



The Florida Chapter of The National Wrestling Hall of Fame and Museum

NEWSLETTER

Volume 2 Issue 3

November 2018

About the Florida Chapter

The Florida Chapter for the National Wrestling Hall of Fame
was established in 2000.

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VISIT

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Mark your calendar
The *Class of 2019*
will be announced on
February 1, 2019!

The President's Podium

In our Spring and Summer newsletters I wrote about anticipating a great year for the Florida Chapter. Due to the hard work from our Board of Directors, whom I refer to as the Team, and, as my 7-year-old granddaughter would say "Best Day Ever", I will say "Best Year Ever". I cannot say enough about the dedication and the relationships of this Board and our volunteers. They commit hundreds of hours a year developing perfection in all of our events, strengthening our presence on social media, and improving Chapter procedures. Because of the growth of the Florida Chapter, at last year's retreat I implemented specific divisions within the Chapter. I also assigned a Board member or volunteer (Ambassador) to direct and develop a specific event or area of operations. This allowed each individual to focus and enhance his or her area of responsibility. 2018 proved it is working. Everyone stepped up and did a great job. Thank you, Florida Chapter Board and Ambassadors!

We have added new members to the Florida Team to continue to improve our commitment to the Wrestling Community. Pete Collins was moved to the Executive Board to represent the Florida Wrestling History Museum. There are three new team members: Steve Hall will chair the Girls Development position, Sal Basile will be the new Coaches Director, and Bill Crumb will represent Florida Amateur Wrestling Association. The new Board Members were reviewed and approved at our annual planning meeting earlier this month.

The goals of the Florida Chapter are to continue to improve its events and support the National Wrestling Hall of Fame. The Board has an exciting year for 2019 planned with new events to promote wrestling in


the State of Florida. Watch for announcements at a future date.

This organization will continue to support the future of amateur, high school, and college wrestling for boys and girls in Florida. The Florida Chapter takes pride in setting the standard for honoring inductees for their Lifetime Service to the sport of wrestling. We will continue to honor coaches, officials and contributors for their impact on wrestling.

We are looking forward to the 2018-2019 wrestling season. From the Florida Chapter Board, we wish Florida wrestlers the best of luck. We will see you in March at the State Championships in Kissimmee.

***Remember, when we do it, do it with class,
for we are honoring the best of the best***

Gary Townsend



Do right. Do your best. Treat
others as you want to be treated.

Lou Holtz

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, May 18, 2019

**NWHOF Florida Chapter
Wrestling Tournament**

Jesuit High School

4701 N. Himes Ave. Tampa, FL 33614

Standard USA age divisions

Freestyle, Greco, and Folkstyle

\$20 entry, \$30 for all 3 styles

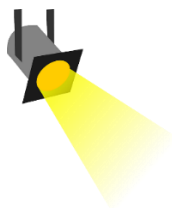
Madison weight system

Kids (Schoolboy & under): Weigh-in 8-9am

Wrestling begins @ 10am

Cadet & Juniors: Weigh-in 8-10am

Wrestling begins @ 11am



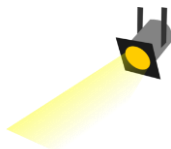
ALUMNI UPDATES

Stan Amsler Class of 2006

Stan recently spoke with Alan Solomon, Class of '16, and told him about his life since Honors Weekend 2006:

- He still lives in Brandon and has been retired from the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office for 15 years.
- Stan and Brenda have been married over 13 years.
- They are caring for two older dogs with some health issues.
- Stan and Brenda enjoy refinishing furniture together.
- He still owns a cabin in Georgia.
- Stan just returned from a hunting trip in Alabama.
- He works security at the Moffit Cancer Center in Tampa.

Victor Lorenzano Class of 2007



Vic is a busy man! He also spoke with Alan Solomon and shared the following:

- Alive and well and living in St. Cloud.
- Vic and Debbie have been married for 36 years.
- They have two children, Kristen and Nicholas, and two grandchildren, Landon and Alexander (Lex).
- He is at Harmony HS in Osceola County where he teaches Drivers Education and coaches wrestling.
- He recently visited his mother in Ohio to celebrate her 90th birthday!

The Origin of the Florida Chapter of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame

by Sam Agresti

In 1997, I was contacted by Rummy Macias, the wrestling coach at Mankato State College in Mankato, Minnesota. He was looking to send someone from Florida to a meeting at the National Wrestling Hall of Fame where they were establishing a program of state chapters for states that had the sport of wrestling.

