



**USATF VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION MEETING
FEB. 13, 2022**

The meeting was called to order at 2:10 by President Ray Funkhouser.

Secretary's report:

The minutes of the September, 2021 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's report:

Treasurer's Report Feb. 13, 2022

2021 Summary	2021	2020
Income deposited	\$ 25,141.18	\$ 58,507.64
Sanctions, Memberships, Clubs	\$ 25,141.18	\$ 17,900.23
Awards Banquet	\$ 0.00	\$ 4,670.00
Association Grant	\$ 0.00	\$ 3,750.00
Officials	\$ 0.00	\$ 2,825.00
Meets	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,066.25
Cashed CD (Investment)	\$ 0.00	\$ 29,343.23
Misc	\$ 0.00	\$ 952.93
 Expenses paid	 \$ 36,046.97	 \$ 37,340.97
Office	\$ 1,951.63	\$ 7,527.11
Meet Exp.	\$ 3,175.28	\$ 6,370.00
Travel/Conv	\$ 970.00	\$ 1,540.00
Athlete support	\$ 19,500.00	\$ 200.00
Official's Training	\$ 0.00	\$ 2,579.00
Marketing/Communication	\$ 10,440.00	\$ 15,125.00
Assoc. Awards	\$ 0.00	\$ 993.21
Awards banquet	\$ 0.00	\$ 6,415.55
Misc.	\$ 0.00	\$ 631.10
 Income deposited since Jan 1 2022	 \$ 0.00	
Sanctions, Memberships, Clubs	\$ 0.00	
 Expenses paid since Jan 1, 2022		\$936.23
Travel Convention	\$ 936.23	

Current Balances: Jan. 31, 2022

Investments	\$ 474,005.80 as of Jan. 31, 2022
Checking	\$ 22,924.93 as of Jan. 31, 2022
Total	\$ 496,931.73 as of Jan. 31, 2022

Questions were raised regarding the larger amount of athlete support—considerably larger than in other years. Jim Holdren, Association Treasurer explained that for the first time, the Association offered support for athletes who would attend Olympic Trials in Oregon. As for Youth athlete support, Jim said we offered as much this year as we have in other years. Because of the fact that athletes could attend Nationals without having qualified through the usual channels— Association and/or Regional Championship. This meant more qualifiers.

Ray asked when we receive money from online registrations, such as when we hosted Indoor Masters Regional Championships. Ray asked about the possibility of obtaining a spreadsheet to list all payments. The question was raised if we actually make any money on these meets. Jim Holdren said that it depends on which online registration system we use, i.e. Coach O or Athletics.net. Discussion on where the money should go. Marquita Mines said that Ray should be the recipient, so the money goes directly into our accounts.

Treasurer's report approved.

President's report:

—Accreditation update:

During January, dealing with tax statements and preparations.

Every criteria has been met with the exception of the number of Championships. Fewer championships was due to Covid.

Memberships are down throughout the entire country. While the Virginia Association has fared better than most, our memberships are still down.

—National USATF response to shrinking memberships:

Associations were offered a \$5000 incentive for increasing memberships. This is a 3 year initiative, and we can apply each year. Ray sent in 5 initiatives from Virginia Association:

- 1.. During World Championships, on day #9, have an event at UR which could include hosting a Run, Jump, Throw competition, followed by an All-Comers Track meet at 5:30. Following that, at 8:00, Livestream the Worlds on the scoreboard, when the 5K will be run. In addition, have a booth set up for USATF with membership information available.
2. Encouraging new officials—The Association will pay each new official \$20 plus buy his/her \$10 rule book.
3. Three Level I coaching scholarships would be made available to new Youth coaches and clubs.
4. Increasing our visibility—Purchase of a USATF tent for use at public events, such as Monument Avenue 10K Expo. Success measured by how many sign up for memberships at the tent.
5. Promotion of a Youth camp. NoVA will have two camps this summer. Participants sign up as USATF members, get T-shirts and other incentives.

Master's Committee—Les Young

—The Association + Regional Masters Indoor Championships will be held at Boo Williams Sportsplex in Hampton, VA . The Southeast Region gave \$750 to help with expenses.

–The only complication is the ever-changing Covid rules. At this time, a negative test three days prior is required. However, this may be changed, and the restrictions may possibly be lifted by the time of the meet.

