

Minutes of the Alabama Association of USATF Winter Meeting
Acadome, Montgomery, AL
February 28, 2010

The secretary determined there was quorum after determining that the following clubs were in attendance:

- Alabama Sports Festival
- Birmingham Track Club
- Montgomery YMCA
- Hoover Track Club
- Hoover Track Foundation
- Sprint South
- Huntsville Metro Track Club
- Mobile Parks and Recreation
- Mercury Alabama

President Henderson called the meeting to order.

Officers present: Joe Henderson, Richmond Brown, Mary Birdwell, and Walt Bell.

Previous meetings minutes were read and accepted.

Secretary/Treasurer Report

Checking \$4,128, Money Market \$19,183, 2010 XC Checking \$9,583 as of 2/4/2010

Unfinished Business

Status on the 2010 National USATF Cross Country Meet at Veterans Park, Hoover, AL.

- Mary Birdwell
Championship will affect all parts of the state as people driving there will be coming from north, south, east and west. City of Hoover has been most cordial in providing the course, paramedics, police, everything we can think of. It is up to about \$25,000 in in-kind money they will provide to us free. We will set up a group there that's fundraising and any of you that would like to work is to set up somebody in each of your areas that might like to help us raise funds. The more money we raise will make it better for our Association. Please work in each of your areas to get athletes to enter the cross country meet. We must hold the Regional in Hoover as this is a requirement of the contract. We will run the Regional meet and Alabama Association meet together but we will score it separately. Ebsco Media has agreed to print 2500 color program for USATF Alabama for free.
- Steve Bedsole
Showdown Meet will be the preview meet on October 10, 2010 at Veterans Park, Hoover AL.

Richmond Brown

Transition from previous administration to Joe Henderson's has been very smooth and everyone has hit the road running. We have had a great transition. I am looking forward to working with Joe the next two years. Joe will continue with this J.O. meet, it started about two years ago under my administration, and Joe has kicked right in, and the transition has been very smooth.

Reports:

National Convention

- Richmond Brown - LDR meetings, discussion as to age groups was the main topics. Minutes of LDR meetings are on the USATF website.
 - Mary Birdwell - I attended some of the Association meetings to get in touch with the membership part. They reviewed accreditation and reviewed the web site requirements. Mary introduced Kenan Brock was 1st and 2nd in the 100m and 200m in the state and was 3rd in the 200m at the Youth World Games in Italy. William Murray won the National Masters Championship and is attending one right now. Youth meeting we approved starting in 2011 to take the sub bantam to the national meet. They will not do all events. Myrtle Beach got the Cross Country National Meet and Wichita, Kansas got the JO meet for 2011. The 2010 Summer JO will be in Sacramento, Ca.. I also attended the Coaches committee meeting.
 - Walter Bell - I attended Rules, Youth, Associations, 1 Mens, and Official Committees. I also attended two of the Officials training clinics.
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Joe Henderson - Special thanks to Edwin Hampton and Harriett Hampton for their attendance at the National convention. Also Richmond Brown represented USATF Alabama admirably while not feeling 100%.

I attended the Association division. Our first session facilitators were Andy Martin; Director of Grass roots Programs and Sherry Quack, National Office Liaison to the Associations. Their lectures were centered on:

- Sanctioning-is an official designation issued by USATF through a local Association which approves and license the holding of a competitive T&F long distance running or race walking event. The sanction is a contract which commits the event to follow the national and international rules & regulations of the sport & to provide a safe environment for the participants and spectators
- Purpose- Increase prestige, Liability insurance, Records, Resolving disputes, Special discounts and promotions
- Membership-Clubs should use the internet more for registering their athletes and members more members were acquired through the internet than ever before in the history of the USATF.
- Full accreditation for Associations; Lack of knowledge gets in the way of progress in associations.
- Resistant to change prevents growth of associations.
- Unified by-laws at the national level for all associations, the threat of the associations comes from age or the inability to get along with others in the Association.
- Multi administration for clubs; the use of cashier's checks, money orders, checks and cards for registration. Filing income taxes will be up dated according to rules.
- Back ground checks; all coaches and assistants must comply.
- Association web page must meet new regulations.
- Association officers, committee chairs or substitutes must attend workshops.
- Associations should set up committees to market their products using kits and brochures.
- Scott Irvin; we need to clean up the associations.
- South Zone, Jackie Callender; the most common problem with Associations, grievances. Another rising problem is "conflict of interest". In most cases the individual or group that is pointed out will lose the case because the conclusion is simple; If the accused is guilty of using his/her power to direct or guide any interest for them self or their business, they will lose the case.
- Coaches can no longer sign for athletes; clubs cannot use one club membership address for all athletes, use individual addresses.
- Associations should have more work shops for their committees.
- Managing the Association money; See 2008 major changes.
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Membership:

