

May 25, 2009

Dear SAWA Members,

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the “INTERIM” President Elect of SAWA. It was unforeseen that our President Joe McPeck was forced to resign, due to personal reasons, as president and also from his position on the Board of Directors. That being said I am excited about taking on the responsibilities of this position.

I have been involved with SAWA for many years. I have served several times on the Board of Directors. Currently I hold the executive position of VP Technical. I have also served as VP Administration and way back in 1985 I served a two-year term as President. I am also a fully certified NCCP Level III coach and as such I have coached at various levels and locations throughout the wrestling community. I also bring an extensive background with our major partner the SHSAA (Saskatchewan High School Athletic Association) where I currently sit as the Vice-President of the North Central District Athletic Association (NCDAA).

I believe very strongly in the role that SAWA must play in the development of Amateur Wrestling in Saskatchewan. Over the course of time we have seen many individuals within our sport achieve great things. However, while we are encouraged by these many successes we must not forget the important role that our sport can and must play in the lives of young people who may never win any championship or make a SAWA team. We must also be vigilant in our efforts to ensure that all members of SAWA enjoy a positive experience while they are involved with wrestling.

SAWA is one of many PSO's that operate in Saskatchewan and we have an incredible record of achievement at multi-sport events and national championships. The fact that we have been as successful as we have been with only 1 fulltime staff member and several part-time employees is truly amazing.

SAWA has undergone some major changes over the past year. The Board of Directors has explored new ways to increase our self-funding. As our sport continues to grow this will become ever more important if we wish to maintain and expand the services that we provide. We have also explored a number of Administrative initiatives over the past two years. I would like to thank Dr. David Malloy for his efforts in this area. Unfortunately, Dr. Malloy has resigned his position on the Board due to work commitments. I thank him for his efforts and wish him well.

In addition, we have contracted the accounting services of Sask Sport. Once the transition to this service has been completed I believe we will see a more effective SAWA organization emerge. However, we must remember that we operate on a budget passed at the AGM. The financial records we receive provide a snapshot of the organization's financial position based on the interpretation of the annual budget. I will speak more to

this at the SAWA AGM in October when the transition is complete and we have had a couple of months to review the process.

I hope over the next few months to accomplish a few other things as well. First, I want to increase and streamline our lines of communication. More about this will be provide over the next few weeks. Secondly, I will be working with Anna-beth to provide timely and relevant information to our membership. Third, I will be meeting with our partner organizations (SHSAA, Sask Sport, Aboriginal Sport Organizations, Zone Sport Councils, Coaching Association, U of S, and U of R, to name a few.) to review and renew our working relationships.

There is much to do and I look forward to working with you over the next few months.

I wish all our members a safe and restful summer. To those of our athletes, coaches and support staff who are busy with the High Performance Summer Programs I wish them much success.

Yours in Wrestling,

Paul Heselwood
President, SAWA