

**USATF VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION
SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING
FEBRUARY 8, 2015**

Those attending:

Jim Holdren— President
Ray Funkhouser-Vice President
Annette Sirica— Secretary
Robert Disse— Men's T/F Chair
Marquita Mines— Women's T/F Chair
Dave Gammon
Melissa Johnson— Membership Chair
Deborah Snagg
Tom Nadeau
Stan Morgan
William Anderson— Officials Co-Chair
Chris McCann— Officials Co-chair
Bill Boyd— Officials' Training Chair
Ralph Snyder
Melody Hundley
Steve Taylor— UR T/F /CC Coach

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm by the President.

Secretary's Report:

The minutes from the September 14 meeting were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report:

President Holdren reported the following:

As of January 9, 2015, the checking account had about \$14,000.

Convention delegates and JO National runners have gotten their reimbursements.

After moving \$10,000 into the checking account, the investment account now has \$309,287.

Committee Reports

Race Walk— Ray Funkhouser

Rules Update

- After 2 years of optional use, beginning January, 2015, the use of the new paddles with violation symbols the same on each side will now be standard in all USATF races.
- Road Race courses for all USATF Race Walk Championships will be from 1-2 kilometers. In length.

Championships

- The Virginia Association 1 hour Championship was held in Virginia Beach in November.
- The Tidewater Striders will again host the Association 2015 1500 meter Championships in August, and the One Hour Championships in November
- Steve Durrant has served as the Meet Director for these 2 Championships since they were first held. He will serve as the Meet Director for the One Hour Championships, and Steve Shapiro will serve as Meet Director for the 1500 meter Championships.
- Race Walk will also be a part of the Indoor Masters, Outdoor Masters, and JO Association Championships.

Officiating

- Virginia Race Walk Officials will also be a part of the officiating crew for Indoor Nationals, Pam Am race Walk Cup Qualifying Race, National Master's 20K, and the National Senior Games. Expecting more invitations for Virginia Race Walk officials as the year progresses.
- Thanks to the Officials' Committee for including Race Walk Update in several of the Officials Rules Meetings.

Submitted by Ray Funkhouser Race Walk Chair

Youth—Holdren reporting

Tony Vaughn, Youth Chair, was not at the meeting. There was no report submitted. The Association will be hosting USATF JO Regionals in late June or early July. The Association JO Championships will be sometime in mid-June.

Officials---Chris McCann and Bill Anderson:

Both Chris and Bill attended the 2014 USATF National Meeting in Anaheim, CA.

Whenever possible, Chris or Bill, or both will be attending all USATF certified training clinics held in Virginia.

Information from the Certification Chairs Meeting

- There are presently 7586 certified officials, an increase from 4 years ago. (2683 Apprentices, 1880 Associates, 1818 Nationals, and 1205 Masters). Virginia percentages are within 4% of these statistics. As of January, 2015, Virginia has 180 certified officials. An increase is expected after the 6 training clinics are presented.
- USOC is encouraging USATF to promote SafeSport Training into their policy for 2015. This program explains the expectations and requirements for ensuring a safe environment for all athletes, coaches, officials, and spectators. All Olympic NGBs will be required to implement this policy in the next few years. This will likely be required for USATF during the next Olympiad.
- Two (2) year background checks will now be required during the next Olympiad. Background checks will probably be required for next years' national championships.
- Tests will be re-created for next year's Olympiad certification. Massive complaints regarding vague and unclear questions, and incorrect answers on the answer key.
 - i. Previous tests were created by some members of the Rules committee. The responsibility has been transferred from the rules committee to the certification group. Future tests will be generated by a committee composed of certification chairs from various Associations. Apprentice tests will be ready January, 2016; all other tests ready by November, 2016.
 - ii. Tests will be on line with immediate grading. The format will not include as much fill-in-blank type questions, but more videos, illustrations, and diagrams. The tests are geared toward assessing situations rather than strictly rules memorization.
 - iii. Pathwright (www.pathwright.com) will likely be the testing administrator.
 - iv. There may be an increase in fees because of the administration by Pathwright. And background investigation fees.
- Questions from the floor regarding these changes: (there were no available answers at this time)

- i. Is there a reason the Certification chair cannot grade the tests?
 - ii. Can USATF use the NFHS testing process and software?
 - iii. Can some new money be allotted to certification to cover some of these new expenses?
- Future national level meets and NCAA meets may require the Certification chair to validate the credentials of attending officials. The Executive Committee was asked to consider allowing Certification chairs to have access to certification information from other Associations. The Executive Committee voted against this proposal.
- All certified officials will have their own personal certification account. They will update their personal account when changes occur. They may also take online tests without the Certification chair being involved. Certification chairs are still proxy to individuals certification information and updates.

