

DRAFT MINUTES TO BE VOTED ON – SUBJECT TO CHANGE

OWOA BOARD OF GOVERNOR’S MEETING

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2023
HOMEWOOD SUITES POLARIS
COLUMBUS, OHIO

2045 POLARIS PARKWAY, AT 7:00 P.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER:

OWOA Secretary, David A. Detec, called the meeting to order and thanked all for coming. Our President could not attend as a result of family health issues. Our Vice President, Jeffrey Simons could not attend as a result of a family commitment. David Detec reminded everyone in attendance that they need to take the information discussed at this meeting back to their own Associations so that their own Association members are informed as to what the OWOA is doing on their behalf. David Detec then stated that Ray Anthony, Sr., on behalf of The National Wrestling Hall of Fame, Ohio Chapter, thanks the OWOA for its kind contribution and support of their recent annual Hall of Fame Induction Banquet. The OWOA was recognized in the Banquet program. It was a great event. Largest attendance they ever had. Please consider attending next year. Also, please consider nominating someone – application is on their website.

**II. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS (ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVES)
PRESENT:**

1. **David A. Detec, Secretary of OWOA and member of the Steel Valley Wrestling Officials’ Association.**
2. **Richard Carpenter, Treasurer of the OWOA and member of the Western Reserve Wrestling Officials’ Association.**
3. **Toby Dunlap – OHSAA and OWOA Director of Development and Education and member of the Northeast Ohio Wrestling Officials’ Association.**
4. **Jim Vreeland – State Rules Interpreter and member of the South Shore Wrestling Officials’ Association.**
5. **Jack Kruse – OWOA Webmaster and member of the Central District Wrestling Officials’ Association.**
6. **Dan Cutcher – OWOA Historian.**
7. **Tom Rooney – member of the Central District Wrestling Officials’ Association.**

8. **Chris Logan – member of the Western Reserve Wrestling Officials' Association.**
9. **Paul Basinger – member of the Lima – Findlay Wrestling Officials' Association.**
10. **Tony Stapleton – member of the Greater Dayton Wrestling Officials' Association.**
11. **Larry Saxton – member of the Northwest Fifth District Ohio Wrestling Officials' Association.**
12. **Mike Diglia - member of the Lima-Findlay Wrestling Officials' Association.**
13. **Charles Hardman – member of the Wayne County Wrestling Officials' Association.**
14. **Ryan Legg – member of the Greater Cleveland Wrestling Officials' Association.**
15. **Dan Jaksetic– member of the Greater Toledo Wrestling Officials' Association.**
16. **Larren Wikel – member of the South Shore Wrestling Officials' Association.**
17. **Kyle Stapleton – member of the Greater Dayton Wrestling Officials' Association.**
18. **Ron Spade – member of the Eastern District Wrestling Officials' Association**
19. **Ron Joseph – member of the Central District Wrestling Officials' Association.**
20. **John Pugh – Member of the Southeast Wrestling Officials' Association.**
21. **Tom Cochran – member of the Central District Wrestling Officials' Association.**
22. **Kelly Stillman – member of the Greater Cleveland Wrestling Officials' Association.**
23. **Dino Sevastos – member of the Greater Cleveland Wrestling Officials' Associaiton.**
24. **Gregory Myers – member of the North East Wrestling Officials' Association.**

25. **David Fullenkamp – member of the Mad River Wrestling Officials' Association.**
26. **Warren Hudson – member of the North East Wrestling Officials' Association.**
27. **Jarod Martin – member of the Wayne County Wrestling Officials' Association.**
28. **Nevin Taylor – member of the Central District Wrestling Officials' Association.**
29. **Jack Regis – member of the Ohio Valley Wrestling Officials' Association.**
30. **David Friend – member of the Southwest Wrestling Officials' Association.**
31. **Elliott Spence – member of the Greater Cleveland Wrestling Officials' Association.**
32. **Jack Winans – member of the Flag City Wrestling Officials' Association.**

There were 32 attendees at the Board of Governor's meeting per attendance sheets turned in.

