

***Please respond to this vote by May 1, 2016 to Shelby Richardson – [shelbytow@msn.com](mailto:shelbytow@msn.com)***

# 2016 Schedule of Events

## United States Amateur Tug of War Association

<b>OUTDOOR EVENT LOCATION</b>	<b>Contact Information</b>	<b>Weigh In Time</b>	<b>Start time</b>	<b>Approved 2016 Date</b>
Elko, Minnesota	<a href="mailto:gallinc@juno.com">gallinc@juno.com</a>	11:00 AM to Noon	12:30 PM	05/21/16
Highland Games/Alma MI	<a href="mailto:shelbytow@msn.com">shelbytow@msn.com</a>	10:30 AM to Noon	12:30 PM	05/28/16
Greeley, Iowa	<a href="mailto:dave.kruse.13@gmail.com">dave.kruse.13@gmail.com</a>	10:30 AM to Noon	12:30 PM	06/18/16
Oregon, Wisconsin	<a href="mailto:shelbytow@msn.com">shelbytow@msn.com</a>	10:00 AM to Noon	1:00 PM	06/25/16
Highland Games/Embroid ON	<a href="mailto:hunter@sccompanies.com">hunter@sccompanies.com</a>	9:00 AM to 10:30 AM	11:00 AM	07/01/16
Stockton, Illinois	<a href="mailto:shelbytow@msn.com">shelbytow@msn.com</a>	10:30 AM to Noon	1:00 PM	07/02/16
Nationals/Monroe WI	<a href="mailto:hunter@sccompanies.com">hunter@sccompanies.com</a>	9:00 AM to 10:30 AM	11:00 AM	07/23/16
Kasson, Minnesota	<a href="mailto:kbebnet@kmtel.com">kbebnet@kmtel.com</a>	10:30 AM to 12:30 PM	1:00 PM	08/13/16
Tug Fest / Illinois & Iowa	<a href="mailto:iatugfestfan@gmail.com">iatugfestfan@gmail.com</a>		12:30 PM	08/13/16
Irish Fest, Milwaukee WI	<a href="mailto:belanna19@yahoo.com">belanna19@yahoo.com</a>	10:00 AM to 11:30 AM	Noon	08/20/16
Irish Fest, Milwaukee WI	<a href="mailto:belanna19@yahoo.com">belanna19@yahoo.com</a>	10:00 AM to 11:30 AM	Noon	08/21/16
Stockton, Illinois	<a href="mailto:shelbytow@msn.com">shelbytow@msn.com</a>	10:30 AM to Noon	1:00 PM	08/27/16
Brooklyn, Wisconsin	<a href="mailto:shelbytow@msn.com">shelbytow@msn.com</a>	10:00 AM to Noon	1:00 PM	09/03/16
Highland Games/Davenport IA	<a href="mailto:shelbytow@msn.com">shelbytow@msn.com</a>			09/17/16
<b>World Outdoor Tug of War Championships in Sweden</b>	<b>Larry Heindel</b>	-----	-----	09/08/16 to 09/11/16
Walnut, Illinois		-----	-----	No Event
Monticello, Wisconsin	<a href="mailto:feller1@tds.net">feller1@tds.net</a>	-----	-----	No Event
Princeton, Illinois		-----	-----	No Event
<b>Non Sanctioned Event</b>	Gray - Sanctioned			
<b>USATOWA Party</b>				

**USATOWA Membership Meeting minutes – March 19, 2016**

[Annual Membership Meeting Minutes 3/19/16](#)

## **Rudy Kopp Scholarship 2016**

The Rudy Kopp scholarship committee has been chosen and they are awaiting your applications! USATOWA Clubs have pledged additional money to the scholarship fund. If you are a student (does not mean only high school seniors may apply) you may make application for these awesome scholarships. Applications are due to Shelby Richardson – [shelbytow@msn.com](mailto:shelbytow@msn.com) by May 1, 2016. Questions? Please contact Shelby. [Rudy Kopp Scholarship Application](#)

## **Membership Applications**

All new applications are to be the Secretary two days prior to an event. Please use the form [Membership Application](#)

## **Canadian and USA Event in Alma Michigan:**

USATOWA and the Canadian Tug of War Association will be hosting a tug of war event to be held at the Alma MI Celtic and Highland games. The event will be held May 28 and 29<sup>th</sup> in Alma MI. We will have more information in the very near future.

[Alma MI Highland games](#)

[Highland Games facebook page](#)

## **Condolences to Wencel Kubes**

Our sincere condolences to the Wencel Kubes family concerning the loss of his Father this past week. Wencel is a long time anchor of the DJ's men's team. An obituary can be found by following this link. [Wencel Kubes Obit](#)

## **Special Thanks to Secretary Misty Johnson**

Thank you to USATOWA outgoing Secretary Misty Johnson. Misty was the Secretary for past two years. Thank you for your time and efforts for USATOWA.

