



# USATOWA

The Official Newsletter of the United States Amateur Tug of War Association

March 2019

## **Rudy Kopp Birthday party**

Rudy Kopp's Birthday was held on March 2, 2019 at Woods Crossing in Brodhead WI. A nice crowd of Tug of War people attended to wish Rudy well as well as family and people from the area.



Rudy and Nancy Kopp greeting his many guests!



Live entertainment!!

Thank you to Erich Freiter and Nancy Kopp for awesome photos from the day!



Jeff Blackwell and Tim Scott traveled from Illinois to wish Rudy well!!



Some of the many Tug of War guys. Even 3 guys from Bluewater! Thanks for Making the journey to Wisconsin AGAIN!!



Bluewater Members enjoying a visit with Rudy



My favorite! My best OLE buddy Rudy!

## Secretary General Glen Johnson retires from TWIF Exec Board



Glen Johnson Secretary General of TWIF will retire at the TWIF Congress being held in Bilbao Basque Country in April 2019. Glen has held this position for 32 years. Glen's tug of war career started with the team of Rudy's Boys from Orfordville Wisconsin. He was an active puller within the Blackhawk League. At the time of USATOWA being formed Glen worked with Bob Pulfer, Rudy Kopp and Norman Legler to start USATOWA. Glen was the first USA coach to coach in the World Championships of TOW in Dundalk Ireland in 1978. The men traveled around the Midwest searching for teams, individuals and sponsors in their quest. Glen held several positions in USATOWA including President, Secretary as well as becoming an International Judge. Glen was instrumental in bringing the first World Championships to Oshkosh Wisconsin. The rest of Glen's story is that he is very important member of the TWIF

Executive Board. Glen will be missed for his hard work, integrity, and resource to many in the tug of war community.

To all members of TWIF: 28 February 2019

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have just sent you the Agenda for the Annual TWIF Congress, as you will see I am not standing for another term as Secretary General of TWIF. Although some of you may have already been informed.

There is no reason for my decision to not stand again other than I have been your secretary for 32 years and I feel that it is time for change. I want TWIF to continue to grow and flourish. There were 22 countries in TWIF when I became secretary in 1987, and now there are 72 countries.

I have been blessed to know the founders of TWIF and many of the founders of your national organizations. I have enjoyed my time as secretary and have had many friends across the globe.

It has been an honor for me to serve you, as I have always felt that the Exco serves the members and should do their best to make the sport grow with emphasis on the athletes.

It is also the responsibility of you as members of TWIF to support the ExCo as they are donating their time and time away from their families for the sport. Make sure that you as members of TWIF send in your reports and provide the necessary information to TWIF for Anti-doping for WADA. If TWIF does not meet the requirements, we will lose our Olympic recognition and will no longer be part of the World Games. We also stand to lose the IOC funding for further development.

As this will be my last congress, I look forward to seeing you all in Getxo.

Kind regards,

Glen Johnson,  
Secretary General of TWIF

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February 28 at 8:45 AM ·

News from World Games:

Stepping Stone to the Olympics

Four sports from The World Games set for 2024 Olympics. This was announced by the Local Organizers in Paris. The decision confirms the assessment that The World Games are a stepping stone to the Olympics.

Breaking (from DanceSport), SportClimbing, Skateboarding (from World Skate) and Surfing are on the list of proposed sports for the Games in Paris.

The last three sports are already on the programme of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, together with women's Softball and Karate, also two sports from the IWGA family. Most recently, Rugby made the leap from The World Games to the core Olympic program at the Rio Games 2016 and will be played in Tokyo as well. Karate, DanceSport, and Sport Climbing will also be represented with disciplines at The World Games 2021 (15 – 25 July) in Birmingham, Alabama. IWGA President Jose Perurena feels vindicated by this development: "A lot of The World Games sports are on the same level as the Olympics and the standard of the venues at our event is very high. This means that sports from The World Games can contribute to developing the Olympic programme." "With the exception of Golf, all seven new sports in the Olympic programme since 2016 have come from members of the IWGA.

IOC President Thomas Bach said after watching the Sport Climbing competition at TWG 2017 in Wroclaw, Poland: "Sport Climbing is a sport on the Olympic program in Tokyo 2020. Why? You can see here because with climbing you can address the challenges of modern sports. This means we have to go where the people are: to the urban centers. This urbanization of sport can be achieved very well with climbing and various other sports."