Respectfully submitted

Chris McCann

Bill Anderson

USATF Virginia Association Certification Co-Chairs.

Officials' Training—Bill Boyd:

Clinic Attendance:

2014—5 clinics—181 participants

2015—6 clinics—anticipated attendance of 240.

- 95% of Virginia Association officials are senior officials. There seems to be a significant problem with retention of apprentice officials and recruitment of young officials.
- VHSL—relations are adequate, though more support would be helpful.

Long Distance—Mark Tomkins:

Mr. Tomkins was not at the meeting, so Jim Holdren reported.

Mark Tomkins will have to step down, due to family obligations. Jim named the accomplishments he had achieved in his short time in the capacity of Long Distance Chair, and he has organized and collaborated to give us 2-3 more Championships. He moved the Master's and Open Cross Country Championship to an earlier date. It is now held the last Friday or Saturday of August, and is in conjunction with University of Richmond's Annual Alumni meet.

Jim has suggested Steve Taylor, UR Coach, to fill the Distance Chair position. Nothing permanent was decided at this meeting.

In preparation for our USATF Association Open and Masters Cross Country Championships, Steve Taylor has proposed the following:

Day/date change—rather than Friday evening, the race will be held Saturday morning, Sept. 5. This should attract more runners—both Masters' and college club teams for the Open division.

Charging less. \$15/\$20 this year.

New race format—3 races—the USATF race would be a 5K—Open/Unattached/College Club/HS runners.

Possibility of a \$2000 grant from National for the winning team from each Association for travel costs to National Championships. More research is needed on this.

Men's Track and Field—Bob Disse:

The primary item of activity in the past 6 months was the 2014 USATF Annual Meeting. Below is a recap of my participation and other items of interest.

The **Annual Meeting** was held in Anaheim, CA the week of December 1, 2014.

Tuesday, 12/2 was the beginning of meetings, workshops, and sessions. I attended 3 sessions:

Youth Athletics, General Session—review of new rules, proposals, and major discussion of the implementation of the new javelins.

Men's Track and Field, Executive Committee—general discussion on the state of Men's group

Opening General Session—official opening of Annual Meeting

Wednesday 12/3 continued multiple sessions:

Associations—General Sessions-discussions on association operations, accreditation and business practices

Coaching Education—General Session-most important item is the changing requirements for certifications and recertification. Level I will require periodic recertification; a new textbook is being developed.

Men's Track and Field—General Session—Not an election year. A review of the new qualifying standards and format for major championships was presented. The new financial support for tiered athletes and the USOC backing was explained.

Thursday, 12/4 sessions included:

Awards Breakfast—a social event and a time to meet informally with other members or groups with similar concerns and interests.

Men's/Women's Track and Field—Junior High and High School Focus—The major topics were Safe Sport requirements and the new Pole Vault box collars. All Youth coaches are required to complete the Safe Sport course. The new ASTM approved box collars are now required across the board for NCAA, NFHS, and USATF 18 and under.

High performance Division—General Session-Discussions of meet schedules, qualifying procedures, Team USA selection procedures and Tier programs.

Jesse Owens Hall of Fame BanquetHall of Fame inductions

Friday 12/5

USATF Closing Session—Bylaw and appropriate business, votes, and closing remarks. Major by-law vote, and unrest within membership (Addressed by Jim Holdren in New Business section of this report.)

Additional items of note during the past 6 months:

1. Follow up on Old Business with Sportsbackers on designating some of their races as Association Championships. Sportsbackers answered that they were unable to accommodate the partnership.
2. I had the opportunity to meet with Stacy Dragila, Olympic Champion and new HOF inductee, to discuss the state of pole vaulting. We talked about the high school scene in our regions and what we were doing to expand the sport.
3. Mr. Holdren and I attended the **Podium Education Project**, (Coaches Education) in October. Major topics were "The Science of Tapering and Recovery", "Strategies to Optimize Bone Health", and "Strength Training to Improve Power"

Respectfully submitted Feb.8, 2015

Bob Disse
Men's T&F Chair

Women's Track and Field—Marquita Mines:

This years' focus will be to increase the number of individuals signed up as Open athletes and competing in USATF meets.

Steps to connect with potential athletes:

- Contact local and state college coaches, inquire whether there are athletes still hoping to compete.
- Contact local high school coaches who may have potential athletes who are hoping to compete in college but may need more experience and exposure outside of high school competitions.

Primary item of focus is increased interest and participation in the Association Track and Field Championships to be held in June.

Steps to increase Open participation:

- Website announcements
- Connect with track clubs in Virginia
- Advertise with Sportsbackers

Membership—Melissa Johnson:

Membership has nothing new to report.

