



USATF AL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

September 21, 2014

Following are the Minutes of the Annual Meeting:

- I. Meeting was called to order by President Molly McGregor. The officers are working on credentials right now. Don't anticipate any problems. Requested that everyone stand up and introduce themselves and state what they do within the association.
- II. Roll call and Eligibility of Board of Managers – Membership Chair, Mary Birdwell determined that 10 clubs were present. As those present would be voting on the bylaw changes, it was necessary to determine who would be eligible. There were 4 non-members plus two guests visiting from Wisconsin would not be able to vote. Walt Bell announced all voting categories and individuals assigned to each category.
- III. Approval of Minutes – Secretary, Gini Bell
Gini reviewed the highlights of the minutes from the Association Meeting held Sunday, March 7, 2014. Minutes were on the screen for those present to read. Copies were also available if someone wanted to have one. Website problems had prevented posting in advance. Motion to approve by Gene Tomlin. Seconded by Bill Murray. Verbal approved by those present.
- IV. Membership Report – Membership Chair, Mary Birdwell
Mary reported that we had 1138 members; 381 being over the age of 18 years; 757 under the age of 18 yrs. 44 active clubs are registered; 1 waiting for background check to be completed. As of this meeting, the association had 29 sanctions (a record) with several others expected yet this year.
- V. Finance Report – Treasurer, Angela Vail
 - a. Copies of the financial statements were available at the meeting. The Board of Managers had received the financial statements in advance of the meeting via email.
 - b. This is the first time that the Association has been able to provide a Balance Sheet. Values as of 8/31/2014 are:
 - i. Checking \$29,653.02;
 - ii. Money Market \$35,943.89
 - iii. Compass CD: \$5,293.45
 - c. Profit & Loss Statements for January – August 2014 were reviewed.
 - i. Income is still pending from National for the recent zonal event (approx \$3K). \$59K in revenue YTD. \$17K in professional fees plus official stipends for four meets in 2013 has been included.
 - ii. Arbitration costs – facility rental \$478.
 - iii. Computer supplies (new computer for Membership Chair)
 - iv. Equipment - \$1800 on meet equipment purchases
 - d. Budget Comparison – utilized a chart of accounts approach. Angela worked with two trainers to get this set up correctly. The transition to QuickBooks has worked out well for the association. 2014 is a



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transition year based on realignment of budgeting process. 12 month zero based budget is developed based on anticipated expenses and when revenue was expected. Gate revenue was not factored in and provided a good cushion. Revenue of \$73K vs a budget of \$45K. There are still additional expenses to be incurred during calendar year 2014. Full budget spread and historical background is now available. Meet costs were higher than expected but will allow for better budgeting in 2015.

- e. Kudos to Angela and Walt for bringing the financials into parity for the organization. The Association now has an operating budget and a documented record of all expenses. We now have history and this will aid us in 2015 budgeting. Each meet budget will also be scrutinized going forward. This continues to be a work in progress – EZ990 and link to bank are coming.
- f. John Bahakel moved to accept the report; Bill Murray seconded the motion. Verbal vote accepted the report.
- g. If there is surplus at the year end, it will be the decision of the Board as to how this will be handled. The documents will be posted on the website.

VI. General committee Reports

- a. Youth – Jim Pugh; hosted several successful meets. Regional meet had more athletes than anticipated. Cross Country scheduled for 11/15 at Montevallo (new track being built); Indoor: Events on the Association calendar from December – February include: Association Youth Championship; Hoover Alumni Event, Reindeer Meet; Association Invite and Zonal Championship. Outdoor events for 2015 are also scheduled. National JO's will be bid on in late 2015. Clubs are encouraged to host meets but were requested not to schedule on dates already identified as Association meet dates. National calendar requires specific dates for Association meets.
- b. National Youth Report – Mary Birdwell
 - i. 88 clubs participated across the region (AL, MS, LA, TN); 12 athletes made All American; Region in 2015 will be at Middle Tennessee State University followed by National meet in Jacksonville, FL. National X-Country Meet will be in Myrtle Beach. Top 10 in each age group will automatically qualify from Association to the National meet. Made \$14K at the regional meet this year.
- c. Men & Women – James Fakunle
 - i. Meet at the Cross Plex scheduled for December. Considering a Spring Championship. Considering marketing with local YMCA's in order to increase interest. Outdoor championship to be scheduled.
- d. LDR – Alice Biggs
 - i. Working on sanctions; 2014 distance events include: Vulcan 10K; 11/23 Ruben Studdard events; Huntsville marathon (December); 2015 Championship series will be held in Montgomery through Greg Miles (two course options).
- e. Masters – Bill Murray
 - i. 6/28 at Birmingham Southern – Cleared approx. \$1,000. Indoor Championships will be 12/27 at the Cross Plex; Outdoor championships will be 6/6 at Hoover. At the request of