Rummy Macias had credentials. He had been a wrestler at the University of Iowa, Class of 1948, an Olympic Trials wrestler, and went on to start the program at Mankato State College. Myron Roderick, the founder of the NWHOF, had asked Rummy to be the Florida representative because he was retiring and moving to Florida, but Rummy was unable to attend and asked if I would go to State Line, Nevada to represent Florida.

I attended the Conference and listened to the guidelines and proposals, feeling that I could come back home and implement the program of the NWHOF in this state. However, because I was still actively teaching and coaching at Santaluces High School, I decided I could not take on the big responsibility of organizing a state chapter alone and would need help.

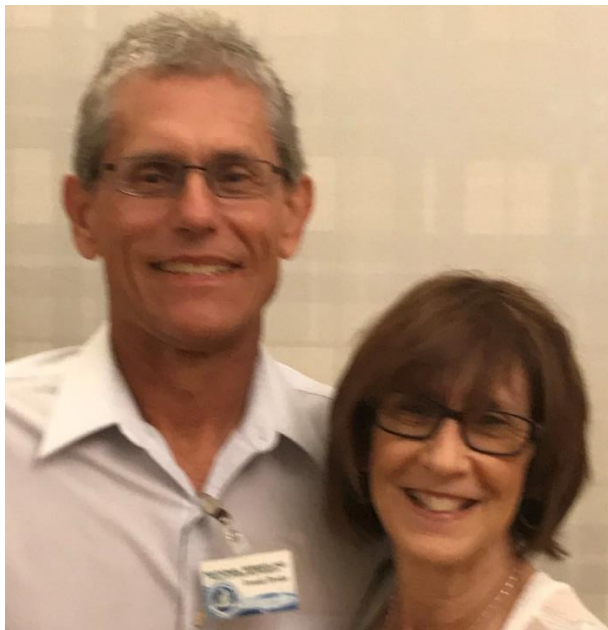
Fortunately, there were two very devoted wrestling parents whom I knew would do a good job organizing and working toward the goals of a new state chapter. They accepted the challenge! Jane and Gary Townsend have dedicated much time and effort to the NWHOF Florida Chapter since the beginning.

In 1998, National gave us their policies and procedures and, over the next two years, we gained board members and financial contributors. The inaugural Induction Ceremony took place at Greenleaf Resort in Polk County. Six people were inducted in our first class of 2000.

The Florida Chapter has inducted 122 members of our wrestling family. We continue to grow as an organization that loves the sport. Our chapter has received recognition from the NWHOF as a model chapter for its activities, especially our Honors Weekend.

2018 Honors Weekend

The weekend of August 10-12 was an experience the newest members of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame Florida Chapter will remember their entire lives. Friday evening's *Inductees Social* provided a relaxed setting for the inductees, their family and friends, Chapter alumni, and others to visit with one another. Saturday morning's *Testimonial Brunch* provided plenty of moments of both tears and laughter as two speakers shared memories of each inductee. Saturday evening's *Induction Banquet* was a formal affair, with the inductees quite elegant in their tuxedos. The next pages are a few words from the Class of 2018 about their once-in-a-lifetime weekend.



"The Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony was very moving for me and my family. Seeing wrestlers from 30 years ago was amazing. I will never forget Honors Weekend!"

Frank and Maggie Drake



Kari and Mike Crowder

“As I look back at my NWHOF honors weekend, I know I tried my best to take it all in. In hindsight, it all just went so fast! The whirlwind of family, friends, and former wrestlers was incredible, and I hope I got to see them all and spend enough time with each one. It was a weekend full of memories and laughter and I’m still in awe that I was deserving of it. I have watched the testimonial speeches over and over, and I am still blown away by them each time I listen to my boys. My only regret is that more of my alumni could not attend, and that I had not practiced my speech a bit better to keep it within the time and get it all in. That weekend is one I will always cherish. I am so grateful for the journey I have been on and continue to be on that all started with a middle school PE teacher seeing something in me I did not know existed.”



