**Minutes 1-7-18**

Meeting this evening was called to order at 7 p.m. by **President DeShayes**. His opening remarks referred to the upcoming Jan. 14th Coaches/Officials forum. He encouraged the membership to contact coaches they were familiar with and encourage them to attend this meeting.

**Treasurer, Pat Lemming**, announced that as this meeting, we had $7,489.30 in our account.

**Secretary, Tony Trent**, the upcoming vote for Sargent of Arms and the Top 19 officials in the GDWOA. Currently, we have 74 paid members in the association, thus allowing us to have 19 persons receiving those important post season votes. This vote will only be open to those members who are in good standing within the association. That is, dues are paid and attendance at 4 GDWOA meetings have been recorded. Voting will take place after the Jan. 14th meeting in the hopes that more will gain the 4 meeting.

**Tony Stapleton** encouraged all to attend this upcoming meeting on the 14th and solicited from the members, questions that he can use as moderator of this meeting, to ask our panel.

Southwest District Assigner, **Matthew Turton**, mentioned that assignments for Sectional and District tournaments are out and for members to check Arbiter for their assignments. Turnover is happening as 84 of 90 have accepted their contracts. Additional referees will be needed to fill what might be 6 vacant positions. For those not receiving assignments at the District level, Matthew said that table help for the D1 District at Fairmont.

As Rules Interpreter, Matthew brought up and demonstrated the “mercy grip” currently being used. Ruling in this case is that we are to verbally caution, “get off the fingers”, followed by stopping the move as Potentially Dangerous once the grip is torqued and finally, calling the move as illegal and penalizing as such. A bulletin from the D.O.D. is forthcoming to further address this situation. It was mentioned, that as preventive officiating, that we address this maneuver in our pre-meet discussion.

The topic for the evening was on the role of the Assistant Official. Our presenters were **Andy Kyle** and **Scott Robinson**. Important points were made through out the presentation. Safety of the wrestlers as a primary concern. Allowing the correct wrestler to win the match. Better 4 eyes than 2 watching the match. Good communication between Head Referee and Assistant was stressed. Mobility of the Assistant and signals he can use were also presented. Parts of the Assistants job include, clock watching; to see that the clock stops/starts and that points are awarded correctly as well as counting down the time as the period/match ends. The question of when should the assistant step in on a match and the value of trust between the head and his assistant were also topics of conversation.

Respectfully submitted . . .

Tony Trent - Secretary