

**USATF--VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION  
SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING--FEBRUARY 12, 2017**

**Attendance:**

Ray Funkhouser--President

[walkfunkwalk@hotmail.com](mailto:walkfunkwalk@hotmail.com)

Cell: 804-334-6372

Jim Holdren--VP/Treasurer

Annette Sirica--Secretary

Steve Taylor

Howard Nippert--Mountain, Trail, Ultra Chair

Deborah Snagg

Robert Disse--Men's T&F Chair

Marquita Mines--Women's T&F Chair

Dave Gammon

Chris English--Chair, Race Walk

Chris McCann--Officials Chair

Ross MacDonald--Master's Chair

Keith Witherspoon

Joe Mack--Awards

Robert Evans

Melissa Johnson--Membership

Anthony Callicutt

John Molz

Chery Shaw--new member--just visiting

Maurice Hutton--Youth Chair

Roosevelt Charles

Matt Walton

Tom Nadeau

**Call to order:**

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm. In Room 225 of the Robbins Center

**Minutes:**

Because of a miscommunication, the minutes were not put on the web page. This problem has been resolved, and minutes from this meeting and the previous one will be on the webpage.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Jim Holdren told the membership that two issues need careful attention;

1. Tighten up on reimbursements of athletes to National competition. There needs to be a system and formula for requesting reimbursement and a solid deadline for doing so.
2. Financial reports for Association meets: All gross revenue goes directly to the Association.

The Meet Director will then send an invoice and expense sheet to the Association, who will pay the required vendors. It is not legal to do this any other way.

### **Remarks from Ray Funkhouser, our new President:**

- \* Look for minutes on the Association webpage
- \* “Thank you” to all of our delegates to the Annual meeting
- \* A huge “THANK YOU” to Jim Holdren at the Annual Meeting for his leadership for a great many years.
- \* Due to Jim’s leadership, our Association is in the **Top 15** Associations nationwide. This Has earned us a \$1000e grant from National.
- \* Data Protection--becoming more and more important. More qualified members of the Association need to assist with this.
- \* **Volunteer Registration forms**--Ray will get information on who all needs to be Involved in this.
- \* Ray would like to continue the successful programs and structures that Jim has put in place.
- \* ray would like to institute a conference call every 2 months or so for the Executive Committee.
- \* We need to increase awareness of our Association.
  - \* more sanctions
  - \* new places to advertise (like Milestat)
  - \* produce an Association brochure outlining the benefits of membership (insurance being one--covers any injury at a meet or practice or travel To and from meet or practice.)
- \* Sponsor more Championship races
  - \* Colonial Half-Marathon already an Association Championship
  - \* Possibly a Grand Prix series
- \* WE have been losing money at meets--we need to tighten up expenses.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Race Walk--Chris English**

The Virginia association 1 hour Race Walk Championship was held in November, sponsored by Tidewater Striders. Two things are needed to encourage Race Walk in Virginia;  
--More judges need to be trained  
--need to encourage more athletes to participate.

#### **Masters-- Ross MacDonald**

--The Virginia Open and Masters Indoor Championship was held in conjunction with the Southeast Regional on January 22. Our Women’s Chair, Marquita Mines, won her division in Long Jump.  
--A Throws Championship is scheduled to be held on or around June 24th. Open and Masters Multi-events will also be held. With Youth, Open, and Masters, 6 potential Championships could be held in one weekend. Ray encourages Ross to pursue this to see if it can happen.  
-- USATF Masters Outdoor Nationals will be held in Baton Rouge July 13-17, 2017, at LSU stadium.  
-- Annual meeting--all Associations are asked to reach out to the 25-29 post-college age group. We are missing a lot of potential athletes who could be participants. There is nothing for them unless they are elite.

Future National Championships for Masters:

2018--March 16-18--Landover, MD  
2018--TBD--Spokane WA  
2019--TBD--Ames, Iowa

### **Youth--Maurice Hutton**

- New Youth Committee executive committee back in place after many years of absence.
- Cross Country Championship to be held at Tallahassee in 2017  
Reno in 2018
- Hershey wants to put together a Championship meet--possibly in Virginia?
- Possibility of a Run, Jump, Throw type meet here in the future.  
Queen Harrison is interested in putting on a clinic and meet.
- Association Championship is June 25 at University of Richmond.

### **LDR--**

Currently, our Association does not have a Chair for this. We need to identify someone willing to take it on.

### **Men's Track and Field--Bob Disse**

All volunteers/coaches are reminded that they must register at :  
USATF--Association Resources  
Volunteer Registration

### **Women's Track and Field--Marquita Mines**

- Plans continue for the Open/Masters Association Championships in June. They will be held June 24 at University of Richmond.
- The Association has no contact information for non-elite post college athletes. This is a large group who could be a large part of membership. We need to do more to court this group.

### **Officials--Chris McCann**

- The Virginia Association currently has 825 certified officials. We are one of the top 15 in the country for registered officials. A lot of our officials will be moving up to the next level.
- From The National meeting: A reminder that all officials must have a background check every 2 years.

--5 certification clinics have been held:

*	Charlottesville	19 attending
*	Northern Virginia	17
*	CNU	80
*	Richmond	60
*	Liberty	(was not held by this meeting date)

- Bill Anderson long time Officials and certification Chair will be moving out of the area shortly.
- We need to replenish the Officials' Committee. People aaround the State need to be involved in training and certification of officials.

