

## **USATF-NJ ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

Wednesday, September 14, 2022, 7:00pm

Location: Virtual

### **Zoom Registration list in lieu of roll call**

Attendees were: Wayne Baker, Ivan Black, Kristen Bradley, Debbie Brathwaite, Rita Christopher, Jessica Clarke, Joe Compagni, Cindy Cooke, Glenda Crawford-Waxter, Mary Daley, Laura Delea, Dianne DeOliveira, Albert Essilfie, Pam Fales, Eva Fisher, David Friedman, Rich Hahn, Joseph Illenye, Ortavia Jackson, Michael Kish, Cora Koch, Ed Koch, Edward Koch, J. Mark Korey, Jason Lattimore, Tia Livingston, Patrick Mariani, Jack Mathis, Murphy McDaniel, Kevin McKnight, Aysha Mirza, Michael Moschitta, Terry Mullane, Edward Neighbour, Josiah Novack, Noah Perlis, William Pollinger, Christine Prorock-Rogers, Michael Renn, Christopher Rinaldi, Anthony Robinson, Ryan Rogers, Diana Romero, Ron Salvio, Wally Smith, Phyllis Smith-Livingston, William Strain, Tauhidah Thompson, Rhonda Underwood-Rimpel, Michelle Westermeyer, and Cynthia Young – regional coordinator guest.

### **President's Welcome**

Chris Rinaldi, USATF-NJ Vice President, hosted the meeting because President, Jennifer Simpson, was traveling for work.

Chris mentioned that we are very excited about our return to competition and the large participation at this meeting. All competition disciplines are seeing increased participation and Oregon 2022 has been a good springboard for increased membership.

### **Review of the minutes**

A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the minutes of the March 9, 2022 Annual Meeting.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to adjust the agenda so that the Annual Meeting delegate election occurred next since it will take quite a bit of time.

Pam Fales explained the balanced voting spreadsheet that she drafted on the participants behalf based on their answers to the registration questions. She also explained that the athlete representation requirement recently increased to 33 1/3% and that we have over 50% athlete in attendance so we are covered through our current bylaws and the new 33 1/3% national requirement. After clarifying data and vote positions, there were no more questions.

Pam next explained that the committee chairs, vice chairs, board members, current member International Athletes and a couple regular Annual Meeting attendees were all placed on the ballot to be delegates to the Annual Meeting. With the current USATF-NJ membership count, we are allowed 16 delegates at the 2022 Annual Meeting. We need to elect and send at least 4 coaches and 6 athletes, one of which needs to be an International Athlete. Pam next read the ballot names and asked for any 'coach' updates and any additions to the ballot. Joe Compagni requested and was added to the ballot. All attendees on the ballot said a few words about why they should be voted in as a delegate to the Annual Meeting. A couple people withdrew their names from the ballot due to conflicts with the meeting dates. The Google Forms ballot was then presented within the chat for people to click on and cast their vote. A second form was added to vote for one alternate, which is used to break any ties that need to be broken. The delegates voted in will be contacted in the next day or so, after making sure we have the required coaches and athletes in the delegation.

## **Financial Report**

The Financial Report given by Ed Neighbour is attached.

Aysha Mirza mentioned that the association could use improved / increased social media activity. Joe Compagni said it would be great if someone could step forward to assist with our social media.

## **Administrative Report**

The Administrative Report given by Terry Mullane is attached.

## **Sport Committee Reports:**

### **Long Distance Running**

The LDR Report given by Ed Neighbour is attached.

### **Track and Field**

The Track and Field committee report given by Dave Friedman is attached.

### **Race Walk**

The Racewalk report was given by Ron Salvio.

We are halfway through the New Jersey Race Walk Series for 2022. We held a 10k in May and the 1 hour in August. We will be holding a 20k on October 23<sup>rd</sup> and the 15k on November 12<sup>th</sup>. We are also holding the National 5k championships, along with Association championships, on September 25<sup>th</sup> for Open, Masters and U20. We continue to hold the rights for this national championship in 2023 and 2024. Ron mentioned that our Race Walk Series is probably in jeopardy, after 9 years, because the facility is now charging \$200 per event, which is \$1000 for the year. Race Walk events have very few participants so it's impossible to cover those increased costs. The only way we've managed so far is because the facility was free and the Officials have waived their stipends. Unfortunately, the 5k didn't appear on the national schedule until this week, so our registration is well below expectations. Volunteers are needed for lap counting on the 25<sup>th</sup>. Bids for 2023 championships at the Association, Regional or National level need to be sent to Ron by Nov 15<sup>th</sup> so he can work on the 2023 schedule before the Annual Meeting. Ron added that he sends his best regards to his RW committee chair predecessor, Elliott Denman, who fell and fractured his hip and has since had a severe cardiac situation. Elliott is currently in rehab, not at home, and we wish him the very best and a full recovery.

### **Youth**

Al Essilfie gave the Youth committee report.

As everyone knows, last year was an abridged version but a lot of teams did participate at the Youth Nationals at Staten Island and did very well. This year, membership numbers are up, we are looking forward to Cross Country season and leading into indoor season. As mentioned, we were very disappointed not to be hosting the Region 2 Cross Country Championships this year, as expected. We pushed to get it and feel it was unfair to be taken away from us. Three Rivers will be hosting both XC and Track regional championships in the same year, which has always been against the rules in the past. We will push for protocols to be in place and enforced for these situations going forward while at the Annual Meeting in December.

We are already working on the indoor schedule with meets at the Armory in Jersey City, the Armory in New York and at Ocean Breeze on Staten Island again. The national meet will be at Ocean Breeze

so that will help with our membership numbers. The Toms River Bubble is only available for High School meets at this time, so we are not able to host meets there as we did pre-pandemic.

