



**TSWAA**  
**Report to WSUSA**  
**January 1, 2012 – October 7, 2012**

The Tri-State Wheelchair & Ambulatory Athletics (TSWAA) had a very busy year hosting meets and continuing to search for new ways to include disabled individuals in wheelchair and ambulatory sports competitions. It was also fun cheering on the athletes from the Tri-State area that represented the US at the 2012 Paralympics. We cheered especially hard for those athletes from the North Jersey Navigators and the Children's Lightning Wheels: Ray Martin, Jessica Galli, Brian Siemann, and Cheryl Leitner. Ryan Chalmers from the Rochester Rookies was another member of Team USA's athletes who came up through the junior ranks. Jimmy Cuevas, coach of the North Jersey Navigators, also attended the Paralympics as a track coach. Kudos to Ray Martin who in his first Paralympics won four gold medals and we say good-bye for now to Jessica Galli who was in her fourth games and earned a bronze. In addition Gianfranco Iannotta was a member of the ParaPanAm games. The Tri-State region (NJ/NY/CT) had great representation on Team USA for the Paralympics. Following is a list of athletes, events and home state:

New Jersey: Track and Field – Jessica Galli, April Holmes, Cheryl Leitner, Raymond Martin, Brian Siemann; Cycling – Monica Bascio; Goalball – Lisa Czechowski; Table Tennis – Pamela Fontaine; Judo – Cindy Simon.

New York: Track and Field – Ryan Chalmers; Soccer – Chris Ahrens; Table Tennis – Tahl Leibovitz, Equestrian, Donna Ponessa; Wheelchair Basketball – Steven Serio; Wheelchair Rugby – Nick Springer.

Connecticut: Table Tennis – Tara Profitt; Rowing – Alexandra Stein, Andrew Johnson

During the 2012 season we offered a full schedule of meets including: two regional games; a regional swim meet; an invitational (training meet); and a fun adult and junior meet. An indoor invitational meet, hosted by the HSC Cruisers in Glastonbury, CT, had to be cancelled for the first time due to the small number of registrants. The meets that we did hold were the following: Tri-State Regional Swim Meet sponsored by Children's Specialized Hospital at Rutgers University open to juniors and adults; the Children's Specialized Invitational Track and Field Meet held in Union County, NJ open to juniors only; the Tri-State Regional Games held at in Jersey City, NJ at St. Peter's University, Liberty State Park and Lincoln Park for adults and juniors; the Masons Regional Games held at North Brunswick, NJ for juniors and the annual Burke Games held at the Burke Rehabilitation Hospital in White Plains, NY for adults and juniors. At the Tri-State Games we welcomed athletes not only from our immediate RSO but also from Maryland, Virginia and Pennsylvania. Please refer to the chart below for additional information.

<b>Meet</b>	<b>Month</b>	<b>Type Meet</b>	<b>Meet Director</b>	<b>Sports/Events</b>	<b>No. Participants</b>
Children's Specialized Hospital/TSWAA Swim Meet	March	Sanctioned, Adults, Juniors	Trisha Yurochko	Swimming	27
Children's Specialized Hospital Invitational	May	Non-Sanctioned Juniors	Trisha Yurochko	Track, Field	29
Tri-State Games	May	Sanctioned, Adults, Juniors	Debbie Armento, Trisha Yurochko	Track, Field, Archery, Table Tennis, Weightlifting, 5k Road Race	62
Richard B Cadmus Regional Games (formerly known as the Masons Regional Games)	June	Sanctioned, Juniors	Ralph Armento	Track, Field, Swimming, Table Tennis, Slalom, Weightlifting	42
Burke Wheelchair Games	September	Non-Sanctioned Adults, Juniors	Ralph Armento	Track, Field, Slalom, Table Tennis	67
Tri-State Archery Shoot	October	Juniors, Adults	Ken Bagala	Archery 30m&50m	6