A reminder from President Holdren: Everything is on-line. Individual memberships, team memberships, sanctions, and any other details concerning them can all be done on line. MUCH faster, and far more convenient.

Master's Committee—Ross MacDonald:

Ross is unable to be here due to the USATF Association Masters Indoor Championships held today in Winston-Salem, NC.

- The indoor Championship meet is being held February 8, 2015 at JDL FastTrack in Winston_Salem, NC. The meet is held in conjunction with the USATF SE Region Championship.
- The Virginia Association Outdoor Masters' meet has not set a date yet. Coordination between facilities and other committees has not taken place at this time. For calendaring purposes, a tentative date could be Saturday, June 20, 2015, Confirmation is needed from other committees and stakeholders.

Ultra-Marathon Road/ Trail Racing Report—Howard Nippert:

- New this year was a 50K Association Championship. It was held on the New River Trail in Galax last Fall.
- The Eastern Divide 50K will be held in Pembroke, VA on Mountain Lake the 3rd weekend in June.

Old Business:

Accreditation:

The current accreditation standards are quite rigid and somewhat inflexible. The Virginia Association met all of them except website and championships.

Website: Since hiring Andy Martin of Exclamation Services, our webpage has greatly improved. Andy has worked at the National office, and is familiar with the webpage specifications. He has since corrected the problem and our webpage is now correct.
Championships: We are deficient in particular categories of Championships, those involving distance races from 5K to 10 miles. The Championship rule is likely to change soon, so a re-evaluation will occur once that happens.

President Holdren submitted the required Improvement Plan, so the Virginia Association is now Provisionally Accredited.”

It is still required that we host more distance championships, and a new Chair of the LD Racing will need to establish collaborations with existing races throughout the state.

Association newsletter—Chris McCann:

2 newsletters were published last year, both looked very professional, and had results, information, and other content. Last year’s were printed before the Master’s meet in June, and again after the National meeting in Anaheim, CA.

The next edition will be coming out in March, 2015.

Chris McCann asks that race directors, club coaches, and others send him any pertinent information to be included. Chris’ email: vatrackinfo@gmail.com

Additional notes:

JO National Cross Country Champs report: 99 athletes from Virginia competed at the Championships in Myrtle Beach, SC, 56 from the Richmond Track & Field Club which had three podium team finishes; 17-18 Boys – 1st, 15-16 Girls-2nd, 17-18 Girls-3rd and 10 individual All-American s

Sanctions etc:

All sanctions are done ON-LINE. In addition, all memberships, club registrations, background checks are done on-line. Coaches with Youth clubs must do a background check yearly or their club will not be approved. In addition to losing racing privileges, an unapproved club is not insured.

Checking individual memberships:

To check your membership status, go to the USATF website (National), look under memberships and type in your name. It will tell you your membership status.

New Business:

Events Calendar:

Get any meet information to Andy Martin to upload onto our website.

Also send to Chris McCann for inclusion in the newsletter.

L-D Chair—Cross Country Championships:

Jim Holdren has asked Steve Taylor, UR Coach, to consider taking the position of the L D Chair. Steve was very accommodating and helpful in allowing the Association to host the Master’s and Open CC Championships in conjunction with the Alumni meet last August.

The Association would again like to hold the Masters/Open CC Championships with the Alumni meet. Steve suggested moving the meet from Friday to Saturday, as this will make travel easier, and attract more runners.

The date for the run next Fall is September 5, 8:00 a.m., Pole Green Park.

The entry fee will be lowered from \$35 to \$15.

All USATF members are encouraged to reach out to college club teams, UVA, Tech, William and Mary, and others that might be around.

IAAF Delegate controversy:

(Occurring at the USATF national meeting.)

Bob Hirsh has been a long-time delegate to IAAF, and has worked his way up to Senior VP of IAAF. Stephanie Hightower, (Ohio State alum) has been USATF President and delegate to USOC. Some members wanted her to replace Mr. Hirsh.. A vote was taken of the delegates at the national convention, and Mr. Hirsh was recommended by a vote of about 300-70. The USATF Board of Directors disregarded the membership and placed Ms. Hightower as the IAAF representative. This has caused a considerable amount of concern.

The question was raised as to whether our Association would like to write a letter protesting this action by the USATF Board. A lot of Associations have asked the USATF Board to reconsider this decision.

Ray Funkhouser, a representative on the Law and Legislation committee, explained that this year is a rule year, and not a law and legislation year. That will be next year, and this situation will surely prompt some changes in legislation regarding membership vs. Board disagreements. Currently, a membership vote can be overruled by the Board with a 2/3 majority vote.

Howard Nippert expressed the concern that without even considering the individuals involved, the Board ignored the membership. He further commented that If we, as a membership, were to let it go this time, what precedent would this set?

