

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

February 2020

Program:

- Solo FXs are all filled minus two slots later in the season. The team is actively recruiting for the Female FXs and the last four Couples spots.
- Our second partnership workshop with the COMMIT Foundation went extremely well. 14 participants of varying backgrounds from all over the country, and one WQW Alumnus (John Silkman) were in attendance for the COMMIT Transition Workshop. Ryan headed up all of the cooking, drinks, and upkeep during the event which was a huge undertaking but he executed the job of four people flawlessly. Commit remains excited to be partnering with WQW and we are finalizing plans to incorporate short “briefs” to be given to Solo, Female, and possibly Couples FXs this season
- Saul was in Houston 26-29FEB to speak on behalf of the Bush Institute for the exhibit opening at the Houston Public Library of the Portraits of Courage. The event was unfortunately cancelled literally an hour before hand due to a main waterline break in downtown Houston. However, Saul accomplished a lot more on the left and right of it. He made a Costco run and visited with WQW Alumni and supporters John and Sara Hosea. John recently underwent major surgery and is extremely limited for movement and mobility and Sara has him and two daughters to care for. From there Saul drove down to Houston and visited with the “Texas Mom” Terri Stanton near Houston. Saul also visited with Bush Classmate John Boerstler who is the President of Combined Arms to begin talks of partnership and additional resources for WQW Participants. More to follow as these talks transpire but all good stuff so far. Lastly, Saul made some new friends at NASA (yes, THAT NASA). He toured the Mission Control Spaces and gave his escorts some WQW swag.
- Coming up, Saul, Emily, Audrey, and Diane will be traveling to Fort Bragg to visit with our contact at “The Unit” or more commonly known as Delta Force to face to face and firmly establish their trust in our handling their personnel. The team will also be participating in several military activities like weapon ranges, observation of a close quarters combat demonstration, and briefs from different elements at the unit as well as briefs from an actual ODA (Special Forces Operational Detachment Alpha) at 3rd Special Forces Group on each of the team members’ roles, responsibilities, mission planning, and execution(s). Education and exposure are the main objectives for the team to better understand military culture, pace of work, and others...might even have them try MREs.

Development:

- \$120,000 sponsorships secured for Warrior Taste Fest
- \$50,000 Couples FX sponsorship received from WQW volunteers, VADM and Mrs. George Davis
- After five years of supporting WQW, we've secured our first site visit with the Oak Foundation trustee responsible for \$500,000 worth of funding.

- Know any car collectors? Gayle and Jim Soft are working with a gentleman who wants to sell his 1941 Studebaker Express Truck (only one in North America) and donate all proceeds to WQW. Valued at \$82,000.
- Received donation of 2 2020 Ryder Cup tickets for 5 days. Tapping all WI connections - need discounted/donated lodging for 7 nights (Sept 21 - 28) within reasonable driving distance of Whistling Straits.

Communications/Outreach:

- eNewsletter - March 3
- Annual Report- waiting on program numbers for intro narrative, everything else has been submitted to Classic Ink for a second draft.
- Upcoming events - Fire Pizza Fundraiser March 6, 5 pm - 10 pm, Sweat for the Vets April 15, 11 am - Lindley Park
- Marketing - Working on the second draft of the marketing plan, working on website with Concept Design - home page debut this week
- Warrior Taste Fest Updates- More vendors secured, all sponsorship grants submitted, logistics are coming along great!
- Selected video producer for short 3-4 min film. Will be filming on FX 6 this year! Debut at Warrior Taste Fest.

Administration:

- WQW 401K will start at the end of March.
- Job opening for part-time Administrative Assistant closed. Received over 30 applications and interviewed 3 candidates, none selected for job offer.
- Emily was selected as the new Director of Development, effective March 2.
- Col Brian Gilman was selected as the new ED, effective July 6, 2020.
- Capital Reserve Study company has been contracted, with Aleks Renshaw donating the funds.
- Meetings continue with Clemson to redo our survey and structure. WQW will be using a new survey, as well as tailoring how/when we send the survey out. This past year, we only received both pre-/post survey responses from 11 warriors.
- Furniture purchase for QWR great room has been canceled, per BoD instruction.