

Ray also clarified that income from sanction, memberships and clubs totaled \$23,000, but \$15,000 was spent on JO athlete support.

Motion to accept Treasurer's Report

Seconded and passed by membership.

President's Report—Ray Funkhouser

President's Report

Annual Meeting

-Had full delegation. Due to some late National Office changing definitions of delegation makeup, adjustments had to be made. Definitely appreciate Nicki Wills & Marquita Mines going the "Extra Mile" literally to bring us into compliance.

-We were represented by our delegation at the various committee meetings. Many of the committee activities will be presented during other committee reports.

-Next year's Annual Meeting will be again in Orlando, FL.

-Went in early to the Annual Meeting and attended the Associations Workshop. Joined by several of our delegation as they arrived. Opportunity to discuss many issues that we at the Association level face. Grant opportunities were discussed.

-Several Members were recognized during the Meeting- Karen Stowers recognized by the Officials Executive Committee for Excellence in Officiating. Your President also was awarded the Lori Maynard Award for Race Waking Officiating .

Accreditation

We were fully accredited in 2023. Much of January is spent preparing our documentation for 2024. The preliminary package for 2024 has been submitted. For the second year we have had a problem utilizing the Woo Fu Form to submit documents.

Grants

There are various grants available to Associations. We applied for the ones we were eligible to apply for.

-BOD Grant- Up to \$2,000 for specific items to assist the Association. Awarded \$2,000 for purchase of wireless PA system for use at our Association Championships and other events. Purchase of a Owl Microphone for use during virtual meetings.

Grow to Impact Grant- This grant is up to \$5,000. We received this one in 2023 which enabled us to begin a Long Distance Running Grand Prix. We applied again for the Grant to continue the LDR Grand Prix. As of Thursday of this week, the applications were still being evaluated and no announcements have been made.

Non-Profit Status- For years many associations came under the umbrella of National USATF Non-Profit status. The National Office is no longer providing that umbrella. Each Association

must apply for Non-profit status. There was some discussion within the Association as to whether we had our own Non-Profit Status from our founding in 1978 or was part of National. This has been a challenge getting a determination. Within the last 2 weeks a verbal response from the IRS was that we were under the Umbrella. This means we will need to go through the application process for a 501(c) 3 organization. Looking for several volunteers that can assist with this.

2024- We need to work on getting our events organized earlier for better promotion and attendance which will impact the bottom line for our events.

A question by Steve Taylor concerned the 501C status: If our Association is our own 501C organization, are we still under the oversight of National? Ray answered that in the 2024 accreditation process, having a 501C designation for your Association will be a requirement.

Race Walking–Ray Funkhouser reporting for Chris English

Increase interest is being noted for the sport of Race Walking and its inclusion in Championship meets. Notably, the Officials clinic at JMU had some interest in the rules for officiating Race Walking.

Masters

–The Masters Indoor Championships was held yesterday (Feb. 10) at Boo Williams Sports Center. The Meet director was Tremel Collier.

This meet also presents an opportunity for the Men’s and Women’s Committees to be involved.

–Site selection for Open/Masters is underway–Nickie Willis is looking into locations.

–Virginia Association is hosting the National Masters Decathlon/Heptathlon at University of Virginia in June. Meet Director is David ??? and he is organizing a committee for this event. This will be the only 2-dy decathlon for Master’s women. Master’s age groups for this event are ages 35-90. A women’s Heptathlon will also be offered. Registration is now open. Meet organizer is in the process of recruiting 12 USATF officials to run the meet. Working with Dogwood Invitational meet directors and Blue Ridge Timing. With limited funding (\$2000) this meet has attracted 70 participants and has been very successful at setting new records for these events in various age groups.

Youth–Maurice Hutton

Maurice is at Milrose Games with some of his athletes.

LDR–Jonathan Wilson

LDR Report

Feb. 202

Jonathan Wilson LDR Sport Committee Chair

Main Overall objectives:

