



DRAFT

BWA Board of Directors Meeting

Meeting Minutes

January 16th, 2022 by telephone and video conference

Opening:

Notice of meeting was sent, pursuant to the Bylaws, via email or phone to all members of the Board of Directors.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by the Chairman of the Board at 5:35 pm

Board Members and Officers Present:

Nathan Jackson; Chairman of the Board & President

Kerry McCoy; Vice-President

Jahi Jones; Treasurer

Rob Schmidt; Secretary & Acting Treasurer

Erin Golston

Herb House

Jamill Kelly

BJ Futrell

Rachelle Jackson

Amanda Stanec

Board Advisory Group:

Andy Barth

J'Den Cox

James G

Kurt McHenry

David Minkitani

Akil Patterson

Quorum:

Pursuant to the Bylaws a quorum was present for the conduct of all Board business.

- I. Approval of the Minutes.**
The approval of the minutes of the November 8th; 2021

MOTION; to Approve the Minutes as distributed; Mr. McCoy, SECOND; Ms. Stanec. Motion was APPROVED.

II. Financial Update.

Valarie Bay (Board bookkeeper) and Jahi Jones (Board Treasurer) will be connected by Nate Jackson. Greater detail on Board financials will be forthcoming. At present the BWA account has a current balance of \$2821.83.

III. Executive Director Plan.

The hiring of an Executive Director search committee has been hard at work. The Board thanks the members of the Committee for their time and dedication to this process. The first round of interviews will be completed by Jan. 23rd 2022.

IV. Old Business.

- A. Fundraising Committee; A 3 year campaign to raise 300k for the Executive Director compensation is underway. 18% of the funds have been committed.
- B. Marketing Committee; Ongoing website development
- C. Advocacy Committee;
 - 1) BWA/BTS/Law Enforcement Training
 - 2) Research and Development for programing
 - 3) Incident report (hard data)

V. New Business.

- A. Partnerships:
 - 1) NHSCA/HSN (appendix 1)
 - 2) HWCA
 - 3) Rudis (sportwear appendix 2)
 - 4) Nike
 - 5) Detroit Sport Commission (appendix 3)
 - 6) Michigan Boarder Brawl (appendix 4)
- B. BWA Gear/fundraising
MOTION to APPROVE the Sale of BWA gear. Motion by Kerry McCoy, Second by Robert Schmidt. Motion APPROVED.
- C. Black History Month activities
- D. BWA/HBCUW merger (appendix 5)

VI. ADJOURN/CLOSE; The Chairman entertained a Motion to Adjourn by Kerry McCoy and Seconded by Jamill Kelly. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Faithfully Submitted

**Robert Schmidt
Secretary of the Corporation
01/16/22**

APPENDIX 1

I appreciate your consideration of a partnership with the Black Wrestling Association and the High School Nationals event. To help with your discussion for Sunday, below is some relevant information.

Can you confirm this is what you were looking for? The below are some ideas, you may have others. We are open-minded.

High School Nationals Audience

- Wrestlers: 4,700-5,000
- Spectators: 1.48-1.8/per athlete
- High School Coaches- 1,500-1,700
- Overall attendance at the event: 13,000- 15,700 people

NHSCA potential engagement points

- Event web page promotion
- Social media posts promoting BWA partnership
- Messaging to all attendees (athletes, coaches and spectators) prior to, while on site, post event
- Offer of a booth in our "vendor village" at the event (inside competition area)
- Logos/ throughout the venue (on a rotation with our partners)

Partnership Gives from NHSCA:

- Meeting room space at host hotels (or venue if possible)
- College coach messaging/introduction to all registered coaches to the "college fair" on Saturday night of the event (these will be on-site)

BWA celebrity engagement (we'd look for 1 or a combo of the below)

- Celebrity matches (streamed live on FLO assuming they have desire) - co-branded
- Autograph signing session with 1 or multiple celebrity members (relevant to the high school kids)
- "Showcase clinic" ...during scheduled session break.
- Other?

Please let me know the appropriate follow up timeline.

APPENDIX 2

(see google drive)

APPENDIX 3

Congratulations to you and all involved. Again, thanks for your time. Listed below are a few items that I'd like to offer you and your group for consideration at the upcoming 2022 NCAA Division I Wrestling Championships -- hosted in Detroit on March 17 -19 at Little Caesars Arena (LCA):

- Presence on LCA concourse during championship (may involve cost)
- Recommendations for 3-5 people to serve as All-American Escorts and Awards Presenters during Session 6 (include brief rationale) -- INFO NEEDED BY FRIDAY, JANUARY 21. PLEASE INCLUDE BRIEF RATIONALE INCLUDING "SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS" TO WRESTLING, NCAA, MICHIGAN, BIG TEN &/OR NATIONAL/OLYMPIC CHAMPION, ETC.
- Participation with Detroit Youth Wrestling Program (demo exhibition, speaking presentation)
- BWA Reception or Meeting (may involve cost)

As I shared, I'm in the process of collecting this information to present to our team. And while I can't make any promises, I'll do my best to create unique opportunities and memorable experiences for all at the Wrestling Championships in March. If you could just let me know if BWA has interest in any of these by Friday, **January 21**, I'll confirm more details as we finalize plans. I'm looking forward to working with you and BWA.

APPENDIX 4

(see google drive)

APPENDIX 5

memo: Merger of BWA and HBCU Initiative

Reason: consolidation of power, development, long term sustainability

History:

BWA Founded by Athletes and supporters with a mission to connect, inspire and empower athletes of color to do more than just be wrestlers.

HBCU Wrestling – Created by Former Athletes and Supporters to help HBCUs create wrestling

NAACP and Urban Leagues both seek to empower African Americans but over the years the organizations have had tensions over funding, access to donors and missions that have often intersected. Not by the founders but those who made a decision to change course of based on leadership within the organization.

Process:

The black wrestling association will serve as the governing and overarching leadership during the merge, HBCU wrestling's board of directors will be awarded one additional seat onto BWA's board for every one who does not currently hold a seat on BWA board of directors and its President will serve as Co-chair of BWA BWA President will be dissolved and will be awarded the title of Co-Chair of the Board.

Executive director of HBC wrestling will merge over and become the director of HBCU initiatives with an associate director to oversee black wrestler association programs.

Goal of board will be to have at least 40% Representation of women or men at all times.

Further details pending as Process will take 24 – 36 months

Rational:

collective unity of wrestlers of color should serves in the best interests of both HBC wrestling and the black wrestling association to merge into a single entity. The overall mission of BWA is to inspire, connect and empower. If we are to connect and empower we must be the stewards of the collective work and not separate organizations that in the future could end up undercutting themselves.

Changing systems is part of the overall mission of the black wrestling association and to have two competing organizations both focused on black and people of color mobility it is not in the best interest of those working in the movement to be hindered by their own success.

Development efforts will be critical for the long-term sustainability of BWA and HBCU Wrestling, so that neither organization will have to be limited to only wrestling, but BWA will be in a position to leverage names and athletes of members while HBCU has influence based on the backing of the Funds that are with the money.