**Athlete Input Council**

**September 9, 2019 – Conference Call MINUTES**

**6:00 – 7:00 pm**

**Present**: , Steve Woodard, Cole Cleworth, Danny Cox, Edward Kastern, Zachary Reetz, Eresi Yarney, Tyler Wigington, Deb Moore-Gruenloh, Jeanne Hrovat and guest Christine Cherne.

**Absent**: Missy Baldwin, Christiana Coakley, David Thompson, Jake Casper, Jon Baker, Lucas Smith, Lora Behr, Zechariah Tietz, Marquis Garner and Tom Pezzi,

1. Welcome and Sharing
2. Eresi – Helped at OST at the Team Captain’s Table in August.
3. Zachary – Had wanted to attend the Fall meeting, so he may attend one of the focus groups. (Jeanne will send out the schedule of focus groups). Zachary is assistant coaching for bowling. At our meeting in November he will have a device that we can use to help him hear us better. Also, he would like to volunteer in the SOWI office the first Monday in October.
4. Edward – I was supposed to go to OST, but ride fell through. This weekend attending Athletes-As-Coaches (AAC) in Hartford. On July 27, did my first 5 k in my chair. In training took 1 hr. 45 minutes and reduced time to 1hr 25 min. during the race. I was the only one in a wheel chair. Met someone from SO Illinois. I did the event on a bike trail.
5. Danny – About a month ago, I got an email from Jeanne to do an Athlete Leadership Training in Minneapolis. I had to submit a video and they chose me as one of 14 out of 50 states to attend. I’m very excited.
6. Cole – In August, I helped with Cops on a roof at Dunkin Donuts and served a lot of donuts. In September, I returned to coaching bowling for the season and attended a Polar Plunge committee meeting.
7. Tyler - Helped at OST at the Team Captain’s Table Sportsmanship Award. We go up to teams before the game started and explain about the Sportsmanship award. Also, did the July 27 cross country meet in Kenosha. SOWI is hoping to promote this Cross Country meet so others will sign up. Three distances offered 800, 1600 and 5000 m.
8. Steve – Working with one of the coaches and staff member for our new Agency Silver Lakes. I’ll be helping with SOWI gymnastics. I went to a class reunion and they asked me about Special Olympics and told them how they could get involved. I was asked to give a speech about disabilities to other doctors.
9. Deb – I was a bocce official at OST and went to watch softball teams. I attended National Softball tourney in Nashville and our team received bronze medal in the top division. Going to AAC this weekend.
10. Christine Cherne – Unified Leadership
11. Jeanne and I went to Wash DC for Unified Leadership training – it was a lot of fun – meetings, site seeing, baseball games.
12. Difference between Athlete Leadership and Unified Leadership. Athlete Leadership focuses on giving athletes the skills they need. Unified Leadership is about changing the minds of people without disabilities. Christine talked about skills she has on the sports field that she is going to use in leadership. She shared a story about sailing where she was fearless, and she can use that bravery to be a leader. She also talked about building relationships with your teammates on the softball field– building trust and communicating. She and Jeanne are using these same skills in unified leadership – they need to trust each other during their presentations.

3. Question – what skills did you learn on the sports field that you can use in leadership?

a. Steve – knowing the sports and being able to motivate them to do the physical activity and work around it. That was my trouble was understanding the instruction, getting the right words. This taught me to be a better instructor so you can teach others. I can use this in leadership to offer options – another way of doing things

b. Eresi – I know how Christine feels since I have been involved since 1985 and I was really nervous in gymnastics. I did it by myself. I can use this bravery to go out there and tell people who we are.

c. Cole – I used to just be an athlete, but I tried to different things to help others through the skills I learned through my participation as an athlete to bring awareness to others on what we can do together.

d. Zachary – I overcame my disabilities being without legs and hands and how I was brave enough to attempt. Used leadership to tell others they don’t need to be afraid, just believe in yourself.

e. Edward – SOWI teaches you independence. Without SO I would never had been able to go to college and get my degree. When you’re on a team, you have to learn how to work together and then go on your own and not be afraid. Encourage people to try, if you don’t try, you don’t know. All we can do is try our best.

f. Danny – Before I joined SO I was shy and stayed to myself. After, joining SO it me got me out of my shell. Doing Athlete Leadership activities, I got really became outgoing, but I was still afraid to give speeches and now I do that, too. It’s important to be able to give presentations when you are a leader so you can teach others what you have learned.

g. Christine shared her definition of unified leadership - “grow leaders to succeed”.

4. Jeanne shared possible next steps of Christine presenting to the AIC (tonight), the SOWI staff Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and perhaps the SOWI Board at their December meeting.

a. We talked about traveling to another state to participate in a regional Unified Leadership activity. Danny, Edward and others were excited. Christine talked about other activities she did at the training and she may come to one of our AIC meetings to present.

5. Self- Determination conference in the Dells – Eresi will be attending as a representative for Ozaukee for BDPP. Edward wants to go. Cole, Deb C. and Deb have talked about it, but not sure. Jeanne will resend to Cole and Deb C. and Edward, too.

1. Next meeting - November 16, Meeting – Madison office
2. Upcoming workshops
3. Sept 14 – Athletes-As-Coaches – site TBD
4. October 12 – Polar Plunge Ambassador - Neenah
5. November 3 – Athletes as Table Officials Basketball – Neenah
6. December 7 – Global Messenger – Milwaukee OASIS
7. January 25, 2020 (Region 7 only) – UW Whitewater Athlete Leadership Academy