After review of the attendance sheets and after role call taken, the local Wrestling Officials Association (the actual members of the OWOA) represented and present at the meeting were:

1. **Steel Valley Wrestling Officials' Association.**
2. **Greater Cleveland Wrestling Officials' Association.**
3. **Central District Wrestling Officials' Association.**
4. **Greater Cincinnati Wrestling Officials' Association.**
5. **South Shore Wrestling Officials' Association.**
6. **Wayne County Wrestling Officials' Association.**
7. **Greater Toledo Wrestling Officials' Association.**
8. **Western Reserve Wrestling Officials' Association.**
9. **Northeast Ohio Wrestling Officials' Association.**
10. **Northwest District 5 Wrestling Officials' Association.**

11. **Eastern District Wrestling Officials' Association.**
12. **Greater Dayton Wrestling Officials' Association.**
13. **Lima – Findley Wrestling Officials' Association.**
14. **Southeast Wrestling Officials' Association.**
15. **Southwest Wrestling Officials' Association.**
16. **Flag City Wrestling Officials' Association.**
17. **Ohio Valley Wrestling Officials' Association.**
18. **Mad River Wrestling Officials' Association.**

Associations not present were:

1. **North Central Wrestling Officials' Association.**

There are now 19 Association Members to the Ohio Wrestling Officials' Association and present were 18 of the 19, and therefore, the Secretary certifies that a legal quorum is present for this meeting.

III. READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

The minutes of the March 12, 2023, Board of Governors' meeting held at The Ohio State Schottenstein Center, Columbus, Ohio, were circulated, read and unanimously approved after proper motion and second.

IV. FINANCIAL REPORT:

A. Richard Carpenter then gave his Treasurer's report including a report on the starting balance, a report on the current balance, a report on certain aspects of the 2022 OWOA Rules and Mechanics Clinic, and a report on the Banner fund update and the Vince Matteucci Memorial Fund. He gave a report as to the collection of Association dues and as the 22-23 OHSAA State Tournament Expenses. He reported on the expenditures made since his last report. Handouts as to all such matters were provided to all Association Members who had a representative present at this Board of Governor's meeting.

A motion which was then made, seconded and approved that the Treasurer's report be approved for filing and audit; which motion was unanimously accepted.

- B. David Detec then raised the matter of contribution to the Olentangy Liberty Wrestling program

which allows us to use their facility and provides us substantial assistance for the OWOA Rules and Mechanics Clinic. The 2023 Clinic will again be held at the school using their wrestling room and facilities. David Detec reported that last year we contributed \$250.00 to the wrestling program as a donation for allowing us to use their facility and for them providing us with substantial support throughout the clinic. The matter was discussed and a motion was made by Jack Kruse and seconded by Dino Sevastos to again donate \$250.00. The vote was taken and the motion to give a \$250.00 donation to the Olentangy Liberty Wrestling Program was unanimously approved.

V. OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS.

A. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Richard Loewenstine was not in attendance as above stated and therefore no President's report was given.

B. **HALL OF FAME:** Since Jeff Simons, Vice President and Hall of Fame Committee Chairman could not be present because of family commitments and since Dan Cutcher, OWOA Historian and Hall of Fame Coordinator was running late, David Detec, Secretary gave a report as to the OWOA Hall of Fame nominations and the recommendation of the Hall of Fame Committee as to election into the 2024 Hall of Fame class of the OWOA Hall of Fame. David Detec reported that there were initially 7 candidates and that their resumes and supporting documents were sent out to all Secretaries of all Associations prior to this meeting. David Detec also reported that the Executive Committee met and spent substantial time reviewing the credentials of each candidate and having an extensive discussion regarding the same. David Detec reported that the Executive Committee, after conducting the above stated review and discussion, recommended, per the Constitution, 4 of the 7 candidates for vote by the members of the OWOA, which are the 19 Associations. Each Association would have 1 voting ballot. Per the Constitution, each member of the Executive Board also gets 1 ballot. David Detec reported that the 4 individuals recommended by the Hall of Fame Committee are Braun Alexander, Rick Baker, Tom Neill and Steve Asmus. Each Association has 1 ballot and, on that ballot, each Association and each Executive Committee member present is permitted to vote for up to 2 of the 4 recommended nominees. The ballots were then handed out, 1 to each Association present and 1 to each Executive Board Member present. Vote was then taken and then tallied. As a result of the vote, Braun Alexander and Rick Baker were the 2 individuals elected for induction into the 2024 class of the OWOA Hall of Fame. Congratulations to the both of them. Discussion as to the OWOA Hall of Fame luncheon and this year's honorees being inducted into the OWOA Hall of Fame were then conducted.