Bill and Sandi Mackey

“The Florida Chapter of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame Honors Weekend will always stand out as one of the most memorable moments in my life. Gary and Jane, as well as the Board of Directors and Volunteers of the Florida Chapter, greatly exceeded their goal of making each and every one of the inductees and their wives “feel like Royalty”. It was truly a fantastic experience to be recognized by the wrestling community, and to be feted in such a manner in front of so many relatives, including grandchildren, from all over the country. Kind of made us feel like Rock Stars!! The Induction Weekend also afforded me the opportunity to be humbled by my son’s testimonial, which would not have been made were it not for this very special occasion. I will be forever grateful for this experience, and want to express my heartfelt appreciation to the Florida Chapter of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame.”



Pete Meyers and family

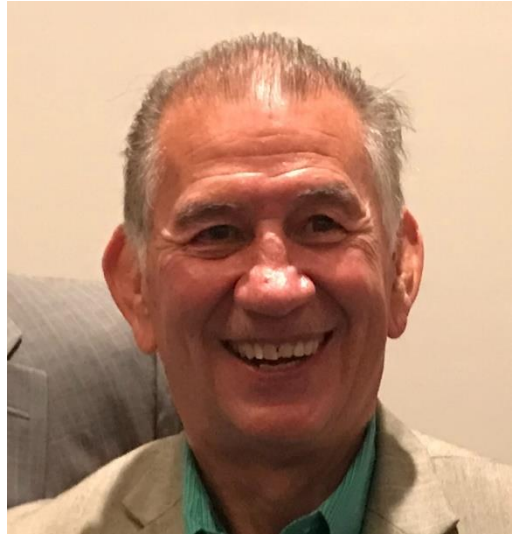
“Wow...what a great weekend it was!

A couple of months before the HOF induction weekend I was in panic mood as HOF Committee was asking for photos, trophies, and newspaper articles of the accomplishments of my teams. I never had scrapbooks of my state champs or collected news articles of my best teams, but I had all the memories of my wrestlers and team accomplishments up in my head. I told Wilbert Johnson, the guy that nominated me, that I had no documentation for the HOF weekend ceremony. Wilbert somehow organized former wrestlers of mine to get news articles, sneak into school trophy cases and get championship trophies, and do a nice display for my induction!

I reckon the thing that tickled me the most was seeing wrestlers I had in the 1980's and 1990's see each other for the first time since high school and talk about the good times. I just sat back and smiled and had such a glow inside me as I remembered how those kids were lost but found a purpose in the wrestling team that I coached. It brought me to tears seeing how so many of them are a success today, being great family men and great fathers, and by their words saying thank you to me for having developed them into great men and citizens! “



Tania and Albert Pardo



Gerald Brisco



Moises Rivera and family

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**COMPETITION
COMBO DEAL**

SPECIAL

\$67⁹⁵

All Gear
NFHS
COMPLIANT

MyHOUSE

The advertisement features a wrestling singlet with a red body, white sleeves, and blue geometric patterns on the lower half. It has a large red 'A' on the chest and a red waistband with a white 'M' logo. The background is a blue and white curved design. The text 'COMPETITION COMBO DEAL' is in large white letters on a blue background. A red banner with 'SPECIAL' and a yellow banner with '\$67⁹⁵' are prominently displayed. At the bottom, there are logos for 'All Gear NFHS COMPLIANT' and 'MyHOUSE'.

QUALIFIED CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS FROM IRAS

RETIREMENT PLANS

Certain IRA holders have the opportunity to make tax-free distributions from their IRAs to qualified charitable organizations. For tax-free eligibility, the qualified charitable distribution (QCD) must be sent directly from the IRA payable to the receiving qualified 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Eligibility and Donation Limit

IRA holders must be at least 70½ years of age before the distribution. In addition, beneficiaries of inherited IRAs who meet the age requirement can also take advantage of QCDs.

For those who qualify, the maximum IRA charitable distribution is limited to \$100,000 per tax year. Any distribution in excess of this limit will not qualify for the tax exclusion benefit and will be treated as ordinary income. The provision applies for Traditional, Roth, and inherited IRAs, but does not typically apply to distributions from “active” SEP or SIMPLE IRAs.

