



USATF VIRGINIA ANNUAL MEETING
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 2:05pm.

Approval of minutes:

The Secretary's minutes from our 2020 Annual meeting, and Spring Executive committee meetings were approved.

Treasurer's Report:

2020 Summary

Income deposited **\$58,507.64**

Sanctions, Memberships, Clubs	\$ 17,900.23
Awards Banquet	\$ 4,670.00
Association Grant	\$ 2,750.00
Officials	\$ 2,825.00
Meets	\$ 1,066.25
Cashed CD (Investment)	\$ 29,343.23
Misc	\$ 952.93

Expenses paid **\$37,340.97**

Office	\$ 7,527.11
Meet Exp.	\$ 6,370.00
Travel/Conv	\$ 1,540.00
Athlete support	\$ 200.00
Official's Training	\$ 2,579.00
Marketing/Communication	\$ 15,125.00
Assoc. Awards	\$ 993.21
Awards banquet	\$ 6,415.55
Misc.	\$ 631.10

Income deposited since Jan 1 2021 **\$19,535.53**

Sanctions, Memberships, Clubs	\$ 19,535.53
-------------------------------	--------------

Expenses paid since Jan 1, 2021 **\$29,329.40**

Office	\$ 1,324.12
Meet Expense	\$ 3,175.28
Travel Convention	\$. 220.00
Athlete's support	\$ 19,500.00
Oly. Trials (\$ 7,500.00)	
JO T & F (\$ 12,000.00)	
Marketing	\$ 5,110.00

Current Balances: Aug 31, 2021

Investments	\$ 422,666.12 as of Aug. 31, 2021
Checking	\$ 38,764.68 as of Aug. 31, 2021
Total	\$ 531,430.80 as of Aug. 31, 2021

Jim Holdren – Treasurer

\$12,000.00 for JO T&F Exp. Checks written since the August bank statement

Several reasons were given for the increase in expenditures.

1. Athlete support increased. Because there was no Regional to National pathway, National was open to anyone who wanted to go. Many took advantage of this and of the Association support that was offered.
2. Olympic Trials grant--7 athletes were awarded \$1500 each.

The Association was unable to host many events last year, so revenue from memberships and sanctions was way down. This year, it is a priority to get memberships up, as well as sanctions.

Treasurer's report was approved.

President's Report

Comments from Vin Lanana, USATF President.

3 Presidential task forces have been set up:

1. Membership
2. World Championships (to be held in Oregon). Trying to create interest about this, as information is provided.
3. Strategic plan for the entire USATF. 2008 is the latest year that one was implemented. Members are encouraged to go to the National USATF website to read the plan.

The Virginia Association has been very active in this endeavor.

USATF Annual Meeting:

This year's meeting (Dec. 2-5) will be hybrid. Virtual as well as in-person sessions will be held. One of the more important meetings will be the L&L (Laws and Legislation). There are currently 26 members on the L&L committee, some appointed by the committee Chair, some by the President. The main topic of this committee will be to discuss/debate those amendments that did not pass in 2020 Annual Meeting. The Board has made temporary amendments, but these need to be reconsidered or confirmed.

Mr. Lanana stressed that his role is to represent all of us, the USATF members.

Membership--Mr. Lanana reports that membership is down throughout the entire country. Currently 60,000 members, or about half what is typical. He is hopeful that when National and Association Championships start happening again that membership will increase. Leadership is working on a plan to increase membership and member benefits.

Ray Funkhouser brought up a possible reason for lack of memberships might be because AAU did not suspend events last year. The USATF followed CDC protocol, for the safety of all members, and because of this, our membership did suffer.

Ray stressed that attendance at the National meeting, and voting at the meeting is essential. The temporary amendments will be revisited, and voted on.

Year in Review--Ray F.

--This year was the most frustrating that Ray and the Committee Chairs have had, as events and plans had to be constantly redone and revised because of changing conditions.

--Accreditation--Ray does not foresee any problems with this for our Association.

Committee Reports

Race Walking--Chris English

Like all other disciplines, Race walk was not able to hold many events. More is planned for this year, hoping to get up to speed. Clinics are planned to attract new race walkers.