David Detec then quickly described the procedure for the OWOA Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony at the OHSAA State Individual Wrestling Tournament. He explained that each inductee will be entitled to up to 4 tickets for attendance to the state tournament at the cost of the OWOA. Any additional tickets needed should be paid for by the inductees Wrestling Officials' Association. Also, each inductee may have 4 total individuals attend the Hall of Fame Luncheon which is part of the OHSAA lunch provided to workers of the OHSAA State Tournament. David Detec also explained that each of the inductees needs to provide a picture and a short bio, no longer than a 2-minute read for the purposes of the OHSAA State Tournament Media Guide and other uses of the OHSAA, including possible insertion into the official program for the OHSAA

State Individual Wrestling Tournament. David Detec reported that someone from the OWOA will be contacting each inductee in regard to all of the above sometime in the early part of 2024, probably late January, 2024 or early February, 2024.

C. OHSAA DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT AND OWOA DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION REPORT. Toby Dunlap, OHSAA Director of Development and OWOA Director of Education then reported on the status of the number of OHSAA Wrestling Officials in the State of Ohio. Toby first stated that as of the end of June, 2023 there were 810 total OHSAA wrestling Officials with permits in the State of Ohio. Of that number, 530 were Class 1 Officials. He then stated that as of October 31, 2023, the number of individuals with OHSAA wrestling Officials' permits was down to 793, with 498 being class 1 officials. Toby then expressed that there is a substantial need to recruit officials. He stated that at the OWOA Clinic there will be recruiting banners that were designed by Ray Anthony, Sr. on behalf of the OWOA and they are available to each Association for charge of \$35.00 each. With the banners, there are paper brochures as to how to become an Ohio Wrestling Official also available. Toby then stated that of the 793 officials above described, he believes that only approximately 15 were female officials. Given the rise in popularity of female wrestling, Toby stated that it is imperative that an attempt be made to recruit more female officials. Toby also explained, along with Larren Wikel, a new program started by the Ohio Athletic Conference for its youth and junior high program, known as 24 in 24. This is a program where the goal is to at least retain 24 of the new 2023 young officials, hopefully getting their permits renewed in 2024. They also explained that the OAC will pay to have an experienced official work with the young official at not only their tournaments, but also at middle school and high school tournaments and matches. They will pay up to \$30.00 an hour. Toby then reminded everyone that they need to make sure they get in their state rules interpretation meeting. The last face to face meeting will be at the OWOA Clinic tomorrow, November 4, 2023. After that, you will have to get your state rules meeting online from the OHSAA website. You have to have your meeting by November 21, 2024 or your permit will be canceled.

D. REPORT ON THE OWOA WEBSITE. Jack Kruse, webmaster for the OWOA, again just stated that the website was current and up to date, and if anybody wants anything posted on the OWOA website, they need first to obtain consent from Dick Lowenstine, President, or from Toby Dunlap, DOD, or from David Detec, Secretary.

E. REPORT FROM THE STATE RULES INTERPRETERS. Toby Dunlap reported, on behalf of the State Rules Interpreters, that Jim Vreeland, Ray Anthony, Sr. and Toby attended the National Federation National Rules Conference in Indianapolis, IN. They obtained some important insight as to how the rules are developed and implemented. He stated that there was much discussion at the National Rules Convention as to sports bras and woman's uniforms. The main take away from these discussions is that officials should strictly follow the rule as to sports bras as written, and we cannot require female wrestlers to wear a tight fitting under shirt unless it is absolutely necessary to avoid noncompliance with the sports bra rule as written. Otherwise, it is up to the coaches, the wrestler and the wrestler's parents to make sure that the wrestler is uniformed in a manner whereby the wrestler's modesty is protected. Toby stated that this position was supported by a number of female attendees to this convention.

VI. OLD BUSINESS:

A. VINCE MATTEUCCI AWARD. David Detec then reported that Ray Anthony, Sr. could not be in attendance because of an unexpected family health matter. He stated that Ray Anthony wanted him to kindly request that everyone think of individuals who they would like to nominate for the Vince Matteucci Award and then go on the OWOA website, download the application and submit the application with all supporting documents to Ray Anthony, Sr. by December 30, 2023. Ray says he currently has 3 individuals nominated for the Vince Matteucci Award.