LDR–Jonathan Wilson

Committee notes

Main Overall objectives:

1. Improve LDR participation and awareness in the running community
 - a. Work to host and have road races for 2022, 23, and 24
 - b. Collaborate with other committee chairs for races, events, marketing
2. Continue to talk with Ray, and the chairs for LDR Country (Bob Disse) and LDR Mountain, Trail, and Ultra (Howard Nippert) to continue to learn better understanding of my role, goals, and objectives for LDR.

Specific events/races:

3. Share information about the WVA Regional Completion Race (10K race in Clarksburg, WVA)
 - a. Get more specifics from Ray about race (date, etc)
 - b. Discuss feasibility of participation in the event
 - c. Reach out and make contact with Karl Hadfield
 - d. Selection Process for VA team (2 x male, females)
 - i. What have we used in the past? Pro's and cons
 - e. Possible use this race as an Association championships?
 - f. Also a chance/opportunity to gain interest from other runners in other states
 - i. This race will include the 5 states bordering WVU
4. Cross Country Festival 23 and 24
 - a. How can I help
 - b. How can LDR help

Officials–Nickie Willis

–Nickie and Joe (Curcio) have been helping officials re-certify or become certified by walking them through the process. Joe reported that in the recent weeks, there seems to be an uptick of officials certifying or being recertified. Nickie is scheduling some clinics for officials.

–The use of electronic tablets and measuring equipment was discussed. An electronic measuring system costs about \$10,000-\$11,000. Steve Taylor, speaking as a meet director, said that any individual making the investment in electronic measuring equipment would be in demand at meets, would get paid more, and could quickly recoup the investment.

–Another important issue was brought up, that officials need to be shown that they are valued. A lot of meets occur on the same weekends, and officials need to have working equipment and adequate compensation.

Youth

–The Association JO meet will be held June 18 at Highland Springs High School. All athletes who qualify for Nationals get an automatic bid to the Regional meet, if one is held. Maurice (Hutton, Youth Chair) does not want to host a Regional meet. If no Regional is held, the National

Youth Committee should decide who goes to Nationals, possibly based on performance standards. The suggestion is that we offer \$300 per athlete, with a cap of \$15,000.

National Cross Country Championships–Steve Taylor

–The Virginia Association is hosting the National meet in 2023 (Jan. 21) and 2024 (Jan. 20). The meet will be held at Pole Green Park.

Steve Taylor is spearheading this. Thom Hunt, National Cross Country Chair, will be doing a site visit in March. This is the meet where the World Championship team is selected. 2024 is when the next World Championship Cross Country meet will be held.

–Steve is working with Hanover Country regarding the site, admission fees, hotels. A hotel group (288 Hotels) is setting this up so that the Association will get money back for all USATF registrants.

–The timing company will be Blue Ridge Timing. They will have a video board live-streaming races and results.

–Richmond Regional Tourism has been very helpful in dealing with hospitality and logistics.

–Andy is disseminating information throughout the country.

–Steve Taylor would like to help the Association put on a Cross Country Festival, but it would be ideal to get local or State sponsorships for this event,

–John Foerge asked if it would be possible to use local certified officials, rather than National officials. National may provide the referee, but the other officials should be local or state Association.

Coaches Education–John Venable

Congratulations to Marquita Mines, a new Level II coach. The course is 40 hours with a challenging comprehensive exam at the end.

Membership–Melissa Johnson

–Melissa's biggest challenge is helping new registrants through the Track Connect website. She continues to work on that.

Safe Sport–Annette Sirica

–The training for Safe Sport is thorough and actually very good. The information on the reporting of possible abuse is very helpful. The biggest hurdle is again, the hoops associated with Track Connect and officials training. Many suggested USATF find a way to streamline this process.

–A note on sanctioning of events: In order for a meet or race to be sanctioned by USATF, the Meet Director as well as all officials and participating coaches. This requirement is causing some difficulty with compliance.

Women's Commission–Marquita Mines

–The first Inspired Leaders Award goes to Stephanie Hightower (Texas).

–A documentary on Women's 400 Meter Hurdles has been posted. **USATF WTF Meeting**

Year Review

They talked about the management of the indoor and outdoor meet, oversee coaching issues and athlete centered. Working with the men's committee and working with the national office to create language and run our meets and selection process. We launched the Journey to Gold this year and it was very successful. This was a chance to not have to go to Europe and provide key opportunities for our athletes. It also offered the Continental Tour meets that helped our athletes rankings and points and prize money.

There 16 women 10 men medaled, 6 men got 4th place, so they were so close. Many more were top 10 which was great performances.