Masters--Ross MacDonald

Same situation as race Walk

Open Men and Women--Marquita Mines

Women's Commission Notes-

One of the Commission goals is to showcase successes and build leadership capacity of our female members. Therefore, each association was charged with developing a success story about one woman who is most deserving of recognition given her contributions to track and field. For ease of completion, we have provided a Success Story Template to be used in completing these stories (see attached). We encourage you to work with leaders within your own association to identify this person as this selection should be a collective effort and agreed upon among association leaders. Our hope is that each of you will complete a success story and highlight a deserving woman within your own association. Thank you to those who have already completed your stories! Your assigned WC officers and executive committee members will be reaching out to assist if needed.

Action Steps

1. Identify one person in your association who has contributed to the advancement of women in track in field and develop a success story using the specified template.
2. Please attach a headshot or action shot picture and brief bio (if possible) of the person you are showcasing to accompany the success story.
3. Ideally, your selection will have been made in collaboration with leaders in your association. Please include a sentence stating that your association board or president is in support of the selection.

Sydney Henthorn (New England Association) was the first person to be selected for the Success Story.

You can follow the Women's Commission on their Facebook Page USATF Women's Commission and their Instagram page @usatfwomenscommission.

Grant & Awards- We were able to assist 5 VA Athlete with their journey to the USATF Olympic Trials. Each grant awarded was \$1500.00. This was the first time assisting with this and it was very success. Hopefully we able to get more athletes involved in this and many create a more in depth athlete advisory committee.

Congratulation to the Individual selected for out first round of awards.

Trevor Stewart
Javonte Harding
Trey Hollaway
Bridget Williams
Darrel Jones

Special Thanks goes out to the SoCal Association Rep Lorraine Williams for assisting me with the project.

Discussion:

--A plan is in place to combine Open and Masters Mens and Womens Association Championships.

--Throwing meets are planned for Masters.

--Ross asked if we, as an Association, would like to consider long term contracts for competition sites, i.e. 10 year contracts.

The advantage would be that we would be assured of venues for the events held under the contract. Multi-day events could be assured of a venue. Venues are particularly difficult to obtain during Indoor season.

Open Me and Women, Youth, and Masters could plan together and all benefit from this.

Outdoor events could possible include a decathlon/heptathlon and a road race.

--The need for *profitable* Association Championships--The Association has not made money on any of them for several years now.

LDR

No report

MUT

Howard Nippert may be planning an event.

Youth--Les Young

Maurice Hutton unable to attend.

--Our reimbursements stretched the annual budget. Many more than usual, as Nationals had no qualifying path.

--Our Association did make a commitment to assist with expenses to National Championships. 13 clubs and 106 athletes applied for reimbursements. We far exceeded to budgeted amount. \$120 per athlete was the reimbursement, and \$12, 720 was spent just in Outdoor.

--Maurice Hutton was commended for doing a great job organizing and overseeing all the Virginia athletes at Nationals, even the independent athletes who were not club-affiliated.

-- National JO Cross Country Championships are also Open; no Regional qualifying necessary.

Officials--Nickie Willis and Joe Currico

Officials Certification

Virginia Association Officials as of September 26: 128

Includes the following categories:

Apprentice – 44*

Association – 46

National – 20

Master – 18

*includes 20 NEW officials

There are 100 officials from 2020 Olympiad that have not recertified, and 10 officials from the 2016 Olympiad that have not recertified. These numbers include officials who have gone inactive temporarily (due to pandemic), retired, and deceased.

Continued delays and back-log with receiving badges from National office vendor. There does not seem to be a pattern to the printing schedule, and upgrades have generally not been printed correctly.

Certification chair included face masks and lanyards in the latest mailings, as a token of appreciation for the officials' patience.

Officials Training

- There were no traditional certification clinics held this year due to the pandemic. Three group training sessions were held virtually. Two were for new officials, and one was for help navigating the Sport:80 site.
- Association partnered with UVA to sponsor Electronic Distance Measuring (EDM) training in Spring 2021 at UVA. Several officials from 3 states attended the training, and those that completed the training requirements will receive the EDM certification.

