Interim Executive Director’s Report – 2013 AGM

Submitted by: Angela Lloyd

I began my tenure as Interim Executive Director for MWSA on September 21, 2012 and will conclude on July 31, 2013.

It has been 9 months of meeting wonderful people, being inspired by wheelchair athletes, and organizing fun events and programs. I wish to thank Terry Pratt for his support and guidance during my term and for his continued dedication to MWSA.

Below is a summary of MWSA’s activities/member achievements in 2012-2013:

1. I would like to recognize and thank our funding partners: Sport Manitoba, Coaching

Manitoba, Manitoba Lotteries, Wheelchair Basketball Canada, and Canadian Wheelchair Sport Association. Their support remains an essential component to the growth of MWSA.

2. Ryan Van Berkel joined MWSA as Program Coordinator in October 2012. He and I worked well together throughout the year and I thank him for his contributions.

3. Three MWSA members present at London 2012 Paralympics. Joey Johnson won GOLD in wheelchair basketball. Jared Funk won SILVER in wheelchair rugby. Bill Johnson was (still is) Head Coach of the Women’s National Wheelchair Basketball team.

4.. MWSA member Aaron Moseley-Williams named to the National Wheelchair Basketball Team. MWSA member Ian Crowe named as alternate to the National Wheelchair Rugby Team.

5. MWSA member Joey Johnson has been selected to be inducted in to the Basketball Manitoba Hall of Fame.

6. MWSA was awarded a grant through Canada Summer Jobs to have a student work during the summer months. 2012 student – Jeff Watson. 2013 student – Sam Unrau.

7. Mini-Paralympian Camp in August 2012 went well. I built on that by organizing a Mini-Camp Series in winter 2013. Series offered a variety of wheelchair sports. Very successful with an average of 8 participants at each camp. MWSA has confirmed 2013 summer camp August 19-23, 2013.

8. MWSA visited many schools throughout the year. Visits included a presentation on MWSA & wheelchair/para sports followed by a wheelchair basketball demonstration.

9. MWSA formed a partnership with Bill Muloin/Sledgehockey, David Kron from the Cerebral Palsy Association of Manitoba, and with the Children’s Rehab Hospital (Wellington Cres.).

10. MWSA member Bill Funk was named Canadian Wheelchair Sport Association’s 2012 Volunteer of the Year.

11. Wheelchair Rugby Coach, Clayton Carriere was named Global TV’s Coach of the Month in May 2013.

12. CANADA GAMES 2015 – Office has been in regular communication with Ted Bigelow from Sport Manitoba regarding the progress of a junior team. Though progress has been slow, MWSA is optimistic a team will be in place for the Games.

13. The office began promoting MWSA and its’ programs via MPETA monthly e-newsletter (Manitoba Physical Education Teachers Association). As a result of this initiative, the office received number of requests for school visits.

14. The office began sending a monthly E-newsletter to all members and new contacts. The E-newsletter promotes MWSA upcoming events, achievements of its’ members, etc.. As well, the MWSA Facebook page was revitalized and the response has been tremendous. Both of these initiatives are cost effective ways of promoting Manitoba Wheelchair Sport Association.

15. MWSA in partnership with the Winnipeg Wheelchair Rugby Club hosted the Murderball Classic in February 2013. Leading up to the tournament, MWSA hosted a national wheelchair rugby Prospect Camp. Both events were a success.

16. Duncan Campbell from Bridging The Gap & Canadian Wheelchair Sport Association traveled to Winnipeg June 11-12, 2013. Duncan met with wheelchair basketball, rugby, and tennis to discuss funding, recruitment, fundraising, long term goals.

Goals and Challenges for coming year:

* Funding – funding cuts are inevitable and MWSA must begin working hard on fundraising initiatives.
* Policies, Constitution & By-Laws – Must be updated per Sport Manitoba. This is a requirement in order to maintain current funding levels.
* Wheelchair Basketball Program – See wheelchair basketball report.
* Continue to work closely with other para-sports in the building to build relationships.
* Maintain Board involvement.
* Build on the success of the Mini-Camp and develop a Junior Wheelchair Sports program.
* Grants – source out grant opportunities to assist with funding of programs.

I wish Manitoba Wheelchair Sport Association continued growth and success in the future.