

# Editor's Note

**W**HEN DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL candidate Barack Obama rolled out his "hopey-changey" campaign message back in 2008, who'd have thought he was talking about transforming the world of professional wrestling? Of course, he was talking about fixing the nation's ills, not wrestling's. (Hell, he won't even cop to thanking WWE for entertaining our troops in the Middle East).

However, 12 months into the Obama Administration and it seems as if our great sport is closer to a renaissance than our great country is.

In WWE, for example, a youth movement of sorts gained momentum that carried over right into 2010. Men like Sheamus, Kofi Kingston, John Morrison, The Miz, and Drew McIntyre all asserted themselves as upper-card-caliber wrestlers. Indeed, Sheamus pulled off one of wrestling's all-time greatest upsets by taking John Cena's WWE title at the TLC pay-per-view in December.

Over in TNA, Dixie Carter and company staked its future on a fixture from the past: Hulk Hogan. In mid-fall, Carter announced Hogan had signed with the company. No role had been defined for Hogan at the time, but he clearly took it to mean he and Eric Bischoff were being brought in to call the shots in the Impact Zone. Though announced in 2009, the reverberations of the Bischoff/Hogan acquisition won't be felt until 2010 is well under way.

But even without the Hogan announcement, TNA fans still had plenty to be excited about last year. A.J. Styles, Daniels, Kurt Angle, and Desmond Wolfe, among others, were given ample opportunity to show their wares in the six-sided ring, and establish themselves among the sport's elite.

Vibes of a different timbre were felt in Ring of Honor over the past year, as its two greatest and best-known talents, Nigel (Desmond Wolfe) McGuinness and Bryan Danielson, were lured to TNA and WWE, respectively.

The ladies were far from stagnant in 2009 as well. Tara (formerly WWE's Victoria) packed up her spider and went to TNA, much to the chagrin of then-Knockouts champion Angelina Love, who was replaced by Lacey Von Erich in The Beautiful People after visa issues reared their ugly head. Tara and Love traded the title, as did Tara and ODB, who went from fan favorite to villain seemingly overnight. TNA also bid farewell to Rhaka Khan and Sojourner Bolt while welcoming Alissa Flash, Hamada, Roxxi, and Sarita.

Not to be outdone, WWE's Divas made their own headlines in 2009. Melina's star rose to the top of the roster, as she and Michelle McCool battled for the Women's title. Meanwhile, Mickie James and Maryse dueled for the Divas championship.

Yet as stable as things were for the women, a sea change blew through WWE's front office, as two McMahons bid a fond farewell to the family business. Former CEO Linda left to pursue a Senate seat as Connecticut's Republican representative, and Shane announced his resignation effective January 1, 2010. Shane gave no reason for his resignation other than "it is time to move on."

It's time we all moved on. But first we'll take one last look back.

—**Frank Krewda**  
**Editor-In-Chief**

PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED PRESENTS  
**WRESTLING ANNUAL™**

**STANLEY WESTON**  
Founder  
(1919-2002)

**PUBLISHER**  
Stuart M. Saks  
**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**  
Frank Krewda  
**MANAGING EDITOR**  
Jeff Ruoss  
**PRODUCTION MANAGER**  
Bethany Lawler  
**PRE-PRESS DIRECTOR**  
Cliff Campo  
**IMAGING DIRECTOR**  
Dave Dickey  
**ART DIRECTOR**  
Milosz Wachowiak  
**ART STAFF**  
Kevin Boone  
Meg Hine  
Samantha Weyant  
Laura Frankentfield  
Tina Boligitz

**SENIOR WRITERS**  
David Lenker  
Dan Murphy  
Harry Burkett  
Brandi Markiewicz  
Frank Ingiosi  
Al Castle

**CONTRIBUTING WRITERS**  
Al Alven  
Bill Meltzer  
Matt Brock  
Elizabeth A. Hunter  
Brian Solomon  
C.F. Hunter  
Tim Drake  
Brady Hicks  
Gerry Strauss  
Louie Dee  
Michael Moore  
Don Stradley

**CONTRIBUTING ARTIST**

LasteRoux  
**CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS**  
George Napolitano  
Duane Long  
Joe Zanolle  
George Tahinos  
Timothy A. Walker  
Mike Lano  
Koichi Yoshizawa  
Wayne McCarty  
Dorothy Lee  
Scott Romer  
Buddy LaMania  
Robert Beukema  
Matt Roberts  
Scott Finkelstein

**PRESIDENT**  
Despina McNulty  
**VICE PRESIDENT MARKETING**  
Steve Martin  
**CIRCULATION DIRECTOR**  
David Tyler  
**NATIONAL CIRCULATION MANAGERS**  
Bob Nucci  
Dave Hagman  
**RETAIL SERVICES DIRECTOR**  
Bria Coppola  
**ADVERTISING DIRECTOR**  
Connie Kolkka  
(215) 643-6385  
ckolkka@kappapublishing.com  
**SUBSCRIPTION INQUIRIES**  
Kappa Publishing Group Inc.  
P.O. Box 659  
Mt. Morris, IL 61054-0659  
386-246-0114  
CustSvc@kappapublishing.com

**COVER PHOTO**  
Wayne McCarty  
**COVER DESIGN**  
Milosz Wachowiak

PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED (ISSN: 1043-7576), Vol. 31, No. 4, 2010, is published monthly, including four special issues, seven double issues, and the PWI Almanac, by Kappa Publishing Group Inc., 6198 Butler Pike, Suite 200, Blue Bell, PA 19422. Periodicals postage paid at Blue Bell, PA 19422, and additional post offices. Postmaster: Send change of address notices to: Pro Wrestling Illustrated, P.O. Box 529, Mt. Morris, IL 61504-0529. Single copy price \$9.95 U.S./Canada (\$5.95 in U.K.). Subscription price \$108.40 in the U.S. (\$141.40 in Canada and Mexico, and \$198.40 in remaining countries). Not responsible for the loss or non-return of unsolicited articles or photographs, which will not be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed envelope bearing the proper amount of postage. The entire contents of this magazine are copyright ©2010 Kappa Publishing Group Inc. No part of this magazine may be reproduced without the written permission of the publisher. All rights reserved. Publisher is not responsible for the accuracy or content of any advertisements appearing in this magazine, nor the delivery or quality of merchandise or services offered. No endorsement of any such advertisement is intended or implied. Advertisers and agencies assume liability for claims arising from the content of their advertisements. FOR ADVERTISING INQUIRIES AND RATES: (215) 461-0583. U.S. and Canadian distribution by Kable Distribution Services Inc., 14 Wall Street, Suite 4C, New York, NY 10022. International distribution by Worldwide Media Service Inc., 115 East 23rd St., New York, NY 10005, U.K. distribution by Comag, Tavistock Rd., West Drayton, Middlesex UB770E, England.

Printed in U.S.A.