Mary Birdwell reported USATF Alabama had 1097 members in calendar year 2009: 280 were adult memberships and 817 were Youth memberships (19 and under). At the present time we have 235 members of which 147 are adult memberships and 88 are Youth memberships (19 and under). We have 5 sanctions on file at the present time for 2010 with several more to come. We have 10 clubs registered at the present time.

Racewalk:

Tara Shea Dempsey-(Paul Dempsey reported) 5K College , Open and Masters racewalk Association Championship at Alabama A&M. on the 6th of March, 2010. Plans are being developed for a separate 3K and 10 K championship this year.

Officials:

John Bahakel was not able to attend and submitted his report. Calendar year 2009 began a new Olympiad for Officials Certification. All USA Track & Field Officials must be re-certified. In addition, the National Officials Committee (NOC) began requiring that all Certified Officials must be active members of USATF in order to remain in good standing. For us that means Officials must pay a certification/clinic fee to be certified and also pay ANNUAL membership fees to USATF in order to remain in good standing.

USATF membership fees can be paid annually or on a multi-year basis (which will result in a small savings over the annual fee). These membership fees are paid directly to the National Office and can be paid by

check or on-line. When you pay your membership fee the National Office will issue you a membership number which is good for one year. That number is different than your Officials= number (which remains with you forever).

This Olympiad the NOC designed the Officials identification badge to get a stamp to show whether or not you are current in your dues and in good standing. Each year you must report the new USATF membership number to the Officials Chair and will receive a sticker to affix to your credentials to indicate that you are in good standing. This also activates your liability insurance coverage.

During 2009 there were approximately 100 Officials who renewed their Officials certification or were certified as new Officials. Out of that number, only 33 have forwarded their renewal membership number as requested. Once the renewal number is received and logged a sticker is issued to be attached to the Officials= credentials. However, the stickers are designed NOT to travel well. For that reason, I have been unable to mail stickers to Officials.

For those Officials who are present today and have their Officials card, stickers will be available. For everyone else who is an Official in good standing...other arrangements will need to be made.

The USATF 2010 Rules Books are not yet available; however, the 2010 Rules changes are available on-line for download. Our President has approved my request to order Rules Books for distribution at clinics. Hopefully, those books will be available before the season ends.

USATF also has available a "Best Practices" series, a collection of methods to officiate which, if utilized across the country, may help in making officiating practices more consistent. You can check those out at the Officials website: www.USATF.org/officials then follow the links.

If you have questions about Officiating USATF events feel free to contact John. If you have questions about AHSAA Officiating feel free to contact Mary Birdwell.

Masters Track & Field:

William Murray is competing at this time. No report available.

Mens/Womens Track & Field

Connie Tolbert McClinton reported a meet on March 6, 2010 at Alabama A&M the Bulldog relays. Please include me in the planning of any meets, so I am aware of them.

LDR Masters:

Lyle Coleman, No Report

LDR:

Ryan Bourque has accepted a Cross country coaching position at Northwest Louisiana University. No report was given

Youth Committee:

Mary Birdwell, Regional Coordinator, states that the 2010 USATF Association meet will be held in Hoover, AL., our USATF Regional youth meet will be held in Monroe, Louisiana; the 2010 USATF Nationals will be held in Sacramento, California. The meet for the youth, open and masters championships is to be held June 5, 2010 with the Birmingham Track Club. 2009 Cross Country Meet we had 38 participants. 5 qualified went to the National Meet in Reno, NV. Coaches must be background screened or you will not be admitted free to the Regional or National Meets. This is to be completed on-line at the USATF web-site and the cost is \$8.

