



ANNUAL MEETING

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2024 - UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND

Call to Order

President Ray Funkhouser called the meeting to order at 2:02pm

Secretary's report--Annette Sirica

The minutes of the February, 2024 meeting were accepted without revision. (Unanimous)

Treasurer's Report--Jim Holdren

The Treasurer's Report was accepted with no dissension.

Treasurer's Report Sept. 21, 2024

2024 Summary

Income deposited to date		\$62,419.54
Sanctions, Memberships, Clubs	\$ 22,969.99	
Association Grant	\$ 5,000.00	
Meets	\$ 31,400.00	
Awards Banquet	\$ 3,049.55	
Expenses paid to date		\$68,908.51
Office	\$ 247.33	
Meet Exp.	\$ 53,177.09	
Travel/Conv	\$ 1,409.18	
Athlete support	\$ 0.00	
Official's Training	\$ 0.00	
Marketing/Communication	\$ 8,750.00	
Association Awards	\$ 1,492.83	
Awards Banquet	\$ 3,832.09	
Misc.	\$ 0.00	

Current Balances: Available Sept. 22, 2024

Investments	\$ 479,734.62 as of Sept. 22, 2024 **
Checking	\$ 27,719.98 as of Sept. 22, 2024 **
Total	\$ 507,454.60 as of Sept. 22, 2024

** Reflects \$20,000.00 transferred from investments to checking

Jim Holdren - Treasurer

Presidents' Report–Ray Funkhouser

Our President of the Virginia Association introduced the USATF National President, and our guest for the meeting, Vin Lanana.

Mr. Lanana provides perspective on areas of concern and action on the national USATF level, including:

1. Creation of a task force for athletes to air concerns
2. Officials–improving our officials–training, process of becoming an official, recruitment
3. Collaboration (tie-in) with college athletic programs
 - current 20B dollar lawsuit affecting all college sports . An effort was made to Separate XC/T&F from the other sports because of it's unique characteristics.
 - 28% of collegiate athletes are T&F athletes
 - a definite need to come together and cooperate with intercollegiate athletics, especially as it relates to paying athletes. The financial impact of paying athletes will fall on the colleges;

Ray's report of Virginia Association activities:

–A busy year with many challenges, many events.

–We had athletes competing at both National and International levels, Youth to older adults. On behalf of our organization, Ray thanked everyone who helped out with any of the events we hosted.

–A special thanks to Steve Taylor for the use of the University of Richmond facility, and for the terrific job he has done hosting meets whee USATF can be involved.

–We still need more championships in some areas.

–Grant: Virginia Association received a \$5000 impact grant last year. We would like to reapply and keep this going.

–Board of Directors Grant–Purchased a wireless mic system for the starter at meets

–Championships: Our association Championships are losing money. (\$31, 400 last year)

One way to address this is to plan, secure facilities, and advertise much earlier. Part of problem last year was that meets were not up soon enough for families to plan or to get much advertising for the events.

–Maurice Hutton expressed a concern regarding the use of uncertified officials at Youth and other meets.

Other notes from Virginia Association President:

–Officials are reminded that they must recertify this year, and elect officers. (Each Association is now responsible for this.)

–Open/Master's Indoor is set. This is the earliest it has been planned, signed, and organized in the past few years.

–Vin Lanana will step down as USATF President this year.

Committee Reports

MUT–Mountain, Ultra, Trail;

We are still in need of a committee chair for this

Men's Open and Masters

Women's Open Committee chair needed

Matt Walton has accepted the position of Men's Open Chair

Indoor meet site secured. Information on website. Feb 8???

LDR

Sept. 22, 2024

Jonathan Wilson LDR Sport Committee Chair

Main Overall objectives:

1. Fall Distance Running Grand Prix 2024 – got approved
 - 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
 - i. 27 runners signed up for 2023
 - 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
 - i. Continue to reach out to specific running groups/clubs to spread the information letting them aware of the Grand Prix
 - ii. Met with Coach Mack (Pony Express) and his distance coach to talk about the Grand Prix for 2024
 - iii. Reached up to Members of Half Team in Training, and Richmond Road Runners
 - f. Look for Race(s) in the Tidewater/Beach region.
 - i. Spoke with runners from 757 area code would love races closer to them
2. Grand Prix for 2025
 - a. USATF might not have the grant opportunity (originally was a 2 year plan)
 - i. 2024 was 2nd year
 - 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.