This assessment meets the expectation of Tony Estanguet, the head of the Paris 2024 organising committee. He said after the announcement of the proposal: The inclusion of the four sports responded to a need to make the Olympics "more urban" and "more artistic". He added: "This is why we have chosen to present four sports to the IOC that are as creative as they are spectacular, geared towards youth and completely in line with our vision."

The World Games did not acquire the status as "Stepping Stone" by chance. In November 2013 the International Olympic Committee approved a recommendation resulting in closer cooperation with the International World Games Association (IWGA). Recommendation N° 6 of the IOC Agenda 2020 says: The IOC and the International World Games Association should "... closely cooperate regarding the sports program composition and their respective evaluations."

In April 2016 IWGA President José Perurena and IOC President Thomas Bach signed a new Memorandum of Understanding. The agreement expresses that "the IOC recognises the importance of The World Games as a multi-sport event and the IWGA is committed to develop its activities in the Olympic spirit and in conformity with the Olympic Charter."

This decision has enhanced the status of our event tremendously. IWGA President José Perurena stresses: "The World Games comprise sports and disciplines which are 'ready-made' for the idea of developing the Olympic program by implementing competitions with a new appeal and different way of presentation." The IWGA President also made clear: "Our goal is not to make sports and disciplines ready for the Olympics. Rather, it works the other way around: We present competitions at the highest level in order to further develop The World Games as a unique multi-sport event. We have moved up to the next level. This works so successfully that the Olympic Games benefit from it in the modernization of their program. We are happy for the federations that can use our event as a springboard. At the same time, we are proud that The World Games are anticipating current developments in the world of sport and in this way also contribute to the further development of the Olympic Games."

The World Games is a multi-sport event staged every four years by the International World Games Association under the patronage of the International Olympic Committee. The 11th edition of The World Games will be held in Birmingham, Alabama, USA, 15-25 July 2021. 3,600 athletes from over 30 sports and 100 countries will take part in the Games.



USATOWA  
Annual General Membership Meeting  
Agenda  
March 23, 2019

President Welcome

Vice President Report

2018 Event Summary  
2019 Schedule  
Nationals 2019

Treasurer Report

2018 Summary  
2019 Budget

International Representative Report

Basque Country – April 26 & 27

[TWIF Agenda - April 2019](#)

Chief Judges Report

Rule book  
Judges for 2019  
Flow chart of duties

Scholarship Committee Report

Plaque

New Business

Youth development – Participants under 14 yrs of age  
World Championship - 2020  
Birmingham World Games 2021  
Medals/coins for 2019  
Warm ups/shirts for National teams  
Any other business that the Association needs to discuss for the good of the sport  
Announcement of Award/Trophy winners from 2018

Nomination of Officers - Nominations of Officers will open again at the meeting

President – Shelby Richardson  
Treasurer – Tim Feller  
Chief Judge – Harold Heindel

Tentative 2019 Schedule

5/19	Elko MN
6/15	Greeley IA
6/22	Footville WI
7/13	Monticello WI
7/20	Nationals – Monroe WI
8/10	Tug Fest
9/8	Princeton IL

# 2019 Schedule of Events

## United States Amateur Tug of War Association

<b>OUTDOOR EVENT LOCATION</b>	<b>Contact Person</b>	<b>Weigh In Time</b>	<b>Start time</b>	<b>Event Date</b>
Elko, Minnesota	Bill Gallager	11:00 AM to Noon	12:30 PM	05/18/19
Greeley, Iowa	Dave Kruse	10:30 AM to Noon	12:30 PM	06/15/19
Footville, Wisconsin	Shelby Richardson	10:30 AM to Noon	12:30 PM	06/22/19
Monticello, Wisconsin	Shelby Richardson	10:30 AM to Noon	12:30 PM	07/12/19
Nationals / Monroe, Wisconsin	Joe Hunter	8:30 AM to 10:00 AM (*)	10:30 AM	07/20/19
<i>Tug Fest / Illinois &amp; Iowa</i>	<i>Kari &amp; Loren Long</i>		12:30 PM	08/10/19
Ryan, Iowa	Dave Kruse	Noon to 1:30 PM	2:00 PM	08/24/19
Princeton, Illinois	Keenan Campbell	10:30 AM to Noon	12:30 PM	09/08/19
<i>European Outdoor Tug of War Championships (Castlebar Ireland)</i>	Shelby Richardson	09/04/19	-----	09/05/19 to 09/08/19

(\*) Teams may reserve a five minute time slot from 8:00 AM to 8:30 AM for test weigh ins (Contact the Chief Judge to schedule a time)

As of 03/05/19

*Non Sanctioned Event*