

ALBERTA WEIGHTLIFTING ASSOCIATION

Affiliated with the CWFHC and the IWF

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This report is completed for the Annual General Meeting of the Alberta Weightlifting Association scheduled for May 25, 2008 in Red Deer, and covers the period from March 01, 2007 to March 31, 2008

I accepted the nomination for the role of Vice President last year with the intention of increasing Calgary participation in the AWA. I was able to attend most of the executive meetings in Edmonton and we communicated a great deal by email and telephone. This works quite well and I would encourage any Calgary member that has the time and interest to participate in the AWA executive or one of the executive committees.

I would like to reiterate Charlie's comments that this past year has been a very challenging one, particularly in building a stronger association throughout the entire province. To that end I have been representing the AWA here in Calgary to help The Altadore Weightlifting Club (AWC) develop the sport of Olympic Weightlifting. The AWC have decided to add an Olympic Weightlifting program to their facility. In the past Altadore has had a strong Olympic Weightlifting Program but over the years the emphasis shifted more to gymnastics and general fitness, likely due to their close association with the Altadore Gymnastics Club, home of Olympian Kyle Shewfelt. Eric Rogers, an inductee in the Alberta Sports Hall of Fame, and member of the 1980 Canadian Olympic weightlifting team, is very involved with the AWC, and we have been working closely with Eric to advise and assist them.

I also worked with the executive in developing an equipment loan agreement for the Tork Weightlifting Club, and the AWA subsequently provided financial support to the Tork Weightlifting Club. This Equipment Loan Agreement can be used to help any club needing weights and assistance in getting off the ground.

It was great to see so many AWA volunteers at the Casino fundraiser and many familiar faces from Calgary. We realize that it is a big commitment by all members to get out and support our fundraising efforts and we thank you for doing so. This event, which happens each two years, provides a big part of the funding necessary to help our athletes and buy new equipment.

Congratulations to Charlie Klaver and his team of volunteers for hosting a very successful 2008 Western Canadian Championships and Alberta's 50th Anniversary celebration of Olympic Weightlifting. Although I was unable to attend, I understand the event was a great success and made Alberta proud.

The biggest challenge facing our sport in Alberta today is the recruitment and development of junior athletes. As Charlie discussed in his report, the AWA needs to look towards implementing a Junior Development program to maintain the growth and viability of Olympic Weightlifting here in Alberta. Your ideas and support are needed and welcomed.

In closing I would encourage all members to participate in one of our committees such as the one reviewing our Constitution and Bylaws, our youth development program, or serving on the executive for a term.

Yours truly,

John Hayes
Vice President
Alberta Weightlifting Association