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Masters Athletes, Bill's committee members engaged in discussions with the Visitors & Convention Bureau and the Complex. Thus far, favorable rates have not been able to be negotiated. Masters LDR event was held – Alice will coordinate this in the future.

Discussions with Russell are continuing but there appears to be limited interest on their part.

- f. Race Walk – Jeannine Kaiser
 - i. Mike DeWitt (guest) just relocated from Wisconsin. He has extensive background in race walking and has agreed to take over this committee. Master level official; chair for multiple years; national champion and world cup competitor; coach. She will assist him on his committee. The transition of the Chair must have this approved at the Board level. Jeannine reported that the first Race Walk Championship was held and it was quite successful. Nineteen athletes from around the state participated – all performed well. Certified officials are still needed.
 - g. Coaches Education – Paul Brueske
 - i. Level 1 certification was held in 2014 and is already scheduled for 2015 at South Alabama. Had good participation.
 - ii. Level 2 is available in Atlanta for those that are interested.
 - h. Officials – Ben Vail
 - i. Association started with 129 active officials; 52 apprentice; 33 association; 27 national; 12 masters. Over 500 years of officiating experience. Officials were selected for a variety of national level events and altogether they have worked over 50 indoor and outdoor meets. NCAA is no longer trying to create a separate officials group. Alabama is one of three associations across the US that has held clinics and our modules will be used at the National level. Electronic measurement materials are being developed for a clinic later this year.
 - ii. National outstanding officials' award was presented to Dionne Yeatman.
 - iii. The Association is down over 100 officials from a few years ago. The schedule of meets is posted well in advance. It is important that any club event be included on the calendar so that officials have visibility. Coaches cannot be lead officials.
 - i. John Bahakel moved to accept all Committee reports; seconded by Houston Young. Verbal vote taken and reports were approved.
- VII. Presidents Report – President Molly McGregor
- i. The report acknowledged the work of the officers and committee chairs. Molly thanked the association for having confidence in her ability to bring her non-profit leadership background and skills to make the Association a stronger organization. Molly sought to implement a diverse cabinet that would incorporate new ideas in the organization. Molly spoke of the complexity of issues and challenges that have faced the organization in the past year. Molly shared her observed that the dysfunction that is hampering the overall Association is a racial divide within the group. For the Association to reach its potential, it is necessary for all members of the Association to work toward the common goals of the Association, and not pursue personal agendas. The Association exists for the athletes and positive and inspiring



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behavior is required for the future viability of the organization. The report was well received by those in attendance.

- ii. Motion to approve the Presidents report was made by Bill Murray. John Bahakel seconded the motion. Verbal vote approved the report.

VIII. By Laws Amendment discussion – Molly McGregor and David Bullock

David gave his report. There was an overall lack of participation by the Board of Managers. Board Members received all amendments in advance of the meeting. Amendments have been posted on the Association website for 60 days. Sixteen (16) amendments to the amendments were received. Ben requested that David be authorized to make clerical errors. Bill seconded this motion. Bill made the motion that the group focus only on the proposed amendment changes as everyone has had access to the information for 60 days. Ben stated that it was necessary to review the by laws article by article. Verbal vote gained acceptance of this approach. Gene Tomlin would be the timekeeper. The process to be used at this meeting to discuss the proposed amendments will be: A parallel format will be used to review each proposed amendment change. To limit debate, Bill proposed that there will be two speakers for each amendment; one minute each. David accepted the motion. Molly requested understanding from all present. Those present voted to accept this approach. Molly reviewed the parallel process and what had been provided to the membership for consideration. Each amendment needs a majority vote. The entire package requires 2/3 vote. All votes will be done verbally. All amendments were reviewed and voted on. At the end of the amendment review, the overall by laws were accepted.

