

**USATF SEPTEMBER 13, 2020**  
**ANNUAL MEETING**

**Call to order**

The meeting was called to order at 2:02 pm by President Ray Funkhouser.  
The meeting was held in the outdoor pavilion at RF&P Park in Glen Allen, VA

**Call from USATF National President, Vin Lananna** (who is also the UVA Coach)

Highlights:

- The National board has met every 3 weeks to work on strategic plans to deal with the challenges of Covid-19. This will be shared at the National meeting.
- The National meeting will be virtual this year.
- Membership appears to be doing well, in spite of Covid.
- On the website are goals for the next 4 years.
  - \* By 2024, greatly increase cash reserves.
  - \* Membership goal by 2024--250,000.
  - \* 40 medals at 2024 Olympic Games
- An effort will be made to connect elite athletes with their home Associations.
- More name recognition for elite T&F athletes.
- USA hosting World Championships in 2022 --held in Eugene, OR.
- Much concern at USATF about the collegiate level T&F programs, especially Men's, which are being dropped at an alarming rate nationwide. This disproportionately affects athletes of color.
- In general, T&F and Cross Country are alive and well, ready to face challenges.

**Note on National Schedule:**

Ray reported that putting on National Championships this past year was not deemed practical or safe. As of 2 weeks ago, some Cross Country meets are being planned.

**Secretary's Report: Annette Sirica**

The minutes, which were posted on line, were approved by the assembled..

**Question from the floor:**

Member question--Why were we not having meets, getting our athletes out there?  
Ray said that the USATF Medical Committee has the final say on that, and they did not recommend having meets. Marquita added that we are under the auspices of a national organization, so must adhere to their guidelines.  
Currently, National IS approving sanctions for meets.

**Treasurer's Report: Jim Holdren**

Jim made particular note that we made about \$23,000, which was \$700 shy of expenses. Memberships and sanction were both down, causing significant loss of income. National would like a certain amount of sanction money back.

## Treasurer's Report Sept. 13, 2020

<b>Income since Jan 1 2020</b>	<b>\$52,870.23</b>
Sanctions, Memberships, Clubs	\$12,262.82
Meet Income	\$ 1,066.25
Awards Banquet	\$ 4,670.00
Assoc. Excellence Award	\$ 2,750.00
Officials Registration	\$ 1,825.00
Cashed CD	\$29,343.23
Misc	\$ 952.93

<b>Expenses since Jan 1, 2020</b>	<b>\$24,201.26</b>
Office	\$ 927.40
Meet Expense	\$ 4,350.00
Athlete's support	\$ 200.00
Official Training	\$. 559.00
Marketing	\$ 10,125.00
Association Awards	\$ 993.21
Awards Banquet	\$. 6,415.55
Misc.	\$ 631.10

## Current Balances: Aug 31, 2020

Investments	\$ 397,919.32 as of Aug. 31, 2020
Checking	\$ 47,288.24 as of Aug. 31, 2020
Total	\$ 445,207.56 as of Aug. 31, 2020

Jim Holdren - Treasurer

## President's Report: Ray Funkhouser

- Henrico Parks and Rec thanked for providing space.
- Unable to hold banquet in 2021, which is disappointing, since it had been very successful.
- Accreditation: We were named the #1 Association in the National USATF.
- Accreditation will look different this year, since no meets or Championships.
- We have been requested to have a representative on the National Women's Initiative. That person will be Marquita Mines.
- All Associations must have a SafeSport representative. That is our Secretary.

## Committee Reports

### **Race Walking--Ray**

The Virginia Association was awarded an Association Committee Grant for 2020. Much of the grant was for in person clinics and training for Officials, Coaches, and

Athletes in 5 Regions of the state. As they were being organized and scheduled, the quarantine went into place. Waiting to hear for the Grants Committee of THE Associations Committee as to whether this will automatically be moved to 2021 or do we need to reapply which we are prepared to do.

### **Masters--Ross**

---Again, no competitions were able to be held.

---Indoor Nationals (2021) is questionable at this point. It is scheduled, but has not opened for registration at this time.

---World Masters Championships in 2021 are to be held in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. The following year (2022), they are in Finland.

