

Deedee Corradini

Deedee Corradini is a leader in the Olympic movement and one who is a champion of women in the events of the Winter Olympics. Her journey has not been a long one, but it is an interesting one and one which brought the Winter Olympics to the USA only for the third time.

When the selection of Salt Lake became official, she served on the Salt Lake Olympic Organizing Committee (SLOC) from 1995-2000 and in that time she was instrumental in helping to get women's bobsled and skeleton into the Olympics. She was included as a member of the USOC delegation when the Olympics came to Utah.

Deedee Corradini conducted a decade-long effort to bring the Olympics to the USA. She has spent untiring effort to bring women's events into the Olympic Winter Games, as well as her current leadership in WJUSA. She has now directed her attention to the litigation aimed at making women's ski jumping an event in Vancouver 2010.

She is the President of Women's Jumping USA (WSJUSA), continuing her campaign to get women ski jumpers into the Olympic Winter Games in Vancouver 2012 (ski jumping is the only event in the Olympic Winter Games that does not allow women—men's ski jumping has been part of the modern day Olympics since 1924). WJUSA filed suit in Vancouver to force the Vancouver Olympic Organizing Committee (VANOC) to allow women's ski jumping as an event. The FIS had already voted 114-1 in 2006 to allow a women's World Championship under its sanction, as well as inclusion in Vancouver 2010; four months later the IOC Executive Committee voted in the negative after a 5-year battle.

Born in Rhode Island, she spent her early years in Lebanon and Syria where her father was an educator at the American University of Beirut and President of two colleges in Lebanon and Syria. In those years she was fluent in French and Arabic. After returning from the Middle East, she went to high school in Maine, and completed her B.S. and M.S. at the University of Utah. Her skiing in the northeast was less than satisfactory. She served two Members of Congress as a Press Secretary and Special Assistant after her education was completed.

She returned to Salt Lake City in the 1970s, working as Assistant to the President of Snowbird Ski Resort, and there her skiing improved to its current expert level. As Mayor of Salt Lake City, she became part of the effort to bring the Olympics to Utah, losing the 1998 bid by only 3 votes, but winning the 2002 Olympic Winter Games on the first ballot, which is rarely done. She is the only woman ever to hold the office of Mayor, and served for two four year terms, from 1992-2000. She and her family are now living in Park City.