OAWOA Chairman’s Report 2017-18

October 7, 2018

I wish to thank each of this year’s executive for their hard work and dedication to the OAWOA. I would like to thank Erv Morine for hosting this year’s AGM. For several years, he has pleaded to host this event. Thanks for all your leg work to make sure this AGM was a success for all its participants. I would also like to thank the Area Chairman who have worked so hard to encourage and develop our young officials in this province.

The season started off with the OAWOA hosting the Ontario Seniors. Although it was not supported by the Ontario wrestling community wholeheartedly, I believe it was a success. It demonstrated our ability to assemble and organize. There was an abundance of assistance with all aspects of the tournament from transporting and assembling mats, to scorekeepers and lunch assistants. Our numbers matched the largest wrestling club participating. Thanks to all who helped create a top-notch event.

The STAP points introduction was a moderate success. It produced the intended outcome of maximum participation at OAWOA paid events. This participation was probably too large of numbers to sustain quality in terms of official work and lunch costs. However, it made our selection process for trips much more transparent and officials who deserved selection for tournaments were actually given consideration. Some adjustments will be needed to ensure that some of these problems are addressed. Targeting officials who can be successful at their desired tournaments will also be a focus for selection in the future. If this can be achieved then I believe we will have an excellent tool for our future tournament selection.

Issues with bid sheets were caused by last minute venue switches and lack of support to host events. Hopefully this will not always be the case and a smoother system will transpire this season.

National events produced many issues this year. Rooming issues were created by members violating the OAWOA policy. If a member wishes to change their room or does not need that room any longer than it is their responsibility to inform the VP Administration executive. Only the VP Administration can change the rooming list!! As well it is imperative that any official participating in an event follow the event guidelines involving registration. This year an upgrade opportunity was taken away from our association due to lack of diligence involving registration.

At the OAWA AGM, an unregistered yet concerned parent was allowed to speak. She couldn’t believe that the officials who worked so closely with the athletes and potentially younger children were not mandated to have a police check. Despite giving the board the logical explanation that a threat management lawyer determined that it was not necessary, the board voted in favour of having OAWA officials require a police check. I informed the board that in no way would our association bear any of these additional costs and that we would cooperate with whatever the OAWA procured. I was contacted by Jay Jordan in late July via email stating that he would assist us in achieving the direction of the board to which I did not respond until recently reiterating our position.

Undoubtedly we will have many challenges in the upcoming year as our association will need to align our governance with the Not For Profit Act. I look forward to working with our executive to achieve this and whatever other issues that come our way.

Respectfully,

Ed Zinger

OAWOA Chairman