--- Ross is doubtful that any competition will proceed until the entire country enter Phase 4 of Covid plan.

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

---There **may** be a Youth National Cross Country Championship, but by no means guaranteed.

---Outdoor has not begun planning yet in Virginia Association, as we are waiting on definitive word from the VHSL about how high school seasons will go.

---At this point, the Association will not be planning any Championships, due to liability concerns.

---Sanctions can, however, be given to individual clubs, which can host meets.

### **LDR--currently no Chair for this committee**

### **Men's Track and Field--Maurice Pierce**

--No competitions were held, but we are looking at 2021, and hoping to resume competitions and add more to our schedule. More discussion on this later in the meeting.

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

- USATF added the Age Group of 25-29 to Masters which will make somewhat of a difference in the Open Division.
- A new date for the Olympic Trials have been announced for June 18<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> in Eugene Oregon.
- USATF and USATF Foundation are collaborating to provide Tier and TPP athletes with a stipend for workout equipment during the COVID-19 crisis, athletes were notified by email.  
To assist in bridging the gap between now and when restrictions are lifted and normal weight room access can occur, USATF and the USATF Foundation are partnering to allocate each Tier and TPP athlete a stipend towards the purchase of simple, portable weight training equipment that they can use at home or at the track.  
Impacted athletes have been notified by email and are encouraged to reach out to the USATF National Office with any questions.

- There have been athletes asking about their Tier Benefit because of the delay in the Olympic Games. For what has been sent from USATF athletes that currently qualifiers for 2020 are ok because their qualify standards were bases on 2019.
- Tier criteria for 2021 is being discussed with the appropriate sport chairs and the AAC. Once we have finality on any potential 2020 outdoor track & field season, the current situation will be taken into account by the High Performance Division's Executive Committee and National Office staff in defining qualifying criteria for 2021.

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

---We are losing a lot of officials. Speculations include the complexity of becoming/ remaining an official in USATF. It can be a cumbersome process.

---Officials clinics are being planned for 2021. More on that in the coming months.

#### **Coaches Education--Shawn Venable**

##### **Jumps/Hurdles Coach--Liberty University**

---November, 2019, we hosted a Level 1 course at Massaponax HS. 51 coaches attended, and the course was a great success, thanks primarily to Maurice Hutton.

---In 2020, we are offering Level I courses via Zoom. All courses EST.

The weekends are:

October 23-26

November 20-23

December 18-21

We are also in the development stage of hosting another Level 2 certification course via Zoom. This would be the week between Christmas and New Year. I'm hoping that we publish the Level 2 information on **the USATF** website in early October.

#### **Membership--Melissa Young (not in attendance)**

---Ray noted ---that the new system that National USF designed to track registrations, sanctions, officials, SafeSport, and other things is called the Connect system. It has a lot of bumps. Membership and everything else is more complex.

---To update your membership, you must update all of your information.

---Coaches, officers, and officials are required to do the initial SafeSport training, and to do a refresher version every year. It was every 4 years, now it is every year.

--National is encouraging all members to go through SafeSport.

---You will receive a notice when you have to renew your membership.

---New method up verifying a members' birthdate. The individual or parent or representative must upload the application, then fill it out and submit. This is only for new members. Members whose age has already been verified are grandfathered in.

### **Old Business**

--Olympic Trial support--as was decided last year, a partial refund will be offered to those athletes who are competing in Trials this year.

### **New Business**

#### **Elections**

Steve Taylor is the Nominations Chair. Co-Chair is Debra Snagg. They will conduct the elections. All nominations were moved and seconded before being voted on by the membership. Each nominee in a contending position was given 3 minutes to talk about why they seek the position.

President--Ray Funkhouser--ELECTED

Vice President--Robert Disse nominated

Bob has been a High School and Club coach for 10 years, and has also been involved in the Masters' programs for 15 years. Has previously served as the Men's Track and Field Chair.

--Les Young (floor nomination) ELECTED

Les has been a member for 30 years, involved in Youth programs. Formerly a Coach, he is now an announcer. His feeling is that most members are involved in Youth programs, so he is a good fit. His goal is to increase memberships and Build relationships.

