



# USATOWA

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

May 2018

## *2018 Schedule of Events*

### *United States Amateur Tug of War Association*

<b><i>OUTDOOR EVENT LOCATION</i></b>	<b><i>Weigh In Time</i></b>	<b><i>Competition Begins</i></b>	<b><i>Event Date</i></b>
Elko, Minnesota	11:00 AM to Noon	12:30 PM	05/19/18
Greeley, Iowa	10:30 AM to Noon	12:30 PM	06/16/18
Footville, Wisconsin	10:30 AM to Noon	12:30 PM	06/23/18
Monticello, Wisconsin	10:30 AM to Noon	12:30 PM	07/07/18
Nationals in Monroe, Wisconsin	8:30 AM to 10:00 AM (*)	10:30 AM	07/21/18
<i>Tug Fest / Illinois &amp; Iowa</i>		12:30 PM	08/11/18
Ryan, Iowa	Noon to 1:30 PM	2:00 PM	08/25/18
40th Anniversary Event Madison, Wisconsin	FRI (7:00 PM to 9:00 PM) SAT (10:00 AM to 11:30 AM)	1:00 PM	09/01/18
40th Anniversary Event Madison, Wisconsin	7:00 AM to 9:00 AM	10:00 AM	09/02/18

Princeton, Illinois	10:30 AM to Noon	12:30 PM	09/09/18
<b><i>World Outdoor Tug of War Championships in South Africa</i></b>	-----	-----	09/19/18 to 09/22/18

(\*) Teams may reserve a five-minute time slot from 8:00 AM to 8:30 AM for test weigh ins (Contact the Chief Judge to schedule a time)

As of 04/23/18

***Non-Sanctioned Event***

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**USATOWA Annual Meeting**

The USATOWA annual meeting was held on April 21, 2018 after postponing our March 24<sup>th</sup> meeting. A summary of the meeting is as follows.

President Richardson expressed the regret of losing the Irish fest event after a 29-year partnership. Another large venue is being searched for next year and years to come. Other points of the President's report include a desire for youth to be included with each event. Loren Long will be working to obtain this goal. We had good response last summer with the children and hope to capitalize on their interest. Richardson also reported on the retirement of our International Rep Larry Heindel.

Joe Hunter USATOWA Vice President reported on 2017 participation at each event. An updated schedule is included in this newsletter.

Secretary Lisa Heindel presented the membership numbers of each club. Please send memberships to Lisa two days prior to event. A form to return to Lisa is included in this newsletter. Please complete information for each athlete on this form. Each club may pay treasurer Ginny Nyhus. Information must be sent to Lisa. Chief Judge Tiny Heindel reported on the new rule book which will be distributed at first event. Judges course was held immediately following the meeting. We congratulate several new judges as well as upgrading current judges. Other items discussed during the meeting were: Entering/withdrawing from weight classes at Nationals. Discussion held, motion made by Rick Peterson and seconded by Bill Gallagher to leave the current requirement of teams registering their teams for Nationals 2 weeks prior to the event. If a team is registered and unable to field their team, they will forfeit the registration fee. This passes with no opposition. Also discussed was the weigh ins at Nationals with suggestions of: 1) Open the scales 30 mins prior to the official start time for teams to get in test weights for their teams. 2) Assign each team a time (10 mins for example) to check their team weights and make their adjustments prior to the official weigh ins. We will also look into another possible scale location at the fairgrounds that the teams may be able to use for their test weights and adjusting.

Scholarship forms are available and must be submitted no later than July 1st, 2018. The web page will include the applications after May 15th. The newsletter will include one as well.

The planning for the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of USATOWA is ongoing. We have interest from other countries to travel to the USA to join in the celebration. [40th anniversary flyer](#) This link includes the information for the event.

Rooms may be reserved at the Sheraton Hotel – [Meeting Max - Sheraton Hotel](#). These rooms must be reserved by August 1. A dinner (awards will be presented) for all USATOWA members on Sunday night. Be sure to include this in this special event in your plans.

New officers elected were – Joe Hunter - Vice President, Lisa Heindel – Secretary and Bill Gallagher as International Rep. Congrats to all our newly elected officers and Thank you to all who put their hat in the ring! This is just a summation of the meeting and the complete minutes will be posted as soon as approved by the Executive Board and will appear in a future newsletter.



Larry Heindel USATOWA International Representative

It is with much regret that Larry Heindel will be retiring from his position as USATOWA International representative to TWIF. Larry's association with USATOWA is longstanding. Larry started competing in the late 1960's with Monroe Machine and Weld. He also competed with Monroe Trucking, Teds Sports and on several closed teams representing the USA. Larry competed in the 1984 World Championships in Oshkosh winning a Bronze in the OM720 and a silver in the OMCTWT. Larry also competed in the World Games in London in 1985. He traveled to Japan in 1988 to the Goodwill games of TOW. He actively pulled until 1992. Larry became USATOWA's rep in 1990 and has since held this position. TWIF officials claims that Larry is their longest/oldest representative to TWIF. Larry is a retired TWIF International judge and is currently a judge with USATOWA.