Youth–Maurice Hutton

Cross Country JOs at Pole Green Park *Dec.*

Officials–Nickie Willis and Joe Curcio

USATF VIRGINIA

Committee Report – Officials

September 22, 2024

Officials Certification

Virginia Association CERTIFIED Officials as of August 31, 2024: **139**

	CERTIFIED	INVALID (NOT 3-Step Compliant)
Apprentice	55	116
Association	40	30
National	24	19
Master	20	8
Emeritus	0	0
TOTAL	139	173

There are 173 officials currently INVALID because they are not 3-step compliant (membership, background check, or SafeSport). This includes 73 officials from 2020 Olympiad that have not recertified, and 10 officials from the 2016 Olympiad that have not recertified. This also includes officials who have gone inactive, retired from officiating, or are deceased. We reclaimed three officials from the 2020 Olympiad and two officials from the 2016 Olympiad since the February Association meeting.

There was a dedicated contact for officials' issues at the national office, and a good response and resolution rate. We were notified in August that officials do not have that dedicated support and to message a general mailbox. Anticipate slow/no response and resolutions of issues, as was previously with this process. Vendor had cleared all backlog of credential printing; reminder that officials must be certified, 3-step compliant, and have a picture in their profile, or vendor will not print credential.

Officials Training

- There were no traditional certification clinics held since the last Association meeting. There has been a lot of one-on-one sessions and follow up/follow through helping officials get certified and re-certified. Continuing to work with individual officials on upgrade applications to move to next level certification levels.
- Certification Clinics will begin in early 2025, with one in each region of the Association. We anticipate that at least one of the clinics will include a hybrid attendance option. The Central region clinic will be the same day as the February 2025 Association meeting. Other dates and locations are TBD.
- Most requested specialized training is Electronic Distance Measurement (EDM). This certification is on hold for now, per the NOC. Expect some resolution at the Annual Meeting

Officials Recognition

- Virginia Association Outstanding Official Award nominations deadline is September 22. We have been allocated four awards, based on the number of certified officials. This award is presented at the Virginia Association Awards dinner. There are currently two nominations.
- NOC Awards nominations deadline was September 15. The Virginia Association currently has two nominees across the six award categories (Outstanding Field Event Official – Joe Showker; Outstanding Field Event Official – Karen Stowers)

Officials Recertification (New Officials Certification)

- Certifications/Recertifications for 2025-2028 Olympiad begins November 1 (per guidelines). The process will be very similar (online and paper versions offered), with the enhancement of randomized questions and the ability to bookmark the online version.
 - Rules Reviews SHOULD be posted by October 1 (has been extended a few times).
 - National/Master Review Change
 - National level – minimum 5 questions
 - Master level – minimum 8 questions
 - Starters should answer at least one “Starter” Question
- Certification Upgrade Checklists will be posted by November 1.

- Not expecting that Connect will erase certifications, but several had to be re-entered during last certification period. We will use the same process to ensure officials have correct certifications on their credentials.
- Not expecting change with mailing of ID cards. NOC had asked that credentials be sent directly to officials.
- Approximately six potential new officials on hold until 2025 Membership period begins (approx. November 1).

Submitted by

Nickie Wills and Joe Curcio

Darrell Harris expressed concern about officials trying to certify and not getting information and materials from National office

–Another commented that the organization is too large, and more responsibility needs to be delegated to the local associations.

–Vin Lanana answered this concern by saying that the current National USATF Officials Chair's term is ending. A new one will be elected; let that person know what your concerns are,

–Maurice again brought up the point of there being an actual shortage of officials.

–Matt Walton asked why the various (5+) certifications are necessary for officials, depending on which meet they are officiating. Why aren't we under one set of certification instead of USATF, NFHS, NCAA, NAIA, Unnecessary and confusing for would-be officials.

Membership–Andy Martin

Increase in memberships this past year, but not up to where we were pre-pandemic.

Coaches Education

Our Committee Chair, Sean Venable is on the National Coaches Committee.

Safe Sport–Annette Sirica

Meet Directors are reminded to distribute and collect waiver forms for volunteer officials who are not 3-step compliant in Safe Sport. These forms must then be returned to the National USATF Safe Sport office.

New Business

Semi-Annual Meeting/Banquet

Our semi-annual meeting and annual Awards banquet tentatively planned for February 9. Ray outlined all the events happening in February, this seems to be the only open weekend . Overwhelmingly positive response to the banquets that we have had.

Discussion about possibly having the meeting and banquet in May.

