



A Tribute to Larry Newcomer

By Lloyd Rhoades Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, PJWC

Larry Newcomer, Area III passed away on Friday, December 18, 2020.

Larry became involved with Pennsylvania Junior Wrestling (PJW) in the late 60's. While still in high school, he began coaching his school's elementary wrestling team, as they prepared for the PJW Area III Tournament. After a few years, he became more involved with running Area III, eventually served in several capacities in Area III leadership, including a stint as the Area III Chairman.

In Spring of 2007, Larry became the state Chairman of the Pennsylvania Junior Wrestling Committee (PJWC). Larry was a leader in the expansion of PJW to the eastern part of PA, growing the organization from 8 Areas to 14, covering the entire state. Larry was instrumental in adding the 8 and under Division within PJW. Larry was later the force in forming the PJW Junior High Division, and creating separate tournaments from the Youth Divisions (8-U, 9-10 & 11-12) and the Junior High Division.

As his last initiative before retiring from PJW in the Spring of 2018, Larry set the stage to form the various Girls' Divisions in PJW. Larry's guidance helped propel PJW to the premier youth wrestling organization in the country. Simply stated, Larry loved the PJW, and ALWAYS kept an eye on what was important for the wrestlers. Everything else behind the wrestlers was subordinate in his eyes...he was there for the kids. In total, Larry served the PJW for an incredible 50 years – as a coach, Area officer, and as the PJWC State Chairperson for 11 years.

This writer served as the Secretary/Treasurer of PJW for nearly 25 years, and was fortunate to know Larry for all of those years, including the 11 years when we two were the chief organizational officers. I am lucky to have known Larry and to have worked hand in hand with him.

Larry's family has requested that in lieu of flowers, anyone wishing to recognize and honor Larry, please send a memorial donation to:

Pennsylvania Junior Wrestling c/o Lloyd Rhoades, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer
1138 N Eagle Valley Road Howard, PA 16841

Checks may be payable to "Pennsylvania Junior Wrestling" or simply "PJW." A note may be added to your check saying "Larry Newcomer Memorial."

For more information, you can email lar2psu@gmail.com or call me at 814-380-9516.

Thank you, and Rest in Peace Larry.
Pennsylvania Wrestling will miss you.