Secretary--Annette Sirica ELECTED

Treasurer--Jim Holdren ELECTED

**Question** from the floor: Relationship of Virginia Association USATF and Sports Virginia

---At this point, a question was raised from a gentleman at the meeting. He asked about the relationship between USATF-Virginia and Sports Virginia, since the officers are the same. The gentleman was concerned that there might be something irregular in that connection. He was also concerned about the tax payments in the name of Sports Virginia, but did not see taxes paid on behalf of Virginia Association of USATF.

Ray answered: Our corporate name is Sports Virginia. At one time, we were connected to a group of sports--swimming, diving, and others, all under the umbrella of Sports Virginia. Gradually, all the other sport organizations who were members of Sports Virginia folded, leaving only USATF--Virginia Association. Since our organization does have money invested in Sports Virginia, it has

brought us some financial resources. If Sports Virginia were to dissolve (or Virginia USATF break off), we would forfeit all of that money, a sizable amount.

---Taxes--We are current in USATF taxes. Record of this tax payment has not shown up on the website since 2017.

---The questioner then said that our by-laws need to be rewritten.

---Jim Holdren reinforced the partnership as both Virginia Association and Sports Virginia are one and the same. Virginia USATF would lose all the money in Sports Virginia if we dissolve that organization.

More discussion continued .

---Another speaker said that if the organizations are one and the same, then the officers should be also. There is some difference in roles in each organization. (Jim Holdren is President of Sports Virginia.)

Jim said that this issue would be easy to fix.

---Another question was asked if we have by-laws for both organizations. Jim said that there is one set of by-laws, since USATF IS Sports Virginia. The speaker said that there cannot be one set of by-laws for both.

## **Nominations--continued:**

### Membership-Melissa Young--ELECTED

Melissa was not in attendance at the meeting, but members who spoke on her behalf commended her for years of reliable service, being always available when needed, and prompt in dealing with membership issues.

Lamont Folsom--nominated from the floor

Lamont has been a coach for 12 years. His club is located in East Richmond. His goal is to increase memberships in that part of the city and State.

### Men's Track and Field--Maurice Pierce--ELECTED

#### Womens' Track and Field

Stan Holloway--nominated from the floor--ELECTED

Stan has been involved in T&F for 20 years, working with Coach Pierce. A lot of professional T&F athletes would like to come to Virginia to train. To attract them, we Need to have more elite and professional track meets here in Virginia. Atlanta seems to Have the corner on this now.

Marquita Mines--Ross spoke on behalf of Marquita.

Marquita has been a very successful high school, and now, college coach. She has been responsible for helping many young women to be successful high level athletes. Her experience is very valuable to the Virginia Association, and she has given many years of reliable and positive service to our open level women in the Association.

### Masters--Cremel Collier--ELECTED

#### Mens' and Womens' LDR--Jonathan Wilson--ELECTED

\_\_\_\_\_ Jonathan is an experienced road racer. Steve Taylor and and Ray F. spoke \_\_\_\_\_ on his behalf. He was recommended to us by one of the officials. Ray has discussed with him the need to have more Championships of various distances.

### Youth--Maurice Hutton--ELECTED

#### Race Walking--

No one has been nominated for this position. Chris English will stay on as Chair, until a replacement can be named.

### Coaches Education--Shawn Venable--ELECTED

---Why co-chairs? At this point, another question from the floor concerned why we have co-chairs to some committees (Officials). Ray and Chris McCann both spoke to the point that some committees require a huge amount of work, and splitting it makes the job requirements easier. It would be too big a job for one volunteer to handle. This answer was not satisfactory. This issue is unresolved.

## Officials--

### Nickie Willis and Joe Curcio--ELECTED

Nickie spoke on her behalf. She has been a registered official since 2003. She has worked a lot with USATF in the past. Through her efforts, and the efforts of past and current Officials chairs, the Virginia Association has one of the largest groups of certified officials. Nickie has been there, and other members spoke to her dedication and commitment.

Chris M spoke on behalf of Joe. Joe has worked as an official for the past 30 years. He has also been working with VHSL, and has trained many officials in both groups. Joe has been working closely with Bill Anderson and Chris McCann for the past 2 years to learn the different facets of the job of Officials Chair .