Benefits of a QCD

If a taxpayer makes the donation as prescribed by the IRS, then the distribution will be excluded from gross income and counts toward:

- The taxpayer’s \$100,000 exclusion limitation for the year the distribution occurs and
- The taxpayer’s required minimum distribution (RMD) for the current year

With the increase in the standard deduction for 2018 and future tax years to \$26,600 for married filing jointly age 65 or older and \$13,600 for single filers age 65 or older, more Americans will be using the standard deduction rather than itemizing deductions on their tax returns. QCDs are excluded from taxable income, but do not allow for an itemized deduction. If more individuals age 70 ½ or older use the standard deduction, the QCD is a great way to keep taxable income lower when satisfying an RMD and still get the full benefit of the standard deduction. By using the standard deduction, a taxpayer will receive no benefit for their charitable contribution unless it is processed as a QCD from an IRA. In addition, by not including a charitable donation from an IRA as ordinary income, an individual’s adjusted gross income is not increased, which could affect the ability to:

- Qualify for Roth IRA contributions
- Avoid other potential tax ramifications, such as:
 1. The 3.8% health care surcharge. (Even though distributions from IRAs are exempt from the 3.8% health care surcharge, taxable distributions from IRAs could push income over the threshold amount, causing other investment income to be subject to the surtax.)
 2. Paying more for Medicare Premiums.
 3. Taxation on Social Security Benefits.

QCD Tax Reporting

Typically, the custodian of an IRA will report a QCD as a normal distribution on the 1099R tax form, while QCDs from inherited IRAs are reported as death distributions. This gives the IRS no notification that an IRA holder intended to make a tax-free distribution from the IRA to a charity. It is the responsibility of the IRA holder or his or her tax preparer to properly report the QCD on a 1040 tax return. It is also strongly suggested that the IRA holder obtains a receipt from the charitable organization.

Is a QCD the right strategy for you?

Please seek the aid of a competent tax advisor or tax attorney for guidance.



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PCR# 032018-01 Stifel does not provide tax advice. You should consult with your professional tax advisor regarding your particular situation.

Coaches Corner

Sal Basile is the new representative for coaches on the Florida Chapter Board of Directors. Sal was willing to share his background with us.

"I am a 1993 graduate from Springstead HS in Spring Hill, FL. I began my wrestling career my junior year, finished 3rd in the state as a senior, and chose to further my wrestling career at Lindenwood University. After college, I returned home to Spring Hill, where I was the assistant wrestling coach at Springstead HS from 1996-2000. I took a brief break from coaching while my wife was pregnant with our first child. I returned as assistant wrestling coach at Springstead from 2004-2012, and head wrestling coach from 2012-2015. During that time our program won 3 state titles, 3 runner-up titles, and coached 28 individual state champions. In 2015, I took over as the head wrestling coach at Jesuit HS in Tampa where I am currently starting my fourth year. I have been married for nineteen years to my wife Christine. We have three sons, Ethan, Braden, and Mason. Ethan is currently a junior and Braden a freshman at Jesuit HS. Mason is in fifth grade.

I am excited and honored to be a member of the HOF Florida Chapter board. I hope that my wrestling background and experience will work to bridge the gap between those currently coaching, the wrestling community, and those who have been inducted into the HOF. Thank you for the opportunity!"

Officials Position

Bill Crum is the new representative for FAWA on the Florida Chapter Board of Directors. Bill brings knowledge, skill, and understanding of wrestling with him to the Board. He has over 30 years of experience coaching at the high school and college level, from New Jersey's Seton Hall HS freshman team to Rutgers University. Bill began officiating in New Jersey in 1973. He joined the USA Wrestling Officials in 1976 and is still a member, but Bill retired from active officiating in 2003.

Bill has been on the administrative side of wrestling for many years. He has been state chairman for USA Wrestling in New Jersey and New York, and is presently director of state teams for Florida USAW. Bill served on the USA Wrestling Board of Directors for 20 years, and has administrative experience at national and world championships. Bill was a volunteer at the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles and assistant competition manager for wrestling at the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta.

Bill has received numerous awards over the course of his career. Earlier this year the Downstate NY Chapter of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame inducted Bill for his Lifetime Service to wrestling. Congratulations to our new Board member!

Wrestler Pin Down

Steve Hall is the new representative for Girls Wrestling on the Florida Chapter Board of Directors. Steve wrestled in high school and beyond. He has wrestled freestyle and Greco on the state, region, national, and international level. Steve is presently the assistant coach at Palm Harbor University. Steve shared his thoughts on Girls Wrestling:

My vision for women's wrestling: I want to do my part to make it just "wrestling". I look forward to the day that people look back and can't remember a time when the girls were fighting for inclusiveness, equal stages and the respect of the other athletes, coaches, officials and state governing bodies.