1. Fall Distance Running Grand Prix 2023
 - a. Results are posted at <https://virginia.usatf.org/xc>
 - b. Virginia Fall Grand Prix Standings <http://virginia.usatf.org/grandprix>
 - c. 6 races with total prize purse \$3500 for past/2023 Grand Prix
 - d. Areas for Improvement:
 - i. Marketing: Maybe other signs at events, in case we do not have a table for the table cloth,
 - ii. Everyone I spoke to about the Grand Prix was excited and wanted to learn more, so how can we share the info for future events?
 - e. Marketing the Grand Prix
Can we reach out to specific running groups/clubs to spread the information letting them aware of the Grand Prix?
I'm going to meet with Coach Mack and his distance coach to talk about the Grand Prix for 2024
Try to get a race(s) in the Tidewater/Beach region.
I met a bunch of runners from the 757 area code region and they all would love races closer to them in their area.
2. Grand Prix for 2024
 - a. We are stay waiting to hear about the grant proposal for 2024.
 - b. Marketing
3. Host/hold LDR Championship Race 2024
 - a. Talk with Ray to learn more about the races in the past years used for Championships.
 - b. Talk with others to see what distances are commonly used for Championship Races
4. Improve LDR participation and awareness in the running community
 - a. Work to host and have road races for 2024, 25, and 26
 - b. Collaborate with other committee chairs for races, events, marketing
 - c. Be participant at race expos with info table, signage, and handouts. Will also help to market Fall Distance Grand Prix
5. Continue to talk with Ray, and the chairs for LDR Cross Country and LDR Mountain, Trail, and Ultra to continue to learn better understanding of my role, goals, and objectives for LDR.

Officials–Nickie Willis and Joe Curcio

- They have been working with officials in the Virginia Association to complete the 3-step compliance and finish SafeSport training.
- They would like to see improved communication, i.e. an officials website. Nickie noted that National offers a lot of informative Zoom meetings with very good information.
- Clinics–
 - Nickie conducted a clinic in Northern Virginia.

- Joe conducted one at JMU
- Clinic was held at CNU on January 21. (12 officials plus some students)
- Clinic was held in Virginia Beach (Jan 27) with the new officials working the East Coast Invitational
- A virtual official’s training clinic is coming up. It is 6 sessions
- Liberty U. clinic March 10–recerts and new officials. Greg Roth doing jumps and “stay in your lane” clinic regarding working with a crew of officials.
- Ray thanked them for their clinics, and for helping officials navigate the 3-step compliance and SafeSport training.
- 4 year Officials’ certifications are coming next year.

Recognition at National Meeting

Ray Funkhouser and Karen Sowers were both recognized at the National meeting. Ms. Sowers received a National Officials Committee Chair Award.

Report on the National Cross Country Championships–Steve Taylor

Held at Pole Green Park, Hanover County on Jan. 21, 2024. This was the second of two years that the National XC Championship was held at this location.

- Meet went off well. (In spite of our only really cold week in Virginia so far this winter)
- More participation in the Citizen’s Race and the other non-Championship events.
- All officials signed in appropriately according to meet management and SafeSport protocols. Twenty volunteers helped with testing (5 each of junior men and women, open men and women, senior men and women)
- In 2023, we lost \$12,000. Budget was \$133,000. A lot of this was in-kind donations, i.e. PA systems, Medical staff, equipment, Hanover County, and Sportsbackers. \$55,000 in in-kind donations.
- in 2024, expenses were a bit higher, mostly because of the need for heaters and an improved awards stage.
- The committee for this event is to be commended–Awards, course set-up, etc.
- Note from Cooper Tier appreciating the places to run and chaperones.
- Registration challenges–the USATF registration was not open until December for a race in January.
- \$25,000 entry fees went to prize money.
- Citizen’s Race, which the Virginia Association did ourselves generated \$1,200 in revenue.
- Regional Tourism estimates the revenue from this event to be about \$60,000+.

–Looking to future:

World Athletics–point system–pro athletes.

Currently a push to include Cross Country as an Olympic sport.

–Richmond Cross Country Festival–a plan:

Steve Taylor–member of the USATF National Executive Committee for Cross Country

World Championships this year is March 30. US Championships for Cross Country would be in December next year. Cross Country international "season" would run Dec-February. The Richmond Cross Country Festival could be an event on the circuit. Steve Taylor pushed having 4 races before US Championships of which Richmond Cross Country Festival would be one.

SafeSport–Annette Sirica

SAFESPORT REPORT–FEBRUARY ASSOCIATION MEETING–2/11/24

1. Disciplinary notices:

None for Virginia Association. We actually have a good record of this with no recent (past 4-5 yrs) notices

2. Education–We are trying to achieve the Bronze level certificate which requires 2-3x per year training on Safe Sport topics for members OR assuring that members are 3 step compliant (membership, background check, Safe Sport training)

Here is what members need to be aware of–

- All coaches, "full-time" parent volunteers, officials and officers and Association officers/ Chairs MUST be 3 step compliant. Your Safe-Sport training includes a longer initial training program (1-2 hours) which explains what Safe Sport is and the basic behaviors That it covers. It includes warning signs, when to contact authorities, who is required to contact (all coaches) if anything is reported or observed.
****Not everything you observe rises to the level of reportability. You can educate young coaches about appropriate behavior in dealing with young people under their leadership. For example, do not meet with an athlete of the opposite sex in a closed room with out another adult present. If coach's behavior is consistent, or escalates (like sexting, dating etc) then you must report.*

Most of this is common sense.

