

Minutes of the Alabama Association of USATF Spring Meeting
Hampton Inn, Calera AL
February 26, 2012

President Henderson requested a motion to suspend bylaw Article 7 Section 3 because of Parliamentary inquiry. Motion was made by Ben Vail. Seconded by Dale Beard. All in favor. Motion passed.

The Membership chair confirmed there was quorum after determining that the following clubs were in attendance:

- Alabama Heat
- Birmingham Track Club
- Club Elite
- Hoover Parks and Recreation Track Club
- Mobile City Speed
- North Alabama Trackers
- Track Alabama
- US Elite

President Joseph Henderson called the meeting to order.

Officers present: Joe Henderson, Mary Birdwell.

Walt Bell proposed that the reading of the previous meetings minutes be dispensed as they have been handed out at the meeting. This was seconded by Ben Vail and the motion was passed.

Reports:

Secretary/Treasurer Report

Angela Vail - absent; her report sent with and read by Ben Vail

- Checking \$19,236.77, Money Market \$45,242.46, CD \$5,183.49. The checking and money market accounts have been moved to Compass bank, and the XC account has been closed. The CD is still at Regions bank but will be moved to Compass when it matures in June.

Membership:

Mary Birdwell Submitted the following report:

- We currently have 351 members, which is good for this time of year. Our biggest membership is our Youth, and that comes during the summer - I look for us to have about 1,000 again this year. We have 6 new clubs for the summer program.
- Zone meet: We don't have all the final details yet, but here's how it looks right now: we made around \$8,000.00 on entry fees, we'll get \$3,000.00 from USATF, and we took in \$2,800.00 at the gate. The cost of the Crossplex was \$5,400.00, and there were additional fees for Security, EMS, the trainer, shirts, hospitality, and the officials. We should actually make a profit on this meet, once all the fees are paid. We had 446 athletes, from every state in our zone except SC. Several records were broken - we'll know more after the zone meet being held today. Our Zone meet went very well - all the officials did a good job, and there were no official protests. Suggestions have been made for how to handle the awards area so that races can continue to flow smoothly and parents can still get pictures of their athlete(s).

Vice President

Richmond Brown

Absent

- No Report Received

Men and Women Track and Field

Marcia Westry

Absent

- No Report Received

Masters Track and Field

Bill Murray

Absent

- No Report Received

Officials:**Ben Vail** Submitted the following report:

- Ben Vail, the new certification chair, took office on November 14, 2011. John Bahakel, the previous chair, organized a clinic held on November 19, 2011 at the Birmingham Crossplex for new officials and as a required clinic for current officials. This clinic has been the best received and most successful clinic to date, with over 60 participants. Several members of the NOC were asked to participate. The NOC chair has asked our association to help develop a joint national and association clinic to be held in August of 2012.
- I attended the recent annual meeting of the USATF in St. Louis this past December. I learned that new procedures are being put into place for the instruction of new officials, as well as materials for the advancement of current officials. Each certification chair has been asked to help develop a practicum that can be used in place of a written test for national and master level officials.
- There have been a number of meets at the new indoor facility and USATF officials have served well at all these events.
- At the Vulcan Invitational (Indoor), an umpiring clinic was held by Gordon Bocoock from Kentucky. Our association had 23 officials attend this clinic. The materials from this clinic will be made available for our website in the future.
- Our association was asked by the national youth committee of the AAU to provide officials for their regional/national indoor invitational held on February 18, 2012. I was asked by the USATF national office to show the AAU 'good will' and help them out. Our association was able to provide 18 officials. The AAU youth chair informed me that the AAU has reserved the Crossplex for the next 3 years to hold their national youth indoor championship beginning in March of 2013. Based on the current and projected need for officials I do not see any way our association can assist in providing officials for those meets.
- Because of new changes for officials' advancement in the next Olympiad, officials will be required to participate in LDR events, race walk, mountain trail running, etc. I recommend all sports chairs look at ways to hold sanctioned meets in these areas so our association officials can meet these new requirements. In response to the new requirements I will be asking for additional funding during the next Olympiad to provide the necessary clinics.
- Our association is the first association to have officials certified under the new Electronic Measurement program. We have 9 officials certified as grade 1 electronic measurement officials. A program is being developed to certify officials for electronic recorders.