### Gerald Harris--nomination from the floor

Gerald has been involved in T&F for 11 years. He is involved in Youth programs and is

a

certified starter. He realized that the position is labor- and time intensive and would Make it his goal to recruit more officials.

### Question--Regional Official chairs?

A member from the floor suggested that there is one Chair, with 3 Regional chairs (East, Central, West).

Nickie Willis answered the question, explaining that two persons function to complete all the duties in one Chair position. We already have a system of 3 Regional division officials chairs.

Chris M. also explained that the job entails much more than just assigning officials to meets.

## **Changes in by-laws (see addendum to by-laws after the Secretary's report)**

1. Mountain, Ultra, Trail is not yet an actual committee. It was suggested that we change the by-laws to reflect that Mountain, Utra, Trail (MUT) be named as a Sport committee.

---Our by-laws are currently under review by National. To be included in the by-laws is a requirement that all officers and Sports Committee Chairs must be 3-Tier compliant: Membership, background check, Safe Sport completed. This must be done by January 1.

--Maurice Hutton suggested that we do a complete overhaul of the by-laws. This is basically being done by National now..., and we can amend them after they have completed their review.

**Motion to accept the by-laws as they are now: PASSED**

## **Annual Meeting Delegates**

--We have previously set a maximum of \$1600 reimbursement. Last Year we sent a full contingent of 14 delegates, as many as we are allowed. The 2020 Annual meeting is scheduled for Reno, NV, but is unlikely to be held in person. Ray asked for a motion, just in case there is a meeting, that we reimburse delegates \$1600.

**Motion to reimburse delegates to the Annual meeting in Reno NV \$1600. PASSED**

## **Bid for National Cross Country Championships**

2022-23 Cross Country Championships. Steve Taylor has put in a lot of work to prepare this bid. He has put together a comprehensive budget, and a 20 page plan.

Meet Director: Steve Taylor

The dates are: February 5, 2022

February 4, 2023

Site: Pole Green Park

Race divisions: Open, Masters, Citizens

2K loop course, spectator friendly

Richmond Tourism Bureau is on board with this, and will commit \$15,000 each year.

This would involve hospitality for elite athletes, concessions etc. Pan-Am team selected in 2022, World team in 2024. In addition, the 2024 Olympic Games will add a Cross Country component. .

**Motion to put in a bid for the 2022 and 2023 Cross Country Championships: PASSED**

### **Other discussions**

#### Banquet

The banquet will not be held this year as we were unable to do very much. We plan to host the banquet again in February, 2022.

#### Virtual Cross Country event

Since we are unable to hold a USATF Virginia Association Championship in Cross Country for any age group, the Association will hold a virtual event. Details will be posted on the website within a couple weeks, but the basic format is that runners will sign up for the virtual 5K, and have 2 weeks in November during which to do a 5k run at any course of their choosing. Runners submit their times. Awards will be given to the top 10 runners in each age group-- Youth through Masters. (top 3 medals, 4-10 ribbons)

#### More discussion on the Sports Virginia/Virginia USATF issue:

This is something that we must look into as an Association. Ray said that in the past, some officers of Sports Virginia came from the other sport areas belonging to Sports Virginia. Ray will review this with our accountant. The national office of USATF indicated that they are not concerned with our tax structure the way we have been doing it.

A member suggested that one way to solve the issue is to have voting rights in both groups, USATF and Sports Virginia. There is only one organization, one tax ID number. Ray is considering moving our mailing address to a P.O. box in Henrico County.

Issue is unresolved, and will require further discussion.

**Motion to table discussion on the USATF/Sports Virginia correlation until the February meeting. PASSED**

Several members suggested that we form a by-laws committee to review and amend the by-laws. Ray agreed.



**Motion to form a committee to review and recommend changes to our by-laws.  
PASSED**

Ray said that anyone interested in this committee should contact him.