Coaches Education:

Paul Breuske was unable to attend, but did send in a report.

In 2009-10 my goal was to offer Alabamians more professional development opportunities through USATF Coaching Education. We accomplished this goal with two USATF Level I Coaching Education Schools in Alabama. The first was at Birmingham Southern in May, which had over 30 participants, and the last was a few weeks ago in Mobile at the University of South Alabama, with 28 persons that registered. I can tell you

that this was the first time ever that two Level I schools were offered in Alabama in the same year and roughly 50 more people have or will be certified track coaches.

For 2010, my goal was to offer Alabamians more professional development opportunities through USATF Coaching Education.

- Host another USATF Level I Coaching School in-state or regionally.
- Host a USATF Developmental Course, possibly in conjunction with a USATF Association or Regional Championships. (The USATF Coaching Education Developmental program is intended for beginning coaches or volunteers at any level. Two of the primary objectives are to present guidelines of coaching responsibilities and to offer an overview of training as it applies to various age levels. The Developmental program covers basic fundamentals, safety/risk management, and overall concepts of the sport of track and field. The Developmental course is an ideal program for in-service training, parents, or coach's meetings. Developmental schools are four-hour courses that focus on track and field and related sport science. The course is primarily classroom training. Attendance at all sessions is required.)
- Host a track clinic in conjunction with the Mobile Challenge of Champions.

President's Report:

.Joe Henderson- Recognized new people in attendance. Joe Jenkins the head Track and field Coach at Prattville Christian Academy. [Golden Bertram, a national ranked distance runner a few years back and now a very good middle distance and sprint runner. He competes annually in the Police & Firemen's meet in Birmingham, Alabama. Kyle Rose is one Huntsville outstanding marathon runners, he has had great races in the Rocket City Marathon.](#)

We plan to host a Masters Meet in Huntsville, AL. on May 15, 2010.
Larry Wells was a recipient of the Phidippides Award.

[The President made a very positive statement to the group "there should not be one manager guilty of not giving a positive helping hand in making sure that the 2010 USATF National Cross Country be a great success". All of them should participate on some committee or volunteer work.](#)

RECOMMENDATIONS

- TO HAVE AN ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET FOR OUR ASSOCIATION, GIVING RECOGNITION TO OUTSTANDING ATHLETES, COACHES, OFFICIAL AND OTHER IMPORTANT INDIVIDUALS ASSOCIATED WITH THE ASSOCIATION.
TO SET UP A FORMULA SO THAT WE CAN FINANCIALLY ASSIST OUR ATHLETES WHO
- QUALIFY FOR THE NATIONAL JUNIOR OLYMPICS.
- .TO REVISE AND SET UP A NEW AND IMPROVED FINANCIAL FORMULA FOR DELEGATES WHO ATTEND THE USATF NATIONAL MEETINGS AND WORK SHOPS.
- TO SET UP A CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE TO REVISE AND UPDATE OUR CONSTITUTION WHERE NEEDED.

New Business:

Steve Bedsole reported Larry Wells of Hoover, AL was a recipient of the Phidippides Award.

Joe Henderson is proposing for our input an annual award banquet for athletes, coaches, officials or other important individuals associated with the Association. To set up a formula so that we may financially assist our athletes that qualify for the National Junior Olympics. Also to revise the formula for delegates that attend the National Meetings and workshops. Additionally to set up a Constitution Committee to make sure we are in compliance with USATF National Association.

Jay Shine is now the State director for the Hershey Program. and gave us information regarding Hershey Meet in Greenville, AL on the 3rd Saturday in May.

We would like to mention the wonderful provisions that Alabama State University made for us to have our meeting and the great meal that was served.

Respectfully submitted,

Walter Bell
Secretary-treasurer