B. The State Individual Wrestling Tournament Banner. David Detec then also reported on behalf of Ray Anthony, Sr. that the new banner, which will be installed this year at the state tournament, is complete. The OWOA and the Coach's Association have funds available to pay their share of the costs. The Banner Committee is still waiting for verification from the OHSAA as to whether they are paying their share of the costs of the banner. Ray asked that it be reported that this will probably be the last banner for approximately 6, 7, or 8 years to allow time for the committee to follow candidates that would be considered to be placed on a banner; to make sure of their credentials prior to placing them on a banner. Also, they want time to consider and give time for female wrestlers to develop credentials to be placed on the banner. There was then some discussion among the members present as to the banners, what should be placed on the banners, and how long the banner committee should wait before they develop a new banner.

C. OWOA New Tournament Jackets. Rich Carpenter then gave a report on the recommendation that the OWOA seek OHSAA permission to institute a phase in for new jackets, over a couple of years. The new jacket style chosen to be lightweight, and wrinkle free. The reason for the new jackets is that the current jackets are hard to locate for purchase, have gone up substantially in cost, wrinkle, the paint comes off the buttons, as well as other drawbacks that exist with the jackets. The new jackets will be lightweight and basically wrinkle free. They would have on them, like the current jackets, the current OWOA patch on the left side of the jacket over the heart area, with the American Flag on the right shoulder, with the stars forward. Also, as with the current jackets, the official's name could be placed over the pocket or at the bottom of the jacket. The new jackets should cost less than the current jackets. The Associations would be given the parameters of the jacket style, but the associations would be free to obtain the jackets from any source they wanted. After substantial discussion among the members, a vote was taken, and it was unanimously agreed that a new jacket program will be implemented; Rich Carpenter said he would work on the specifics of the program and how the jackets would be phased in. It was pointed out that OHSAA approval will be needed.

VII. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Tournament within a Tournament Situation. John Pugh then stated that he would like to discuss a situation that he believes is occurring throughout the state at wrestling tournaments. That is, the Official receives a contract for say a Varsity Tournament. However, throughout the tournament, the Tournament Director puts in brackets of Junior Varsity and/or Junior High and/or Middle School wrestlers. So, in effect, there are multiple tournaments running within a single one (1) tournament, all without discussing the same with the officials. No

pay adjustment is offered for the substantial increased in the duty to officiate matches for the tournament because of the multiple sub tournaments within the main tournament. There was substantial discussion among the members present regarding this situation. It was agreed by all, that when such a situation happens, the officials present have a duty to stop officiating and to confront the tournament director and ask for adjustments in the contract. Also, the various associations should notify the athletic directors in their area that this is not an acceptable way to conduct tournaments.

B. Comments for the Good of the Order. Rich Carpenter raised the issue of the OHSAA Instructor/New Officials Program. He pointed out that there is at least 1, if not more, wrestling officials class instructors that have no wrestling experience. He is aware of 1 basketball official that is doing new wrestling official classes as well as 7 other sports. The OHSAA is aware of this and has no problem with this fact. Such an instructor would not be able to answer student's questions as to specific wrestling rules and mechanics. The students will just have to rely 100% on the online materials which they are reviewing basically by themselves with no help from an instructor. In this situation, the instructor is merely enrolling students into the online wrestling official class. He further stated that the OHSAA would like each instructor to at least have 1 class per month. Obviously, this is not the best way to educate and train new officials. Further, under this program, there is no way that new officials can practice mechanics on the mat. It was also brought up that there is an issue as to whether they even have to pass a test to be granted a permit to officiate. Mr. Charles Anderson is the individual at the OHSAA that is in charge of this program. If you would like to be an instructor for new officials in wrestling, you need to contact Mr. Anderson and ask his permission. A number of people that were turned down in the past or had their instructor rating revoked, are now being regranted the right to be an instructor. It appears that because of the shortage of officials, the OHSAA is approving more and more instructors to be able to get more and more new officiating classes up and running.

Rich Carpenter then also wanted to discuss the new DragonFly Program for accepting wrestling contracts. He took time to explain which app is the appropriate app and the basics of using DragonFly. David Detec then spoke up and said do not, at this time, delete Arbiter, as some of the local schools, at least the Steel Valley Wrestling Association area are still using Arbiter because they like it better than DragonFly and are going to use Arbiter to make payments for matches and tournaments. How long that will last is unknown.

There were no other comments for the good of the order.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT:

The motion was then properly made, seconded and unanimously passed to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

David A. Detec, Secretary of the OWOA