

President's Report

October 2, 2021

We are back! What a great way to spend the weekend, attending a powerlifting championship after almost 19 months away from the sport we all love! I am so thankful we are all able to be here, lifting once again and seeing excitement and enthusiasm of all of our lifters, coaches and officials.

The SPA hosted 4 virtual competitions in 2020 and 2021 while we were unable to run competitions in person. The SPA board took on the challenge of hosting these events, not really having an idea how they would be received, but wanting to provide a venue for lifters to be able to compete and stay involved in the sport. The virtual meets were well attended by both new and experienced lifters and helped to continue to grow the sport and make it accessible to new lifters from around the province. While the SPA board enjoyed the opportunity to host these virtual competitions, I think I can speak for everyone that we hope we do not have to go back to hosting those again!

The SPA board spent the last year preparing for a return to in-person competitions, planning for executive changes and being ready to hit the ground running coming out of Covid-19 in a positive and encouraging manner. I want to express my gratitude to the entire board who spent many hours in online meetings, figuring out how to continue to provide opportunities for our membership. The work you have all put in and the decisions you have made have always been with the priority of our membership at the front of those decisions, and I thank you for that.

In closing, I am typically not sentimental, but it is hard for me not to be right now in my last duty as the SPA President. In 2005 at Provincials in North Battleford I was voted in as the SPA President, and I have spent the last 16 years in that role, serving the membership of the province and working to grow this sport. I have seen our association go from a membership of 19 in 2005, to a membership of 264 in 2019 prior to Covid. I have watched Classic lifting come into full force while equipped lifting has seen a resurgence of interest. In that time, I have seen 53 local competitions, 16 Provincial Championships, 3 Western Canadian Championships, 2 National Championships, 1 North American Championship and 2 World Championships all hosted incredibly well by members of the SPA! I have watched as our lifters have achieved high levels of success at the International stage, being ready to lift on those platforms because of the work the SPA has done to provide the highest quality competitions for our athletes here at home. I believe that the SPA is the leader in the country for powerlifting at multiple levels, and I know that every SPA executive member who I have had the opportunity to serve alongside has helped to shape what the SPA is and the leading association that we are. It is time to pass the torch, and allow the new executive to move the association forward in new and exciting ways. I want to sincerely thank everyone for the opportunity to serve in this capacity. I am so excited for the future of the SPA, continuing to grow and be a national leader for the sport!

Yours in Lifting,

Ryan Fowler

Saskatchewan Powerlifting Association President