One member has volunteered:

[Derrick@ParteKLLC.com](mailto:Derrick@ParteKLLC.com)

703-725-3345

Mountain, Ultra, Trail

**The change to the bylaws that includes Mountain, Ultra, Trail (MUT) as a standing sport committee is effective as of today. PASSED**

**Next meeting:**

**Sunday, February 7, 2021**

**2:00pm**

**Location TBD**

Respectfully submitted,

Annette M. Sirica

Secretary

By-Law changes below

**Proposed Changes to Constitution and By-Laws  
of the**

# Virginia Association of USA Track & Field

## ARTICLE XII - COMMITTEES

**A Committees:** The following committees of this Association are established with such duties, responsibilities, and make-up as outlined here and in Articles reserved for each type of committee:

- 1 Men's Track and Field;**
- 2 Women's Track and Field;**
- 3 Masters Athletics;**
- 4 Men's Long Distance and Road Running;**
- 5 Women's Long Distance and Road Running;**
- 6 Youth Athletics;**
- 7 Coaches Education;**
- 8 Race Walking;**
- 9 Officials.**

**ADD: 10 Mountain Ultra Trail**

**B General Provisions:** The following provisions apply to all of this Association's committees:

**1 Terms of members:** Unless otherwise provided for, the term for members of all committees shall be two(2) years and shall commence at the conclusion of the annual meeting where elections are held.

**2 Committee makeup:**

**a Non-sport committees:** The makeup of each non-sport committee shall be listed in the description for the committee;

**b Sport committees:** All sport committees shall strive to include at least twenty(20) percent of the membership to be made up of athletes.

**3 Membership:** All elected and appointed members of all committees shall be members of this association.

**ADD a** *Chairs of committees shall meet USAATF Guidelines being Safe Sport Compliant, background checks, and any other requirements set forth by USATF,*

**b** *Committee chairs not in compliant with Article XII B 3(a) at the time of their election must become compliant by time taking office. Committee chairs appointed will have 60 days to meet requirements if not already compliant.*

# 2020 Proposed Amendments to Virginia USATF Bylaws

Submitted by: Maurice Hutton  
Youth Chair

## Article 3: Purposes

There is no current Virginia Association bylaw for diversity within Article 3-Purpose 4;

Proposed (Article 3: A Purposes):

*Purposes: This Association shall have the following statement added*

*4 Diversity: Promoting diversity of representation at all levels of participation in its activities.*

Rationale:

To be in accordance with the USATF National bylaws Article 3: Purposes - 5. Diversity.

## Article 3 - Duties

Current (Article 3: B Duties):

5 Participation in Competition: Providing for the participation by eligible athletes in competition in Athletics, in accordance with the provisions of these Bylaws and Regulations, USATF Bylaws, and USATF Operating Regulations;

Proposed (Article 3: B Duties):

*Purposes: This Association shall have the following statement added*

*5 Participation in Competition: Providing for the participation by Athletes, coaches, trainers, managers, administrators, and officials in Athletics competition, under the provisions of these Bylaws and Regulations, USATF Bylaws, and USATF Operating Regulations.*

Rationale:

To be in accordance with the USATF National bylaws Article 3: Duties - 5. Participation in competition.

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**Article 9 - Officers and Their Duties**

Current (Article 9: C Election)

All officers are to be elected for a term of four years. A person may not hold the office of President and any other officer position; however, a person may be named in other dual capacities to fill a vacancy.

Proposed (Article 9: C Term of Office)

*Purposes: This Association shall have the following statement added*

*C. Term of Office: 1. With the exception of the Immediate Past President, all officers are to be elected for four (4) year terms at the annual meeting of this Association held in odd numbered years. Terms shall start thirty (30) days after the date of election.*

Rationale:

To be in accordance with the USATF National bylaws  
Article 10: C. Selection.

-Article 9 - Officers and Their Duties

Current (Article 9: C Election)

All officers are to be elected for a term of four years. A person may not hold the office of President and any other officer position; however, a person may be named in other dual capacities to fill a vacancy.

Proposed (Article 9: C Term of Office)

*Purposes: This Association shall have the following statement added*

*C. Term of Office: 2. 2. No officer shall serve for more than eight consecutive years without a period of at least two years away from that position. However, an individual who fills a vacancy or otherwise serves a term of two years or less may then serve up to eight more consecutive years.*

Rationale:

To be in accordance with the USATF National bylaws  
Article 10: E. Limitation on terms.

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