## **USATOWA memories:**

It all started 38 years ago. In the spring of 1978, Robert Pulfer proposed to the BlackHawk Tug of War League that they send a team to the World Championships of Tug of War. The event was to be held in Dundalk Ireland. Each team was to have two members join in the venture. Many of the members in that room had not been out of Wisconsin, let alone travel to Ireland to pull rope! Imagine the excitement! The majority of the league supported Bob, as Bob had showed such enthusiasm for the event and Tug of War International Federation. A person couldn't help but believe in the cause. Bob and Glen Johnson spent the summer traveling Wisconsin to watch pullers train and compete. BlackHawk League helped to raise funds by selling buttons and even hosted a pig roast.

The team consisted of Dave Outhouse, Gary Wille of the Oregon team, Steve Acker, Rod Voss and Leo Spaun of Ashton TOW, Randy Onsager, Craig Rhiner of the Verona team, Mark Mayer, Dave Wahl of the Monroe Machine and Welding, Larry Clemens, Keith Dieter of the Lodi Tuggers, Tony Schmitt of Dane Tuggers, Tom Naatz, Kevin Speich and Armand and Kathy Meiers of Rudy's Boys Tug of War, Randy Hanson and Dave Etkcher of Rice Lake WI. Rudy Kopp was the manager, Glen Johnson, the coach, Norman Legler – USATOWA supporter and Robert Pulfer - founder and President of United States Amateur Tug of War.

This first team representing the USA in the World Championships shared many firsts for our Association. As Rudy Kopp says yet – They couldn't believe their eyes as to how those tug of war teams pulled! Amazing! The team didn't win, but came home with lasting friendships and a deepened love for the sport of tug of war. One of the friendships forged at the WC was with the Northern Ireland team. In June of the following year (1979), the Ballyhagen team of Northern Ireland came to the USA. The team stayed with members of Rudy's Boys and the Greeley IA tug of war team. They trained with the teams and multiple competitions were held featuring these men of Northern Ireland. One of the favorite stories is of the small (640k) lads of Ballyhagen taking on the big lads of Lodi Tug of War club which were a Catchweight team. Ballyhagen leaned into to hold and try as they may, the Lodi team couldn't budge the Irish. Soon, as if they were a machine, Ballyhagen took Lodi across the line. People in the crowd, as well as the losing team were in shock. It was impossible that those scrawny guys beat our mighty men! And they wore shorts!

The friendships with the men of Northern Ireland has continued with many of the USA tug of war members and towns people of Orfordville and Greeley. Old paperwork states that this team was one of the first foreign tug of war teams to visit the USA in over 75 years!

Robert Pulfer bestowed the honor of Lifetime member to the team of Ballyhagen and the 1978 USA team and supporters. Many of these members have kept their status as active lifetime members. The team of Ballyhagen consisted of Cathal McKeever, Noel Collins, Leo Collins, Ken Hill, Ken Crousier, Patrick Kernan, Patrice Ogorman, Sean Cunningham, Shamus Cunningham, Marty Lavery, Frank Powell, Ernie Hartley, Billy Bernard and Alan Walker, Robert Campbell.

Both NITOWA and USATOWA are reasonably small Associations, but both can boast of many World Championships medals (indoor and outdoor). USATOWA had very humble beginnings, but thanks to group of people that believed it could happen, made it happen.

Researching this story was fun! Thanks to Rudy Kopp, Glen Johnson, Larry Heindel, Joe Acker, Dick Richardson, Steve Acker, Tom Naatz and Patrick Kernan. We do not have any great photos from this time, if you do have any that you would like to share, please do so. We hope to continue with this spot of history in the months to come.

### **Allyson Norland Scholarship Fund raiser – July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016**



On July 9th, 2016, the Friends of Allyson Norland Scholarship (FANS) will hold their second annual fun run and rope pull. Funds support scholarships at Oregon High School in Oregon, WI. Allyson Norland was an enthusiastic, first-year member of the Girls Love Dirt tug of war team. She and her brother Steven truly devoted themselves to tug of war, practicing three nights every week with both Girls Love Dirt and the Mt Vernon tug of war team. Allyson quickly learned the sport and was a fine athlete. She enjoyed competitions in Monticello, Monroe and Milwaukee, with a final appearance in the open competition at World Championships in Madison. Allyson was eager to start indoor practice in 2015, and enjoyed a practice in late January 2015 with her team. She was studying for the college entrance exam and had so much ahead of her. Allyson was tragically killed in a car accident on February 11, 2015. FANS was created to honor her life and love of tug of war and running alive. Funds raised at the inaugural event last year will be distributed in \$10,000 of scholarships to her graduating class this spring. Help us keep her memory alive by

participating in the 5k run or 2 mi walk and of course the tug of war! Register online:

<http://www.fansrun.org/index.html> Date: July 9th, 2016 Time: Run/Walk 9am Tug of War 10am

### **Birthday List**

#### **April**

Margie Platt – April 2  
Jon Wipperfurth – April 3  
Bruce Ebnet – April 6  
Steve Norland – April 8  
Harley Dolson – 4/10  
Ryan Neuhaus – 4/11  
Nikki Wenstad – 4/13  
Ben and Bob Davis 4/20  
Lisa McGrath – 4/24

#### **May**

Brandon Bockover – May 6  
Kim Henes – 5/19  
Jon Rave – 5/29

**Sponsors List** – We would like to include a sponsors list in our newsletter, please forward the names of your sponsors to us asap. [shelbytow@msn.com](mailto:shelbytow@msn.com)