Necrology

Members are asked to forward any names of USATF members who have passed away since last year and the date of their passing. They will be recognized at the National meeting.

Selection of delegates to Annual meeting

Ray explained the criteria that we must use in delegate selection:

1. Virginia Association can send 13 voting delegates
2. Within these 13 delegates, they must have a certain number of representatives as athletes, coaches, officials and officers. .

Athlete representation on USATF committees:

All committees at the National level are mandated to have 33% athlete representation. The Youth committee has been exempt from this in the past, but are now expected to have members on the committee. Athlete members of this committee must have participated in Youth events in recent years.

*** It was decided to schedule an Executive Committee over Zoom to discuss how to vote on delegates

Call for officials for NCAA Indoor Championships

A call for certified officials is made for NCAA Indoor Nationals to be held at Virginia Beach.

Meet directors of college meets

College meets should be sanctioned by NCAA and USATF if their records and performances are to be considered for US and World Championships, Olympic Trials, International rankings. MEAC had a problem with this, and they had an athlete who set an OT qualifying mark, but the meet was unsanctioned.

Reimbursements for National Meeting attendance

In the past, we have reimbursed \$1600.

Motion: Made by Maurice Hutton that reimbursement should be \$1800

Motion was seconded.

Discussion: Jim Holdren said that only 2-3 times have expenses exceeded \$1600

Vote: **Motion did not pass**

Motion: Made by Jim Holdren and seconded that reimbursement be \$1600.
Vote: **Motion passed** with only 2 negative votes.

Nominations for Officers and Committee Chairs: Steve Taylor–Nominations Committee Chair

Eligibility to participate in voting: Current USATF Virginia Association members

Procedure:

- All members have both rights and obligations
- Rules will be followed (see by-laws passed in September 2021)
- Only one person at a time can speak
- No one can speak more than twice without permission from the assembly
- Nominations close 7 days before voting. Candidates must declare their intention by that time.

Discussion: A question was raised regarding who was on the committee. Steve Taylor, Andy Murray, Laurie Taylor

Motion: Made by Ray F. to accept the uncontested nominations. Seconded.
Vote: **Passed, with 3 no votes**

Discussion from the floor on the issue of not being able to nominate from the floor on the day of the vote.

Steve Taylor responded: We cannot take nominations from the floor. This is because of an approved by-law change made September 2021. Maurice Hutton is free to protest the election, following National guidelines for doing so.

Note: Maurice indicated that he will protest the election.

Contested Election–Secretary:

Each candidate give 2 minutes to explain why she wants this position.

Annette Sirica:

Stressed 12+ years of involvement in USATF Virginia Association, being an athlete, assisting at Championship meets, and being in the position of Secretary for 12 years.

A Blair Gardner:

Currently an official, but would like to be more involved in USATF. Willing to help where needed.

Note: A. Blair Gardner was offered the position of Safe Sport representative, which she accepted. This is a huge help, and a very good way to begin to be involved in Virginia Association.

Results of Voting: Annette Sirica reelected to the position of Secretary

Contested Election: Officials Chair

Each candidate given 2 minutes to explain why she wants this position,

Nickie Willis:

Stressed her many years of service as an official and recently as the Officials Chair. Outline her ideas for recruiting, training, and retaining officials.

A Blair Gardner:

Again stressed how she has been serving as an official, and would like to be more involved in USATF.

Results of Voting: Nickie Willis is reelected Officials Chair

Discussion:

Dave Caruthers says that we currently have 139 officials and need more. He suggests talking to high school and college student athletes and former athletes, telling them about USATF, and what it has to offer them. They can be trained to be officials, can get paid for their work at meets as officials.

Open Positions:

For open position, nominations can be made from the floor. However, the person nominated must be present.

- Women’s LDR–No nominations. Position to remain open
- Racewalking: Chris English nominated by Ray Funkhouse.
- MUT–No nominations–position to remain open.

The elections were declared closed.

Motion: A motion was made and seconded to destroy the ballots.

Discussion: Objection by Maurice Hutton. Members reminded the assembly that the ballots must be destroyed (by-laws), and that he is free to protest the election after its completion.

Vote: Motion passes with no dissenting votes.

Ray:

If anyone is interested in serving in the open positions, they need to contact Ray F and they will be voted on at the next meeting.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting is scheduled for February 9.

Meeting adjourned at 4:21pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Annette M. Sirica

Annette M. Sirica
Secretary

