

SAWA Executive Director's Report
SAWA Annual General Meeting
October 4, 2003

Congratulations to Viola Yanik, bronze medalist at the 2003 Senior World Championships and silver medalist at the 2003 Pan American Games.

The 2002-2003 wrestling season culminated with a very successful Western Canada Summer Games. Men and women's teams came home with silver medals and all but two wrestlers came home with individual medals as well. Saskatchewan won the event with the most flag points, which is the Sask Games Council measuring stick for team success. The athletes and coaches can be very proud of their accomplishment. Due to several unforeseen circumstances during the WCSG preparations, I spent a considerable amount of work time with the team. Although this was not part of my regular job responsibility, it became necessary to assist with team preparations and as a result I have a very good working relationship with many more wrestlers, their families and the coaches than I would have had otherwise. There were some days when I thought I should be going with them to Selkirk.

Many SAWA athletes had the opportunity to train and compete internationally over the summer. Having taken that step outside Canada will help them achieve their personal goals and hopefully the international arena will be a familiar place to Saskatchewan wrestlers.

The Senior Nationals saw some excellent performances by our senior athletes. Four athletes medaled in their weight classes. The next major event for these athletes is the Olympic trials in December. Good luck to all athletes and coaches as they prepare for this event.

Membership numbers continued to grow last season, partly due to the WCSG team. High School wrestlers that hadn't been SAWA members before joined in preparation for the Games. Don Goring's work around the province resulted in an increase in club memberships as well. Thank you to all clubs who did such an outstanding job of making sure their wrestlers were members. Membership growth is one area that directly benefits the clubs in increased MAP Grants.

After two full seasons as Executive Director, I feel very much at home in the organization. I am a familiar face at competitions outside the SAWA Provincials and have a good rapport with the clubs, athletes, officials and parents. Office work for much of the last season dealt with preparation for the 2005 Canada Games to be held in Regina. New programs to administer and plenty of grant applications to prepare have kept me quite busy. As I said earlier, the WCSG preparation took the entire month of July. For the season ahead, I will continue to work hard for SAWA, and its members, be a better communicator and always an advocate for the sport.

In closing, I wish to thank the SAWA Board of Directors, Don Goring, and the SAWA membership for their hard work and dedication to fulfilling their dreams of success in this organization. It is clear that we expect success and achieve success because everyone works to be successful.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna-beth Zulkoskey
Executive Director