Article I – name; accepted

Article II – Definitions – International Athlete; new language of the proposed amendment (#2) accepted.

Article III – Purposes; it was agreed that the existing bylaw proposed language would be accepted as written; the proposed amendment (#3) outlining duties would be withdrawn and that the content would be outlined in the operating guidelines, yet to be developed.

Article IV – Authority; accepted as written

Article V – Constituency; accepted as written

Article VI – Meetings - Quorum; proposed amendment (#4) modified to state the lessor of 10% or a minimum of 20 voting members must be present; new wording accepted.

Article VI, as amended was approved.

Article VII – Voting-Election Notice; proposed amendment (#5) modified to delete the last four words (except for special needs); accepted.

Article VII – Voting – Nominating process; proposed amendment wording (#6) accepted.



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Article VII – Voting – Counting of Ballots; proposed amendment wording (#7) accepted.

Article VII, as amended, was approved.

Article VIII – Officers and their Duties-Limitation of terms; proposed amendment wording (#8) accepted.

Article VIII – Officers and their Duties-National Delegates; existing bylaw proposed language accepted. The proposed amendment (#9) was returned to Committee to be considered as a future operating guideline. National requires a minimum of 8 delegates from the association. Diverse representation and affordability to send the required number of delegates discussed.

Article VIII, as amended, was approved.

Article IX – Board of Directors – Composition; existing bylaw proposed language accepted; proposed amendment (#10) defeated.

Article IX – Board of Directors - Voting members-athletes; national stated we need to add; the proposed amendment (#11) was accepted.

Article IX – Board of Directors – terms for board members; existing bylaws proposed language will remain; proposed amendment (#12) withdrawn.

Article IX, as amended above, was approved.

Article X – Committees - Committee chairs – appointment/election; existing bylaws proposed language passed; proposed amendment (#13) was defeated.

Article X – Committees – Committee chairs – election; proposed amendment (#14) with the exception of the math error, (25% of eligible voting members in good standing) was approved.

Article X - Committees – Committee chairs – election; existing bylaw proposed language needs to be modified to read the same as Proposed Amendment #14 – 25% of eligible voting members in good standing. Proposed amendment (#15) was defeated.

Article X was approved as amended.

Article XI – Disciplinary Authority; accepted existing bylaw proposed language

Article XII – Grievances; accepted existing bylaw proposed language

Article XIII – Sanctioning; accepted existing bylaw proposed language

Article XIV – Legal Matters; accepted existing bylaw proposed language



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Article XV – Dissolution; accepted existing bylaw proposed language

Article XVI - Saving Clause; accepted existing bylaw proposed language

Article XVII – Amendments-Submissions; proposed amendment (#16) was accepted with approved grammatical change (who are members...).

Article XVII was approved as amended.

- Question: Were there any other amendments which need to be brought forward to this discussion: James submitted via email and wanted to revisit #9 (this is to be returned to committee for consideration under future operating guidelines).
- Jeff wanted to revisit #3 (GA language); this amendment was withdrawn and would be considered under future operating guidelines. Ben stated purpose is to be general in its statement – this is written in accordance with National; Bill stated that Jeff’s proposal will restrict us as an organization. Bill would be in favor of these items being included in the operating guidelines.
- Laura – definition of Masters classification pg 12 should be amended to be in sync with the national website. Bill clarified the difference between age 30 and 35.

Motion to approve the new bylaws was requested. Second received. Vote by both voice and show of hands. The new bylaws were approved to incorporate the article changes voted on above.

IX: Future meetings of the Association.

Semi-annual meeting scheduled for 3/8/2015. Location TBD.

X: New Business

John Bahakel proposal for members of our association that are in lead committee roles at the national level. This benefits the association and it is requested that associated travel expenses be considered in a similar manner as that of officers who travel to national meetings. Currently we approve \$500. The request was seconded. Discussion: These requests will need to come before the Board to ensure funds are available. Motion was approved.

Safe Sport

Molly and David attended a workshop on background screening. The USOC demanding all their organizations (including USATF) to complete a more in-depth screen. SafeSport Manual (on internet). Parents Coaches, Officials will be required to pass this test by the end of 2015 in order to become certified.

XI. Adjournment – Molly stated that she was pleased with the engagement of the group in the discussion. Bill made the motion to adjourn. Charles seconded. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Gini Bell, Secretary