Racewalk:

Gene Tomlin

- Present, but no report provided.

LDR Masters:

Betram Golden

- Present, but no report provided.

LDR:

Edwin Hampton

- Present, but no report provided.

Youth Committee

Jeff Jackson Submitted the following report:

- The Youth committee met on a conference call on 2/22/12.
- Anyone who'd like to participate is welcome to be a part of the Youth committee. We talked about ways to increase membership and increase visibility among the youth. We're going to actively participate in social media – we have a Twitter account (usatf_alabama), and Samera will be handling this. We also have a Facebook page – usatf.alabama, and I'd like every committee chairperson to participate on the Facebook page.
- We'd like to purchase a USATF tent so we can be visible at meets, and we'd like to have a DVD running (on our site) so people can see our kids running and what our club does. We'd also like to find a vendor photographer for our meets, so that pictures will be available for both our website and for family members to purchase.
- We'd like to do two workshops, between January and August, for kids and coaches.
- We'd like to investigate the possibility of developing a college scholarship, a way of being able to put money towards an athlete's education.

Coaches Education

Demetrius Jackson

Absent

- No Report Received

President's Report:

Joe Henderson

- I'd like to commend our officials for doing a great job – whatever situations arise, you always get the job done. I think that is the basis of everything, so thank you very much!
- Committees are a very strong nucleus in the operation of USATF, and Ms. Krsak noted at the national annual Associations meeting, "If they're not doing anything then get them out of the way because they are holding us up."
- Samples of bidding forms and an LOC outline are available for review. For the LOC, I suggest either 9 or 11 members: 2 executive board members, 1 or 2 committee chairs, 2 or 3 club managers, 1 Association President, 1 legal officer, and 2 public officials from the city involved. The Meet manager or director should be someone who can communicate with everyone on the LOC and mediates and coordinates all their individual duties. USATF definitely REALLY cares about the LOC work.
- Background checks are very important for our coaches – get these taken care of.
- We'd like to make a bid to have the Zone Indoor Championship tied in with an Association Open/Masters met on the same weekend as the one we did this year.

Old Business

- Andy Martin has indicated to President Henderson that any association efforts to assist athletes must be made available to all. President Henderson would like to create a committee to investigate possible options to assist our athletes. Walt Bell, of the Finance committee, brought up how this would affect the association's budget. Mary Birdwell suggested that we consider funding part of the entry fee for those who go to the JO.

New Business

- Communication Coordinator – David Bullock indicated that the National USATF office has set up websites for all associations. Many associations, like us, already had a website. We don't have full control over the national "Alabama" site yet, but it is up and running. President Henderson noted that this will cost our association \$150.00/month for the first year, and then \$50.00/month after that. The purpose is so that a) the national office has one contact to deal with in each association regarding communications that go out, and b) e-mails and communications are appropriate on behalf of USATF.

- Youth chair Jeff Jackson reminded us that USATF gives travel grants for clubs/organizations to travel to National events. The deadline is March 15th, and you can find the application on the national website. This grant money would apply only to travel expenses (gas, etc.) – not to food or meals.
- Ben Vail has looked at some contradictory sections in our constitution – if you see something that you think needs changed, send your ideas to Angela Vail, the Secretary. She'll get these to the committee, they'll word things appropriately, and we can then make some bylaws changes for 2012.
- The Youth committee had a conference call to discuss bids for the Association meet. Joe Henderson had to take his bid out due to the field being redone this year, so Hoover Finish Line, managed by Jim Pugh, has the bid. This will be held at Hoover High School, and Devon Hind will be the meet director. President Henderson indicated that our association would help with funds for this meet if needed to help the meet run well. There was discussion about holding the meet at Samford, but that option would be cost prohibitive. Edwin Hampton made a motion to accept the recommendation to have the Association Championship at Hoover High School. Seconded by Dale Beard. All in favor. Motion passed.
- Two gentlemen want to develop a meet for paraplegic soldiers – they'd like the Association to promote it and to supply officials.

Motion to adjourn was made by Edwin Hampton. Seconded by Dale Beard. All in Favor. Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela L. Vail
Secretary-Treasurer