Discussion Notes:

--Clinics--No in-person clinics were held. Nicky had 3 on-line clinics for new officials.

--The biggest frustration with retaining and attracting new officials has been difficulties with Track Connect in the National office.

--Virginia Association currently has 128 registered officials, with 28 new officials.

--getting the official badge has been slow and problematic. Officials finishing all certification requirements in March have still not received badges. Patience has been requested.

--Joe--15 new officials have been certified in western Virginia. Clinics were held in Lynchburg and Roanoke.

--A push is on to get young officials--college students who did Track and Field in High School. This is a way to keep them involved in the sport. Virginia Tech and Liberty University have been especially active with this.

--Vin L. suggested that specific training for college students, former HS athletes would be something that could prove very beneficial.

--Marquita M. suggested that a young official pair with an experienced official to work meets. Nickie W. working on clinics for these former high school athletes. It is also a good way for these young people to make a little money. Running clubs in the colleges could be involved with this.

--SafeSport training has been a problem, since many, particular long-time, officials were unaware that they were required to complete the training. Nick has sent out word to everyone. Nickie suggested that officials do all required items together--membership, training, SafeSport, background check. An official can no longer just go to a clinic and be immediately certified. All this has to be done on-line through USATF Track Connect. Officials do get a certification email, reminding them of what needs to be completed.

--Ray reminded everyone to keep your membership and profile updated. If membership lapses, you do not get reminder emails.

--Ray has requested that our SafeSport rep (Secretary) bring up at or next meeting that the dates when all information is due keep changing. Might there be a more efficient way of doing this? Ideally, Safe Sport, background check, and recertification could all be due at the same time.

--Ross MacDonald asked what are the 3 biggest impediments to keeping officials.

1. Some older officials may not have technology or tech expertise to complete requirements on line.
2. Many meet director do not use certified officials.
3. Misunderstanding about the requirement that an official must renew every year.

--Discussion was held on whether the Association should pay for officials' fees, or that individuals make a personal investment by paying for their own expenses.

--Ray suggested that maybe some meets are too long--many people, especially young people, may not have 3 days to commit to a meet.

Cross Country

--The Association did not have an Open and Masters Championship this year.

--Steve Taylor is spearheading the 2022 Open and Masters Championship to be held at Pole Green Park on Sept. 3, 2022.

--***Virginia Association was awarded the National USATF Championships 2023 and 2024. Steve Taylor is heading up this effort, and has already secured interest and help from Richmond Tourism Board and Venture Richmond. Currently, the logo for these Championships has not been approved by National yet, so no advertising or sponsorships can occur. An improved course (8K and 10K) will be designed at Pole Green for these events. We are ready to move on this, reports Steve, and in a good place in plans to make this a very successful event. This is a culmination of 4 year's work from Ray and Steve. In addition to selecting the best US team, this is also going to be a community event, RRRC etc. Would like high numbers of participants and spectators.

Dates:

February 4, 2023

February 3, 2024

Coaches Education

Sean Venable not here

Membership--Melissa Young

Challenge to attract new and returning members.

SafeSport--Annette Sirica

--Our Association doing what we need to be doing to get officials, officers, club coaches all SafeSport qualified. Thank you to Nicky and Joe for taking over contacting all officials. Since completion of SafeSport is now required for coaching certification, this takes care of the coaches compliance. Officers and other pertinent State Association personnel are reminded with annual registration, and in reminders from National when SafeSport is due.

--Difficulties with the roll-out of Track Connect coinciding with when officials needed to recertify caused considerable frustration. Though able to get through to Track Connect, consistent service and ease of accessibility are issues.

Old Business

--Olympic Trials Grant

Purpose is to recognize that a lot of athletes in Virginia has qualified for Olympic Trials. Athletes have been leaving our Association to move where they get greater support, so this is an attempt to offer some small financial support. Each grant was \$1500. Five individuals were selected to receive this grant. One of them earned a gold and a bronze medal at the Trials. We are attempting to keep as many elite athletes in the Association as we can. Communication was an issue, as some athletes (Francine McCrory for one) were unaware of the grant.

Marquita Mines should be commended for her work on behalf of this endeavor.