- * Following this, a yearly refresher must be passed.
- * Information regarding all aspects of Safe Sport is found on the Safe Sport webpage.
- * Safe Sport is a USOPC thing. Therefore, USATF is under that umbrella.

3. Be aware that Safe Sport also includes hazing, bullying, excessive teasing, gender or Racial derogatory remarks. It is the coaches responsibility to address these issues.

4. The Cross-Country Nationals and Safe Sport.

See Event Lay-out page. I need to follow up with Steve Taylor on a couple of these.

–Safe Sport education materials were available

–Venue walk-through–course, parking lots, restroom facilities were ideally laid out for maximum visibility. Restroom/locker rooms supervision N/A since they were outdoor Port-a-pottys. Parking lot was very well supervised and had a lot of eyes on it. Course Was visible from everywhere–nowhere to hide,

–Adult volunteers who were not USATF officials did sign the volunteer waiver forms. Did

- Not make the college students sign these as they were same age as participants.
- Credentials of officials and volunteers checked ahead of time. No one was working who was not previously assigned.
 - Vendors Safe sport certified? (Not necessary)
 - Travel accommodations were made by adult participants themselves or with families of minor participants, far as I know. Did not check accommodations for U-20 teams.
5. “Best Practices” followed. As far as I was able to ascertain. Went over all recommendations and made notes on what needs to be improved.

Question raised by Nickie Willis–If an official is Safe Sport currently certified in another sport (i.e.USSwimming), is that certification transferable to and usable by USATF?

–Annette is going to contact Bailee Cecil and get some direction.

Note: According to Bailee Cecil, the USATF National SafeSport coordinator, it is **transferable**. Therefore, officials do not need to retrain SafeSport.

Nominating Committee

–Steve Taylor will head this committee. Elections are at the September Annual Meeting.

–Nominations must be submitted at least 2 weeks prior to the meeting . Nominations can be taken from the floor in the event of a position having no nominations by the time of the meeting.

Old Business

Tim Stewart and Rick Platt , visitors from Colonial Roadrunners would like to help with communication, membership, etc. He demonstrated his computer programs for these tasks. Andy Murray is currently serving as our Membership Chair. He is familiar with the issues specific to USATF, i.e. JO registrations, youth registrations, which currently take a long time to process

The Colonial Roadrunner group said they can offer race and officials membership communications. There are some positive possibilities working with this group. Steve Taylor suggested we pull together with RRCA clubs, as they could help us register and/or promote Masters', Youth, and XC.

Ray pointed to recent successes and additions–I.e. Joe Mack in Masters competitions.

Members had questions about that the Roadrunners group would be capable of doing. They have a lot of databases.

The advantage we have with Andy is that he has helpful connections in the National office.

Ray suggested we decide what all we would like to include on our website. Committee Chairs should also contribute to the website; results, pictures, announcements.

Joe Mack suggested that we form a committee to meet with the Colonial Roadrunners website/data person and see what they can offer. No action was taken on this suggestion.

New Business

–Outdoor Masters Championship and Youth JOs need to secure their sites and dates so they can get on the calendar quickly.

–Junior Olympic athlete support

Outdoor Track is in College Station, TX

We need to come up with a figure for athlete reimbursement support for those attending National JOs.

Last years support was a cap of \$300 per athlete, with total expenditure of no more than \$12,000.

Ray suggested a deadline of 30 days after the event to submit for reimbursement.

To know where to send reimbursement checks, the Head Coach of the athletes club (or Parent if not in a club must submit a list of addresses.

**Motion: Nickie Willis moved that we cap each athlete reimbursement at \$300.00
With a total expenditure of not more than \$12,000.**

Motion was seconded and PASSED

–Colonial Roadrunners asked if we would like them to include USATF Association Championships races in their newsletter and race calendar.

Ray answered that yes, we absolutely would like to pair with Colonial Roadrunners or other RRCA clubs to promote our races and have possibly joint Championships.

–Support for pro athletes who made Olympic Trials:

Problematic this year for a couple reasons

–currently too late to put anything together

–most of these athletes are not in Virginia anymore, and are not Association members.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:32am.

Respectfully submitted,

Annette M. Sirica

Secretary