Bill Boyd moved that we compose a letter on behalf of our membership to express our disapproval of the process the Board used to appoint the IAAF representative.

Motion passed unanimously.

Ray F. will compose the letter, and it is also go on our website so that our membership can read what was written on their behalf.

Future Stars Meet Program:

This is an initiative of the Hershey Corporation. It is in cooperation with the USATF JO program. 30 meets are planned throughout the country.

Marketing--

\$500 is available to clubs from the Association to promote visibility at meets and in the community. Ideas include pop-up tents, banners, signs, and the like.

More on accreditation standards:

Current standards are in place for 2 years.

Many Associations, in addition to our own, do not like the Championships requirement, so it is likely to be changed when this cycle is up. This requirement is now **under review**. Many associations are unhappy with the rigidity of the structure. As an example, our Virginia Association 50K does not fit into the established criteria. President Holdren expressed the opinion that championship meets should serve the needs of the constituency.

Level I coaching—THIS REQUIREMENT WILL LIKELY BE DROPPED.

Updates to all Association manuals are on-line, as are links to ALL on-line forms

Coaching education school calendar: A list of Coaching Education Schools can be found on the National website.

Membership renewal notices:

Membership renewal notices were sent in November to those not a multi-year member. As there are still glitches in the system, not everyone who was due for renewal actually received the message (like the secretary of this Association.)

Mass Delivery system:

The mass mail delivery system is in the process of being changed. No further information at this time.

Grants program:

Members applying for or receiving grants from the National office are reminded to fill out all reports in a timely manner.

“Safe Sport Kits”

This is required for all Youth coaches. The contains instructions on facilitating a “safe sport” class. This is through USOC via USATF.

Andy Martin’s contract:

The Association pays \$5000 per year to Exclamation Services to have Andy Martin maintain our website. Jim Holdren feels that he is well worth the cost and asked the membership for their approval to pay his fee for 015 in a lump sum as was done in 2014.

Membership in agreement.

Next meeting:

**September 13, 2015—2:00 p.m. Room 245, Robbins Center, University of Richmond
Meeting adjourned 3:40 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted

February 17, 2015

Annette Sirica, Secretary

ADDENDUM—2014 ASSOCIATION CHAMPIONSHIPS

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|------------|--|-------------------------------|
| 03/08/2014 | Men’s Master’s Indoor T&F Championships | Winston-Salem, NC |
| | Women’s Masters Indoor T&F Championships | |
| | • Held in conjunction with the SE Region Master’s Indoor Championships | |
| 03/22/2014 | Men’s Open 5K Road Championships | Kilmarnock, VA |
| | Women’s Open 5K Road Championships | |
| 06/21/2014 | Youth Girls JO T&F Championships | Sportsbackers, Richmond VA |
| | Youth Boys JO T&F Championships | |
| 06/21/2014 | Men’s Open T&F Championships | Maggie Walker HS, Richmond VA |
| | Women’s Open T&F Championships | |
| | Women’s Masters and Sub-Masters T&F Championships | |
| | Mens’ Masters and Sun-Masters T&F Championships | |
| | Men’s Open 3000 Meter Race Walk Championships | |

Women's Open 3000 Meter Race Walk Championships
 Men's Masters 3000 Meter Race Walk Championships
 Women's Masters 3000 Meter Race Walk Championships

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|------------|---|---|
| 08/16/2014 | Men's Open 1500M Race Walk Championships
Women's Open 1500M Race Walk Championships
Men's Masters 1500M Race Walk Championships
Women's Masters 1500M Race Walk Championships | Virginia Beach, VA |
| 08/29/2014 | Men's Open Cross Country Championship
Women's Open Cross Country Championships
Men's Masters Cross Country Championships
Women's Masters Cross Country Championships | Mechanicsville, VA
(Pole Green Park) |
| 10/11/2014 | Men's Open 50K Trail Championship
Women's Open 50K Trail Championship
Men's Masters 50K Trail Championships
Women's Masters 50K Trail Championships | Fries, VA |
| 11/08/2014 | Men's Open 1 Hour Race Walk Championship
Women's Open 1 Hour Race Walk Championships
Men's Masters 1 Hour race Walk Championships
Women's Masters 1 Hour Race Walk Championships | Virginia Beach, VA |
| 11/22/2014 | Youth Girls JO Cross Country Championships
Mechanicsville, VA
Youth Boys JO Cross Country Championships | (Pole Green
Park) |

The Association hosted 32 Championships. All of these are scheduled to be repeated on their corresponding dates during 2015.
 In addition, the Association half Marathon Championships will be added on Feb 22, 2015, taking place in Williamsburg VA.
 The Association will also be hosting the Region III JO Track and Field Championships in July 2015.