Ray F. further commented that a lot of the major clubs with large sponsorships are not based in Virginia. Several Virginia athletes were at the Trials, but are not part of the Virginia Association. An effort needs to be made to connect with them.

New Business

--Banquet for 2021 year:

Ray suggested letting it go this year as we had very limited competition.

Marquita and others argued that since it was an Olympic year, and also Masters and Open did have some competitive opportunities, and JO Nationals was held, that there are enough competitions to warrant an awards banquet.

Motion: The Virginia Association should have an awards banquet in conjunction with our February meeting.

Motion passed--4-3

There will be a banquet, though scaled down. It will be held in conjunction with the February Association meeting.

--Obits

Any members who passed away during 2021 will be remembered at the Annual Meeting in December.

--Signatories

Ray presented a plan that all officers of USATF Virginia could be signatories on checks and payments. This is especially helpful as some officers live in Richmond.

Motion: All USATF Virginia Officers and selected other representatives are authorized to be signatories on any checks or payments.

Motion passed unanimously.

--Election of delegates to the National meeting:

--Ray and one other member to be selected will attend in-person.

--Others will attend virtually. They include the following:

Annette Sirica--Secretary and SafeSport rep.

Les Young --Vice President

Jim Holdren--Treasurer

Joe Currico--Officials

Steve Taylor--Race organizer/director

Marquita Mines--Open Women's Committee

--

Additional delegate spots will be filled by Ray.

--Number of allowed delegates should remain at 12.

--Reimbursement of costs for delegates:

\$1200 for in-person delegates

\$125 for virtual delegates

--All delegates are required to be at the closing session on Sunday and to participate in the vote.

--Ray will designate who will be our reps for each committee.

Motion: Delegates to the Annual meeting can be reimbursed in the following amounts:

\$1200 for in-person attendees

\$125 for virtual attendees.

Motion passed

By-Laws amendments

1. References to IAAF
Since IAAF no longer exists, references should be rewritten to name its successor--
World Athletics
2. Make-up of our Executive Committee
The addition of MUT--Mountain, Ultra and Trail and Cross Country as standing Committees.
Motion to add MUT and Cross Country committees to existing committees with Representation on the Executive Committee.
Motion passed.
3. Change in wording regarding age of a "voting" member.
Old wording: Eligible voters must be *over* 18
New wording: Eligible voters must be a *minimum* of 18 years of age.
Motion to change wording regarding eligibility to vote from over 18 to a

minimum of 18 years of age.

Motion passed.

4. Change in nominations process for officers and committee chairs:
Current By-Laws specify that a nomination must be received 2 weeks prior to the Annual meeting. If no office had a nominee, a person could be nominated from the Floor.
The new By-Law has some clarification:
--Nominations for officers and committee chairs must be submitted electronically by 11:59 on the Saturday evening 2 weeks prior to the Annual meeting.
--A confirmation email will be sent to all nominees.
--If there are no nominees for a specific position or office, nominations can be accepted from the floor provided that 75% of attendees approve the nominee.
--If a position remains unfilled, The Executive Committee can appoint a person to temporarily fill the position.
--This temporary appointment can be confirmed at the next regular Association meeting by 75% approval from the attending members.
--If the temporary nominee is NOT approved at the next meeting, the selection goes back to the Executive Committee, who will appoint another temporary candidate.
Motion to accept changes to the nomination process as written above.
Motion passed.

--Reimbursement for JO Nationals to be held in December, 2021:
Because once again, there will be no qualifying pathway to Nationals, it is an "open" meet, the Association must establish some ground rules for reimbursements.
In the past, National qualifiers must have advanced through Association, then Regional meets by placing on the top 2 teams or top 15 individuals. (not on those 2 teams???)
It has been suggested that we use this criteria when establishing guidelines for those eligible for reimbursements.
Since the National meet is relatively close--Lexington, KY, it was suggested that we reimburse eligible recipients \$125.
Motion to use existing qualifying criteria to award eligible participants in JO Nationals a compensation of \$125.
Motion passed.

**Next Association meeting and Awards Banquet:
February 13.**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:22pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Annette M. Sirica
Secretary

