

USATF Connecticut
Meeting February 12, 2020
Minutes

Attendance: Bob Fontaine, Dave Driscoll, Peter Hawley, Irvine Fox, Rick Hammer, Sasha Benjamin, Deb Petruzzello, Mary Anne Daniel, Leanna Gray, Jim Barber

- I. Approval of Minutes from November 13, 2019
 - Minutes were reviewed, there were no objections.

- II. Reports
 - President
 - Information from Annual Meeting
 - Change in Workshop format for Youth and Associations
 - National Office changed the workshop to occur during the meeting. There was a lot of overlap in material between workshops and meeting content.
 - He encouraged them to add more content for people who have been president of their association for extended duration.
 - Our Board members (officers and committee chairs) need Safe Sport and Background check. 30 minute Safe Sport update annually.
 - Board members will need to be self-directed through this as national does not provide this and review is uncertain.
 - A Safe Sport waiver has been created to cover volunteers at our events. Volunteer must sign and have photo id. Not for long-term use.
 - Events not run by the Association do not need Safe Sport but there is a “standard of care” Association XC Championship all need safe sport or waiver.
 - New website continues to be a work in progress.
 - New email system should be online soon.
 - There is an issue with the mail distros that has inhibited our webmaster’s use of it. They are aware of this and are releasing fixes and trainings on it.
 - We will have an opportunity to have our site hosted on National’s.
 - This would save some funds but limited our creative control over our content.
 - Met with financial representative regarding sanction money/IRS. Their opinion is that checks we receive for paper sanctions we can deduct the amount we pay National in determining annual receipts.
 - There is concern about this. Our return was a 990 EZ which was prepared. National is requiring receipts of Tax filings.
 - Cost of membership will be going up. Maybe as much as \$25youth / \$40 adult AAU is \$16. Subject of a lot of debate/controversy
 - This seems like a short-term fix to the declining membership rates.
 - Membership nationally is down 4% with largest decline in Youth. National feels we need to do a better job at marketing. In CT in 2015 we had 1387 youth and in 2019 we had 1553 youth. This is a 9% growth.
 - Concern that the membership cost increase will accelerate this trend.
 - They cite rising expenses as the reason for this
 - Five-year trend USATF declined 6844 and AAU up 10,000
 - We were one of 30 Associations fully accredited.
 - We exceed the minimum for full accreditation by with so many championships and competitions
 - We exceed it in officials.
 - Wyoming no longer an Association

- Vin Lananna won his arbitration and resumed Presidency
 - Bonnie Edmondson received Alumni Service Award at opening session
 - o Bonnie was on the National Women's Commission, promoting women's involvement in the sport from competition to officiating.
 - o Association awarded a USATF Grant for purchase of a laser measurement device.
 - The device has come in but not the funds.
 - We had a training for the device and it was very well received.
 - Our Accreditation report has been filed with National
 - Marketing kits from National arrived – pencils, phone pockets, lip balm, ear buds, etc.
- Treasurer
 - o Completed our 2019 990EZ tax return and will mail this week. Posted on our site
 - o We were a little over the maximum for filing at electronic “post card”
 - o We had applied for an association in need grant, and when we were no longer in need, we returned the money for them to redistribute. This was well received by National.
 - Financial Report

Checking Balance as of 2/11/20	\$83,487.31
Out Standing Checks	\$ 2,144.86
Reconciled Balance	\$81,342.45
January payment from National	\$ 3,256.05 (deposit 1/31)
Anticipated Balance	\$84,598.50
 - Above numbers reflect the \$1,285 paid out to Cross Country Grand Prix.
 - Four Annual meeting participants have not submitted expenses.
 - o We are growing again financially as well as in membership. Last year was rocky however after making good on all commitments, we are beginning to see that this growth may be prolonged.
 - o In light of this financial growth, we still relocated a meet because it was a financial detriment to the association. At this time, it has worked out for the better, as the attendance spiked dramatically, with minimal attendance losses of the originally registered crowd.
 - o Bob Fontaine brought up the possibility of a youth series during the winter, to be hosted at Bethel. This site is set up exceptionally well for running meets quickly as straights and ovals can be run simultaneously in different locations.
 - o From the event that was cancelled, we notified all parties who provided a means of contacting them that the event was rescheduled.
 - o Peter makes the point that though events may be a financially negative meet, we do have funds available to spend on events that benefit the sport.
 - o Irvine highlighted that varying locations in a series would benefit youth clubs who may have to continuously travel a long distance
 - Membership 1129 as of 2/11/20 last year at this meeting we had 1201
 - Standing Committees
 - Officials
 - National cannot make new ID badges right now.
 - Sanctions
 - Alan has been sending in the checks; Bob has been depositing them.
 - Website
 - Brittney has mentioned that she is looking for help with newsletters, as the old mailing system is not working properly. The new system may rectify this need.

- Marty Ogden is wondering if we would share our twitter account access with him and would allow him to make posts from our account. He is from MileSplit.

Masters LDR

Open LDR

- First RRGP race is the PLR 5k in New Haven on March 1st.
- Second will be the first Sunday in April – Middletown 10 Miler

Racewalk

- So far there are 17 coaches who are promoting Race Walking.
- The goal is to be a scoring event in track meets
- An idea is to have a USATF meet hosted to provide the racewalking community an opportunity to qualify for New Balance Indoor or Outdoor. This would make our association a leader in racewalking.
 - o Could piggyback this event on an existing highschool meet, preferably an invitational.
 - o Possible events for this would be Middletown Invitational, Hartford Invitational, or the O’Grady relays
- Maryanne and Ron are officiating the Olympic Trials

Youth Track and Field

- Youth national date has been changed from the originally published one.
- Litchfield XC girls ran well in Madison WI, placing 4th with 2 All Americans.
- Irvine’s club ran well with 1 All American
- It is expensive to host a youth championship due to ancillary costs.

Masters/Open Track and Field

- Numbers for Masters/Open meet are up
- Middletown track will be able to host throws and javelin once complete, which would be great for Masters throwers

MUT

- Peter is concerned about whether we have a MUT series as RDs are asking him about them. It would be good to coordinate them with the RRGP

III. Old Business

- Indoor Youth/Open/Masters Meet Postponed to February 23 at Bethel
- Any Other Reports from Convention?
 - o Reno was a difficult location due to it being a non-smoke-free establishment.
- Legal Update
 - o Fee agreement has been signed and attorneys are requesting further reimbursement from other party.

IV. New Business

- Outdoor Open/Masters Championship – Bethel High School June 28
 - Dave checked with Torrington as well, but they did not respond.
- JO meet June 20 Bethel High School
 - Bethel was again the better price and respondent.
 - This is likely due to restrictions particular to whichever group is the responsible party for facilities in the different towns.
- Other
 - Jim Barber: is there a way to do broadcast emails. Response: There is but it is currently broken.
 - Background checks and safe sport: This needs to be something where the user is self-starting and motivated to complete. We need to be checking our board members and ourselves to make sure we are completing these. This also applies to directors of any clubs linked to Youth.
 - Bob mentioned that USATF does not disclose how they score associations for purposes of receiving association awards.
- Next Meeting April 8 (No meeting in March)