

## President's Report 2016

As we begin a new wrestling season there are many achievements to look back on and be proud of and also many events and opportunities to look forward to. Looking back, some of highlights of the 2015-16 season were having medallists at Cadet, Juvenile and Senior Nationals, CIS Nationals and Canada Cup. Hunter Lee of Flin Flon, Manitoba was a bronze medallist at the Cadet Pan Am Championships in Lima, Peru and represented Canada at the Cadet World Championships in Tbilisi, Georgia. Long-time Manitoba wrestler Caleb Rutner who is currently wrestling for Western University in London, Ontario qualified for the World University Championships in Turkey which take place later this month. Looking forward, Manitoba will be hosting two major events. In February the University of Winnipeg will be host to the CIS National Championships where the top university wrestlers will be competing. In July, Winnipeg will be hosting the 2017 Canada Summer Games where Canada's top high school age athletes will be representing their provinces. I would urge all of you to come out and support these events and view some great wrestling!

While our athletes have been working very hard on the mat, we have many volunteers who have also been working hard. With Winnipeg hosting the 2017 Canada Games many people have been very busy. Thanks to Doug Krochak for his leadership of our Sport Organizing Committee. This committee has been busy meeting, recruiting volunteers and planning for the wrestling competition at the games. Thanks also to our Canada Games staff who have been busy working with our athletes in preparation for the games. In July we participated in the Canada Games "One year out event" at the Forks. We had some of our potential Canada Games athletes as well as some of our younger athletes put on a display of wrestling techniques. The display was a hit with the spectators and the Canada Games Host Society and we received many compliments.

In November of 2015, Hayleigh Bell joined us as MAWA's Administrative Director. Hayleigh has been a huge help in getting many of the administrative tasks done in a timely fashion. The MAWA board is very grateful for the increase in base funding we are now receiving from Sport Manitoba which made hiring Hayleigh possible. The office space in the Sport for Life Centre is also much appreciated.

As reported at last years AGM, MAWA has a four year strategic plan that the board has been using to guide us in developing our sport. In this plan we had identified two strategic priorities. The first one is that by 2019, MAWA will have a fully functioning and effective Board of Directors. The second strategic priority is that by 2019 MAWA and member clubs will deliver quality and developmentally appropriate sport initiation programs. We have now come to the end of year one of the plan and started into year two. While much hard work has gone into completing some of the tasks identified in the plan, much work remains to be done. One of the key limiting factors to achieving our plan has been manpower. While having Hayleigh working t

with the board to carry out the plan has helped, we need the involvement of the wrestling community at large to achieve our goals. Please consider volunteering your time for a committee or board position.

MAWA endeavors to provide a wide range of opportunities for our wrestlers to compete at the highest level of their abilities. In addition to local competitions, our wrestlers have the opportunity to participate in multi-games events. These events include Canada Summer Games, Western Canada Summer Games, North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) and Power Smart Manitoba Winter Games. All of these events require much time and organization on both the part of the MAWA board and volunteer team coaches and managers. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have put so much effort into making these events happen for our athletes.

The next Manitoba Games will take place in winter 2018 in Virden. To make the wrestling competition a successful event we will need the participation of all the clubs within the province. There are some key positions that will need to be filled. We need coaches and team managers for each team and of course we need athletes (born 2002- 2005) from all over the province to make up the teams. We will need a Sports Co-Chair. This person will need to be available for weekday meetings and will be expected to attend 4 onsite visits in Virden. They will be working with the host committee to make sure that everything is in place for the wrestling competition. We would also like to have a Manitoba Games Coordinator who would be responsible for working with regional coaches and coordinating events leading up to the games. Please consider taking on one of these important positions.

As my term as president has come to an end and I will be retiring from the MAWA board I want to thank all of you for the support that you have shown me and commend all of you for the hard work you have put into the sport. I encourage you to keep striving for excellence within your respective programs and to continue to collaborate and work together to strengthen and improve our sport within the province.

I leave you with the tagline from our vision statement "Together, we grow wrestling in Manitoba"

Respectfully Submitted,

Sally McNabb – President, MAWA