While talking to Larry about his involvement in tug of war, he asked me if his obituary was being written? Of course, after a bit of laughter, yes, this is an obituary. Larry's retirement is indeed an end of an era. To pin down all the projects Larry worked on for USATOWA is a difficult task. He is USATOWA's drug officer, as well as attending USATOWA events to judge. Larry worked endlessly on all four of the World Championships in which USATOWA hosted in addition to doing his duties as representative. I would like to publicly thank Larry and his family for all the time, effort and dedication that Larry has given USATOWA and to the sport of tug of war.

As our Association celebrates 40 years as members of TWIF, we can appreciate all the people such as Larry that have laid the groundwork for us to carry on.

## **Membership**

A current membership list from each club must sent to Lisa Heindel two days priors to an event. A blank excel sheet is being shared [here](#). Each club will have a separate tab and can be updated very easily via email. The signature is necessary for the annual meeting. After the year is finished Lisa will mail your final list to you and you must acquire the signature for a valid proxy vote. Very simple and hopefully we can have an updated list at all times. Membership fees must be paid to Ginny Nyhus – 5279 Candy Cove Trail SE Prior Lake MN 55372.

[weningev@hotmail.com](mailto:weningev@hotmail.com) Lisa Heindel email is [roskb@yahoo.com](mailto:roskb@yahoo.com)

2017 list is included [here](#)

## **Judges/Recorders Course 4/21/18**

### **Congratulations to our new Judges and Recorders!!**

Grade 3 refresher – Bill Gallagher

Grade 3 – Jeff Blackwell, Dave Kruse, Katie Kruse and Katie Campbell

Grade 2 – Keenan Campbell, Rick Peterson and Lisa Heindel

Recorders – Katie Campbell and Katie Legler

Thank you!!

## **TWIF Congress – Cork Ireland April 26-29 2018**



President Richardson attended the annual TWIF Congress in Cork Ireland in Larry Heindel's absence. Nineteen paid countries were in attendance.

A summary of the proposals is as follows: Motion to make up difference of the max weight in the qualification round was defeated. Side stepping presently, it is not a rule in outdoor, as there is not a defined lane. The proposal was referred to the TAC to discuss. The two different weigh ins at the WC was defeated after much discussion.

The weight for the senior mix class will change to 580 kg, both outdoor and indoor; weight classes will not change for a period of 4 years. Women's weight classes will remain with the 500k and 540k. Junior and U23 mix will be added to the program of the Championship; more restrictions on the belt was discussed and the proposal passed to enforce the improper belt placement as a lock. There will be a new format for the World Games. At the present time it will include M640k, W520K and MX580K. These will each be competed on individual days and all outdoors. More details will follow. The tender for WC 2024 of England was defeated, so countries may tender this date in the future. Included the full text of the next motion for clarity.

It is proposed that during the points phase of a competition (rule 20.1), in the event of a "no pull", the pull will not be repeated. Both teams get nil (0) points and three (3) cautions for that end. If one of the teams win the other end, that team will get 1 point and the other team nil. If both ends during a match results in a "no pull", both teams will get nil (0) points and six (6) cautions.

This change will not be applicable to rule 20.2, for pull-offs, semi-finals and finals.

Reason:

A lot of time is wasted with repeated pulling after no-pulls. Sometimes a second and third no-pull is given which waste even more time. If both teams know that they will get nil points, they will try harder and pulling will be more active and more attractive to spectators.

Note for clarity: This will lead to new results combinations in the points competition being 3-0, 1-1, 1-0 or 0-0. This implies a change to the competition software. If approved, this proposal will only be introduced after the WOC '18 in Cape Town in order to allow for enough time to change and test the software before the next TWIF event in September 2019 in Ireland. If approved, this proposal will therefore not be implemented within 60 days after congress. Motion passed.

The next Congress will be in the Basque Country in April of 2019.



**DJ's Memorial Pull May 19, 2018**

**Elko MN**

Weight classes: M560k, M640k, M720k, W540k and Open 600k

Weigh in – 11-12 and pulling at 12:30 pm.

Entry fee - \$15 per weight class. Proceeds goes into the Judges fund.

Beer Bash 4 to 7 pm. Five dollars per person - All you care to drink beer.



**Greeley Tug of War Club Pull June 16, 2018**

**Greeley IA**

Weight classes: M580k, M640k, M720k, Open 600 Coed, 580k

Women's class

Weigh in – 10:30 to 12 noon. Pulling at 12:30 pm

Concession stand



**The History of the United States Amateur Tug of War Association**

Robert Pulfer of Verona, Wisconsin formed the United States Amateur Tug of War Association in 1978. Bob, a native of Switzerland had visited his homeland and had witnessed the World Championships of Tug of War. Bob came back to the States excited to form an organization enabling the USA to compete in the Tug of War International Federation World Championships. Bob formed a committee to help organize the group. This group became a recognized organization in the state of Wisconsin and soon USATOWA became a recognized member of TWIF.