For the Tri-State Games we applied for and received a grant from the Wounded Warriors Foundation to include the veterans. We reached out to and spoke to the local VA hospitals and initially the hospitals agreed to bring their members to the games but due to scheduling conflicts, transportation and staffing issues they were unable to attend. One of the issues we face is that most of the vets serviced by our VA hospitals are older and less motivated to re-engage in athletic competitions. We also included the ID's (Intellectually Disabled) for the second time and it is proving to be a win-win situation. They are learning how to compete at a higher level meet and we are learning how to better integrate them into our competitions. A win-win situation. We also held a 5K road race at Liberty State Park, a beautiful venue, and welcomed runners, wheelchairs and handcycles. The road race is one of the races in the Wheelblazer Grand Prix, sponsored by the Kessler Foundation and the Tri-State Region of WASUSA. The Grand Prix is a program to promote athletics in the Tri-State wheelchair community. The program has 3 goals:

- To promote year round exercise,
- To increase the number of Tri-State wheelchair athletes,
- To ease the transition from Juniors to Adult sports.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Race</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Distance</u>
4/21	EARTH DAY 5K	JERSEY CITY, NJ	5K
05/06	THE BLUE CROSS BROAD STREET RUN	PHILADELPHIA, PA	10 MILES
05/20	COLFAX MARATHON	COLFAX, CO.	MARATHON
05/19	TRI-STATE GAMES 5K ROAD RACE **	EDISON, NJ	5K ROAD
05/20	TRI-STATE GAMES 5K TRACK RACE* **	EDISON, NJ	5K TRACK
05/28	THE KESSLER WHEELCHAIR 10K	RIDGEWOOD, NJ	10K
06/09	RICHARD CADMUS REGIONAL 5K* (JUNIOR ONLY)	N. BRUNSWICK, NJ	5K TRACK
06/16	RICHARD WEST 5 MILE	LONG BEACH ISLAND, NJ	5 MILES
07/08	THE BOILERMAKER	UTICA, NY	15K
07/14	BELMAR FIVE	BELMAR, NJ	5 MILES
08/12	The FALMOUTH ROAD RACE	FALMOUTH, MA.	7 Miles
10/7	THE JERSEY SHORE HALF MARATHON	SANDY HOOK, NJ	1/2 MARATHON
10/21	The KESSLER FOUNDATION STROLL 'N ROLL (AND RUN!)	Bloomfield, NJ	5K
10/28	MARINE CORP. MARATHON	ARLINGTON, VA	MARATHON
11/17	ROTHMAN INSTITUTE 8K	PHILADELPHIA, PA	8K
11/18	PHILADELPHIA MARATHON, 1/2 MARATHON	PHILADELPIA, PA	1/2 or MARATHON

The events in bold represent championship events.

The Tri-State Board of Directors, following the lead of WASUSA, amended our By-laws to better reflect who we serve. Our acronym remains the same TSWAA however, our new name is *Tri-State Wheelchair and Ambulatory Athletics*. Several of our officials are also active members of the USAT&F Officials of New Jersey. Last year four of our officials presented a workshop on disabled sports to the New Jersey officials. This presentation was well received. Many of our officials have offered their services to other regional meets around the country. The Board of Directors has also been following and discussing the RPO proposal. Members of our board participated in the recent teleconference. Tri-State looks forward in supporting the needs of WASUSA and disabled athletes around the country.

## **Tri-State Wheelchair & Ambulatory Athletics Board of Directors – as of September 30, 2012**

### **Name and Position**

Brucato, Ken	Chairperson
Martin, Daniel	Vice-Chairperson
Yurochko, Trisha	Treasurer
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Armento, Debbie	Member-at-Large (Head Official)
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Bucchere, Shaun	Member at-Large
Cuevas, Jimmy	Member-at-Large
Galli, Phil	Member at-Large
Johnson, Jennifer	Member at-Large
Perez, Gilberto	Member at-Large
Wheeler, Joan	Member at-Large

Sincerely,

Ken Brucato, Chairperson TSWAA