### **Mountain, Ultra, Trail Running--Howard Nippert**

- Howard has been contacted by a race director in Kentucky about the Cloudsplitter 100 Mile race that is in areas of Virginia and Kentucky. This race also features distances of 50K, 100K,

and 25K. Howard was asking the Association to declare Association Mens, Womens, Masters Men and Masters Women Championships for all four of these distances.

The date: October 7&8, 2017

Appalacia, KY  
Cloudsplitter 100

### **Membership--Melissa Johnson**

\*\*\*Correct email: [tracknfieldnva@yahoo.com](mailto:tracknfieldnva@yahoo.com)

Nothing new to report--all memberships done on-line.

### **Old Business**

All old business has been taken care of.

### **New Business**

--Andy Martin is a guest today. He is president/owner of Exclamation Services, our Website director.

Andy lives in Indiana, interned in New Jersey, but attended UVA. He has extensive background with web design and direction. He first became involved in USATF in 1998 when he became Managing Director of the New Jersey USATF office--one of the best in the country. From there, he moved to USATF Headquarters in Indianapolis, IN. He was involved in membership, Masters program, Youth program, and various committees. He is responsible for creating the background check program and calendar. In 2012, he left USATF to begin his own business, Exclamation Services. This is a boutique company specializing in logistics, marketing, and communications. A number of other USATF Associations utilize his services also. Andy has maintained close working relations with with many staff at the National Office.

Some areas where we can enhance our website:

- \* Recognize and celebrate the athletes
- \* Post results of our Association meets nationally--more exposure

--Some ideas Andy has:

1. Athlete of the month (see New York and Indiana websites)
2. Vignettes--"Getting to Know..." Athlete or Coach, etc.
3. Year-end recognition banquet--recognize athletes, e.g. 12 in Cross Country. 12 in Track and Field, 6 of each gender  
Race Walk and Masters also recognized
4. Create an Association "Grand Prix" circuit with races of various distances in various parts of the state. This could be a build-up to JOs in CC. Utilize 6 different sites; athletes score points for each race attended, placed in etc. (See Indiana USATF for ideas)
5. Video interviews with Virginia athletes at National Championships.

--Twitter/Facebook

Matt Walton raised the issue that our Association has very few Twitter and Facebook followers. For young people, websites are passe; they are more likely to use social media. Matt believes our Association would benefit from paid advertising on Facebook and Twitter. Here, a specific audience can be targeted. (Example: Masters meet--advertise within a 10-20 mile radius) This would be well worth the money, and is a tool to reach more people.

--Andy has some reservations about the number of Association personnel having access to the Association Twitter account. He cautions about having too many people with access which can cause issues in terms of presentation and consistency.

--Instagram and even live streaming of events could eventually be added.

--Matt also suggested we create an app for smartphones--our audience is a mobile audience.

--Marquita Mines suggested that we also advertise on Milestat, which has a huge and diverse audience in Virginia.

**--It is our challenge--officers, Chairs, Meet Directors to get information and results to Andy.**

**Send photos, also. Send directly to Andy, but copy Ray F.**

Timing System possibility

--Joe Mack has suggested the purchase of an FAT system could be a potential moneymaker for us. Staff would have to be trained and paid, but we could still net a good amount of money. Tom Nadeau will look into the details and logistics regarding a timing system purchase.

Tom quoted \$16,000 as the cost of a HY-Tek Meet Manager system and software. About 3-4 weeks are needed to get it operational.

Timing crews are generally paid \$500-\$750 per day.

Committee to look into this:

Joe Mack  
Keith Witherspoon  
Marquia Mines  
Jim Holdren  
Bob Disse  
Ross MacDonald  
Howard Nippert  
Maurice Hutton

Athlete Reimbursement

--Joe Mack and Keith Witherspoon revisited this discussion from the last meeting.

Keith reiterated that the reimbursement is not meant to cover all expenses, but help mitigate costs in some small way. More of a token gift of appreciation.

--Their suggested format:

--From a National competition:

- \* Top 3 places--\$300 for 1st, \$200 for 2nd, \$100 for 3rd.
- \* Top 6--scale would be different--undetermined at this time.
- \* Other considerations would include location of the meet, travel expenses,

mileage etc.

--Youth Chair Maurice Hutton expressed concern for rewarding the athletes monetarily for place.

--Ross MacDonald suggested the money coming in after the system is paid for should go for maintenance and upkeep.

--Maurice H, Youth Chair said that the system would be very useful, just with Youth alone. We would need to come up with a system of signing up to use it. Association meets would take

precedence over non-Association meets. It would mean some advance planning for meet dates, staggering the Association meets so that the system would be available.

--Ray F. questioned the amount of money needed for upkeep. An annual cost to recalibrate cameras is about \$600.

Another concern is that we would be taking business away from established timing system companies, many of whom we currently use in USATF.

In answering his question, Tom said in Central Virginia, only 2 groups rent systems out for timing. Marquita M added that one of the biggest timing companies, Atlantic Coast Timing, offers internships and apprenticeships.

A report will be given at the Annual Meeting in September.

Next meeting:

Sunday, September 10

2:00 pm

University of Richmond (Room TBD)

The meeting was adjourned at 4:17 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Annette M. Sirica

Secretary