The first year the Association sent a team to the World Championships was in 1978. These Championships were held in Dundalk Ireland. The team consisted of members from the Black Hawk Tug of War League. The Black Hawks represented the USA in two Open classes at the Championship. The desire to compete on the World level fueled the teams of USATOWA. The USA has had teams in the World Championships every year since 1978.

Tug of War was one of the founding sports of the World Games. The USA hosted the World Games in 1981. USATOWA has had representation in the World Games since that date.

USATOWA has had great success in the Outdoor World Championships with medals won in the 1986, 1990, 1998, 2002 and 2004. World Games medals were won in 1993 and 2001. Indoor Tug of War teams have won medals in 2002, 2004 and 2006. In 2002 the International Olympic Committee recognized TWIF. This is the first recognition of the IOC since the removal of the sport from the games in 1920.

USATOWA hosted the 1984, 1998, 2004 and 2014 World Championships. All of these accomplishments came from the desire to compete on the World level.

The first members to compete in the 1978 World Championships were:

Dave Outhouse, Gary Wille, Larry Clements, Tony Schmitt, Dave Etkcher, Randy Hanson, Keith Dieter, Mark Mayer, Dave Wahl, Steve Acker, Leo Spahn, Rod Voss, Craig Rhiner, Jon Onsager, Tom Naatz, Armand Meier, Rudy Kopp - Manager, Glen Johnson - Coach, Robert Pulfer - Founder and President of the USATOWA, Norman Legler - Supporter, Kathy Meier - Supporter and Kevin Speich - Substitute.

At the 1978 Championship, friendships were formed with the Northern Ireland team. In 1979 the Ballyhagen team came to the USA. They were the first European team in over 75 years to visit the USA. USATOWA bestowed the honor of Honorary Lifetime Members to this club.

Honorary Lifetime members of this club:

Cathal McKeever, Noel Collins, Leo Collins, Ken Hill, Ken Crousier, Robert Campbell, Patrick Kernan, Patrice Ogorman, Sean Cunningham, Shamus Cunningham, Marty Lavery, Frank Powell, Ernie Hartley, Billy Bernard and Alan Walker.

The United States Amateur Tug of War Association has many accomplishments in our 40 years of existence.



Ballyhagan TOW team 1979

Back row: Seamus Cunningham, Robert Campbell, Cathal McKeever, Kenny Hill, Kenny Crozier (RIP), Marty Lavery.

Front row: Pat O Gorman, Noel Collins (RIP), Alan Walker, Patrick Kernan, Leo Collins. Also, on the trip Frank Powell, Billy and Lila Barnard, Sean Cunningham and Earnie Hartley. Frank, Billy and Earnie all have passed away.

## Rudy Kopp Scholarship

The Rudy Kopp Scholarship applications are due July 1, 2018 to the Rudy Kopp scholarship committee. The application can be found online after May 15<sup>th</sup> on the USATOWA web page.



# United States Amateur Tug of War Association Scholarship Application

**4716 Carter St. Oregon WI 53575**

**Please complete ALL sections of the application. Please type, but if you must handwrite it, please ONLY use black ink.**

All applications are due by July 1, 2018. NO information will be accepted after this date. Failure to meet this deadline with ALL necessary forms completed will result in the disqualification of your application. Please send completed application form, essay, and verification of your cumulative grade point average (standard, not weighted, as a class transcript or from your guidance counselor), and two letters of recommendation to:

**USATOWA**

**Shelby Richardson**

**4716 Carter ST**

**Oregon WI 53575**

**shelbytow@msn.com**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

High School \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Graduation \_\_\_\_\_

What type of school will you be attending to obtain your degree?

\_\_\_\_\_ 4-year College \_\_\_\_\_ 1 or 2-year College

Cumulative grade point average \_\_\_\_\_

Number of years that you have been associated with USATOWA \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Background Information:**

**Academic History:**

School	Location	Enrollment Dates

**Educational Institutions:**

*Please list the colleges where you have applied or plan to apply.*

School	Location	Why did you apply to this school?	Acceptance Received?

**Intended Course of Study:**

*Please give detailed information about your choices and what lead you to pursuing your chosen degree(s). Please limit to three choices.*

Course of Study	Why have you chosen this course of study?



**Scholarship Information:**

**Extracurricular Activities:** (No acronyms please)

*(Sports and School Clubs, Awards - Outside of normal school hours that is related to school):*

Organization Name and Brief Description	Years Involved				Accomplishments (Positions, Committees, Etc...)	Number of hours per year
	9	10	11	12		

**Community Involvement:** (No acronyms please)

*Community Service (volunteer work that is not related to school): Example-Boy/Girl Scouts, Jr. Optimist, 4-H, Church Group, etc.*

Organization and Activity	Years Involved				Brief Description of Duties	Number of hours per year
	9	10	11	12		

**Employment History:**

Company Name	Dates of Employment (Months and Years)	Number of Hours per Week	Job Title and Description of Responsibilities

## **ESSAY**

**Character Essay:** Please help us get to know you. Discuss a special attribute or accomplishment that sets you apart from your peers. What drives you to pursue your passions in life, and what are those passions? What is your association to USATOWA? Why should USATOWA award you this scholarship to pursue your college education and intended career?