They had a learning session in Florida about how to do better in the future. Full debrief about what worked and what did not work. Will look to reinstate training camps and relay camps. Continue to improve our system and make the process better.

2022 Meets-

Looking to have a five meet indoor calendar. Working on the outdoor series of meets with additions coming in daily as they build out the schedule to have more US opportunities.

Medical Covid Update-

Vaccination may not be an auto clearance in the future. For international teams you must meet a standard set of protocols. Country cannot be Level 3 or Level 4 to travel there. Must have robust testing and or bubble protocol. XC in January may not be approved because of the country's protocols.

Standards

The standards are set based on World qualification marks. The outdoor events were tightened a bit as there were multiple events with too many qualifiers on time. The key is for athletes to enter and declare on time so they can fill the field.

Development

We had up to 70 athletes funded moving forward. We are looking to call it the National Team Development System in the future. It will have set protocols and designated meets the athlete must attend in addition to some of the discretionary meets.

PACA/Virtual Podium Clinics:

Brooks wants to pull together coaches who were responsible for winning medals to look at how to best help the athletes. We looked at the Enclave system, stipends and bonus structures for the athletes. Wanted to help the most successful coaches and then help develop other coaches to help reach that level.

They need to look to the future and keep pushing the standards higher as we chase them to keep improving. Brooks talked about how we keep supporting the women on this committee so they can be leaders to help serve our women athletes and continue to make changes for the betterment of the women in this sport.

Development / HP:

In Development they are looking to reimagine how to operate and as we re-vamp the tier system, we need to help them as we broaden the ones who can be funded and served. they are re-naming the committee to be called the National Team Development Committee. They are raising the criteria to elevate the athlete profile and will require our athletes to show fitness and event chairs will be more involved and advocate for the athletes to build relationships. Moving the number of athletes to 70 or 80 for future support.

USATF Women's Commission

Recognition of Women's Commission Inspirational Leader Award Honoring Stephanie Hightower and Sue Humphrey Presenter, Dr. Bonnie Edmondson, Chair

We are still looking to Highlight someone for the VA Association. If there is someone you would like to highlight, please send me their information.

They spoke about the documentary: Premier of "Chasing our Legends: Women's 400m hurdles" Which highlighted Panelists, Sharrieffa Barksdale, OLY; Judi Brown Clarke, OLY; Leslie Maxi, OLY Moderator, LaVonna Martin Floreal, OLY, Women's Commission Secretary

Law and legislation–Ray

–Last year's controversial decisions following the vote at the National Meeting has been revisited. The vote had to do with how the governing Board and the USATF President are selected. The Board realized that the vote against these new regulations was 2-1. The Board then voted to enact the new Board and President selection process anyway, despite the membership vote solidly against. The Board realized the need to compromise, and after a series of Zoom meetings, a proposal was sent to the Board. One thing the Board and Law and Legislation national committee considered was how similar organizations operate and what their by-laws are. Typically, membership decides some things, the Board decides some things. The L&L committee does not think the USOPC will cut us off if we do not adhere to how the Board would like to manage the National Association. Ray reported that L&L members are trying to set up a meeting with the Board before next Fall to come to a consensus.

Old Business

–Banquet:

We are going to have an Awards ceremony this year, rather than a banquet. It will likely be virtual. At the time of this meeting, Covid restrictions forbid meeting and serving food. Andy is coordinating a lot of this. He will send us a list of possible nominees. Nickie and Joe will coordinate officials recognition. The date is tentatively March 13, 7:00pm.

New Business

–Athlete support payments

Since JOs Nationals are in California, Maurice H. suggested a stipend of \$300.

–Ray suggested that we hold the decision on the amount of individual compensation until after we know how athletes will be qualifying. Nickie W suggested we set a cap of \$20,000 to include both Cross Country and Track. Both are distant locations, (CC in Texas, Track in California) and qualifying method has not been set in either.

Motion:

A motion was made to cap support payment for Cross Country and Track to a total of \$20,000. Individual compensations will be decided after more information is decided on how qualifications to National JO Championships in both Cross Country and Track are determined.

Motion passes unanimously.

–2022 schedule

National is not requiring a certain number of Championships, but we still need to increase our schedule of championship events. The email communication glitch has been solved, so Andy is able to advertise our meets in this manner also.

Next Meeting:

September 11, 2022 at University of Richmond.

Meeting adjourned 4:03pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Annette M. Sirica
Secretary