These girls work so hard to prove they belong. The pressure of wrestling is hard enough for the average athlete. I couldn't imagine having to feel like I was being judged each time I took the mat; hearing some of the athletes, parents or other coaches say "you better not lose to this girl".

I, like everyone else, want to grow the girl's sport to a size that can sustain itself. I think it will be amazing to see gyms full of girls competing against each other! More than a few small tournaments a year. To get there, we as a wrestling community, need to encourage, recruit and push for the change.

I have a unique perspective. I am the coach and the father to one of those girls. The one who puts in twice as much time at the gym as most of her boy counterparts, hours on hours of extra technique, and travels the country just to find enough matches; doing all she can to show she belongs on that mat. It breaks my heart as a father, coach and true fan of our sport, when people prejudge and discount the amount of work she puts in, all because she is a girl; not recognizing her as a wrestler.

Breaking through the stigmas and walls is not easy. Rarely does complaining ever make the changes for the better. Most of the time, it means working twice as hard and MAKING people notice your efforts. I've been fortunate enough to work with some great young ladies. Let me tell you, they are up for the challenge and are fighting for their place in our sport. I just want to be there to support, encourage and guide these ladies, as they continue to earn their way onto the biggest stages our sport has to offer!

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Memories of Great Matches Involving Florida Wrestlers

by Ira Fleckman, Contributing Writer

Daniel Chrovian, Ft. Myers Team FLORIDA

VS

Erin Millsap, Team CALIFORNIA

I can tell you only this much about Erin Millsap. He was not only one of the very best wrestlers and most highly recruited wrestlers to come out of high school, but he was feared.

I refereed one of his matches against a kid from Illinois and I never saw him do anything illegal but the match resulted in an injury default. This youngster was tough and maybe a little mean.

Danny Chrovian was in my kids, club from day one. He was always undersized but could always surprise his opponent by shifting into another gear and scoring from anywhere. When Coach Gary Freis got Danny into his program, Danny became one of the most technically perfect wrestlers I have seen. He didn't make any unnecessary moves and he could finish anything he started. His matches with Lake Gibson's great wrestler, Keith Idleburg, were classics with Danny suffering a loss one year in the State Championships and the next year defeating the defending State Champion. Keith joined the US Army and became one of our top Greco-Roman wrestlers.

Danny had a dreamer's mentality and his dreams were not always focused on wrestling. Danny was to face Erin Millsap in one of the early rounds of the National Juniors. To be honest, no one realized that Danny had that bout coming up. When Coach Freis and the other coaches were busy at other mats, I was drafted to sit in Danny's corner. I got there as Danny took to the mat.

Danny took Millsap down with a single leg attack. Then he did it again. Danny couldn't turn Millsap but he seemed to have no trouble taking Millsap to the mat either. As the period drew to a close, Danny was leading Millsap by about 7-2. Millsap got a cheap tilt off one of Danny's shots. All seven of Danny's points came from clean takedowns. Danny appeared to be on cruise control.

My son, Solomon, arrived and recognized Danny's opponent and looking at the score noted that Millsap was probably not too interested in beating up a Florida wrestler. Then Solomon realized that Danny was the one ahead in the match. Solomon asked, " Does Danny know who he is wrestling?" I answered that I didn't think so and I wasn't about to tell him either. I moved out of the corner to allow Solomon and one of the other coaches to instruct Danny as to what to do in the second period. However,

somehow Danny got disinterested in the match and walked into a headlock and it was over. I never understood how a wrestler could lose concentration during a one-minute break.

Millsap went to college but, after a great start, was killed in a motorcycle accident.

Danny went on to Central Michigan where he wrestled fairly well for a year or so and, when there was a coaching change, Danny found other uses for his time. Danny is married with two great kids, a wife who has her PHD in Psychology, and he and his family have returned to Ft. Myers.

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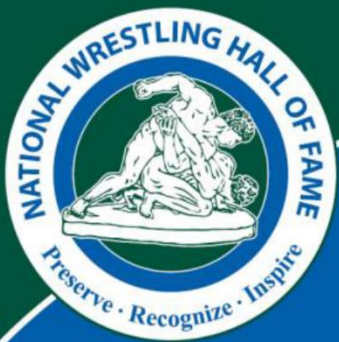
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Stillwater, Oklahoma



**State Chapter
Induction Banquets**



Waterloo, Iowa

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