

President's Report

October 16, 2010

As president of the SPA, I am pleased to report to the membership on this past year as I am excited about the direction we are going with the sport in the province.

Saskatchewan sent 6 females and 9 males to Quebec City for the 2010 National Powerlifting Championship. Also, 4 females and 2 males represented Saskatchewan in the Bench Press National Championship in Quebec. At the 2010 National Championship, I was also successful in writing and attaining my National referee certification, giving us two National referees in the province. Following Nationals, Rhaea Fowler and Carter Balaberda lifted at Sub-Junior and Junior Worlds in the Czech Republic, while Ryan Stinn helped coach at this event. Rhaea Fowler also represented Canada at the Junior Bench Press World Championship in Texas, and again Ryan Stinn attended as a coach. The number of lifters attending National and International events this year is down from what it has been in the previous years, however I believe with Junior and Master Worlds in Canada next year, Saskatchewan has the possibility to send a large team to both events.

This year saw the SPA apply for, and receive, a grant through Service Canada to hire a university student for 12 weeks as a Program Coordinator. As far as I know, this is the first time any Powerlifting organization in the country has had a paid employee. A hiring committee was struck and Rhaea Fowler was hired as the Program Coordinator for the summer. It was very exciting to have a summer student as we were able to get a large number of projects completed, including getting out to Maryfield School to do a presentation on the sport, and sending out information to a large number of high schools throughout the province in an attempt to grow the sport. Rhaea was a valuable asset as a paid employee and I appreciate all of her hard work completed this past summer. We will be applying for a grant again for the summer of 2011, so hopefully we will have the opportunity to get more work completed this upcoming summer. As well, Rhaea compiled the information needed to apply to Sask Sport for Powerlifting to receive provincial recognition as the Provincial Sport Governing Body. The application was submitted for the September 15 deadline and we are currently waiting to hear back from Sask Sport as to where we are at with our application.

We are also continuing to move our contests around the province. Provincials were held in Esterhazy and Last Chance was held in Weyburn. One of the goals of the executive is to move contests around the province to provide exposure to different communities to the sport of Powerlifting. I want to ensure we continue this practice as I feel it is beneficial to the sport. I would also like to see us host more than 2 contests per year, to give lifters from the province an opportunity to lift in more local contests.

It was with sadness that we said goodbye to Jeff Butt who came to Saskatchewan in 1996 and moved to Moose Jaw, where I first met him. Jeff was the person who kept the SPA going through the thin, when memberships were down. Jeff's passion for the sport was evident to anyone who met him. At the end of 2009, Jeff made the decision to move back to Newfoundland for personal reasons. We have missed him in the province, and will continue to miss his presence at all Powerlifting related events in the province. I want to personally thank him for all of his work within the SPA.

For the next year, I would like to see us work towards the following goals:



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- continue to work towards Sask Sport recognition
- grow our membership to at least 45 active members
- continue to produce our newsletter twice a year
- increase the number of affiliate members we have by having each active member get 5 new affiliate members
- get more interest out of the high schools in the province, with the possibility of running a high school contest
- support the planning committee of the 2011 Sub-Junior and Junior World Championship
- apply for another grant for a summer student to work for the SPA

In closing, I want to thank the membership for allowing me to serve in this capacity. I feel we are continuing to promote and grow the sport within the province and I am excited about the direction we are going. I also want to thank Aaron Ziffle and the rest of his helpers for running this Provincial Championship and I wish everyone the best in the next year.

Yours in Lifting,

Ryan Fowler
Saskatchewan Powerlifting Association President