Ivan Black then gave the Masters Track & Field report.

Nice season with indoor champs at Ocean Breeze and national championships at the Armory.

Looking forward to a good 2023 season. The New Jersey Senior Games was held a couple weeks ago. Those competitors don't know anything about USATF so it would be a good avenue to pursue for membership and participation. We'd also like more LDR people on the track. Al also mentioned that there will be masters events at the Jersey City Armory meet, which was appreciated by the meeting attendees.

### **Officials Committee Report**

Kevin McKnight covered the officials report.

We have brought in over 13 new officials and are striving for increased professionalism. We are looking to do 1 hour event specific training once a week. Aysha asked about future race walk officials training and Bill Pollinger volunteered to assist in that training, as he has in the past. Kevin will work with the committee on the upcoming clinic schedule.

### **Old Business**

There was no old business.

### **New Business**

Jack Mathis had entered a question in the chat regarding a decrease in grand prix sanctioned events and asked if our fees have become cost prohibitive. Ed Neighbour mentioned that most of the sanctioned events have actually had their sanction fees reduced due to a mandate from the National Office. Our Grand Prix fees have not gone up in years. The new USATF sanction system requires safe sport training, which is causing some events to obtain insurance from other sources. There is an opportunity to reach out to events with details and benefits of being in our Grand Prix, sanctioning their events and being Safe Sport trained. Christine Prorock-Rogers also mentioned that we have an opportunity to reach out to open runners regarding our Grand Prix, which is dominated by masters runners. Terry disagreed that there was a shortage of Grand Prix events in total this year but there is a shortage of the longer races as it's easier and cheaper to host a shorter race.

### **Meeting Adjournment**

With no further new business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:49pm.

Minutes taken by Pam Fales, Secretary, USATF-NJ



**Association's Report  
Virtual Meeting  
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2022 Membership

- Adult 1888
- Youth 2766

Total-4654

Sanctions

- Over 200 plus Sanctions have been approved
- Sanctions Pending -3
  
- USATF Championship Events Masters Outdoor Eastern Regional Track & Field Championship
- National Club Track & Field Championships
- Youth Association Track & Field Junior Olympic Championships
- Open & Masters Association Track & Field Championship. Plus 2 Developmental Meets
- 10 LDR Championships
  
- By Hook or By Crook USATF Masters 12K Championship
- Youth Association Cross Country Junior Olympic Championships
- National Racewalk Championship
- 9 LDR Championships to go

There will be an Awards Luncheon Banquet to celebrate this year. January 29,2023, Pines Manor, Edison, 12:00pm-4:00pm

We had our Grow to Impact Grant meeting,

Initiative Membership, we have achieved the goal of increased membership by 20%

Initiative Social Membership, we have partnered with a Media Tech Member and have upgraded our promotions of USATF-NJ Events on social media. This includes our logo, event logo, plus pre and post-race photos. Continuing to partner and upgrade to another level

Initiative Run, Jump, Throw, we are excited to partner with Rutgers University and their Coaching staff and athletes to offer a September Clinic. In addition, we are scheduling a Youth Racewalk Clinic



**Treasurer's Report  
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**I. Treasurer's Report 2022**

- The Association's financial position has continued to improve in 2022. Our Membership numbers are already 111% above the level we were back in September 2021. In 2021 while Adult programs started to resume in mid-2021, opportunities for our youth were limited last year. Our youth membership is already double what we had in 2021 and is currently over 2,500 youth athletes.
- We have received a grant from National to help grow membership in 2022. We had set a 20% goal (4,076). We exceeded that and currently stand at 4,683 members 38% above our 2021 year end total.
- Sanction revenue continues recovering in 2022. We are running 25% of what we sanctioned last year. Currently have over 200 sanctions for the year. Events are having higher participation levels so sanction revenue is about 50% more than we were at the same time in 2021.
- We had resumed our full LDR Championship schedule back to pre-COVID levels. We will again host a National Masters 12k Championship on September 18<sup>th</sup>
- The Track and Field and Youth Programs also returned with participation levels targeted at 2019 levels or better.
- Our bank balance has recovered during 2022 and we are in a much better even ahead of where we stood in 2019.
- The Association is still looking to grow our Sponsorships and strengthen our relationship with Paul Miller Auto Group the sponsor of our LDR Grand Prix.



## **General Meeting LDR Division Report September 14, 2022**

### **I. LDR Committee meeting.**

- LDR Fall Meeting is to be scheduled. Anticipate this will be Via Zoom

### **II. Paul Miller Auto Group Grand Prix**

- The return to the typical Grand Prix schedule in 2022 has been well received by our membership as evidenced by the participation.
- Most clubs with LDR components have returned and are competing at our Championships.
- 2022 award winners will get the opportunity to be celebrated at our 2023 Awards lunch on January 23rd.
- Working towards scheduling a meeting with Paul Miller to discuss ongoing relationship and ways we can work together to promote the program and our title sponsor.

### **III. LDR 2022 Championships**

- LDR Championship schedule is on USATF-NJ website LDR page.
- USATF NJ Championship that is also USATF Masters LDR Championship:
  - **By Hook or by Crook 12K, All divisions**, September 18<sup>th</sup>. Highlands, NJ (Sandy Hook) Second year as National Masters Championship. In 2021 this event broke all USATF National Masters Championship record. Several National records were set in 2021.
- Upcoming races Grand Prix Championships:
  - **Steeplechase 10k** Masters Men/Women September 25<sup>th</sup>
  - **Little Silver 5k** Open Women October 2<sup>nd</sup>
  - **Harington Park 5k**, Masters Men, November 12, 2022
  - **Ashenfelter 8k**, All Divisions, Thanksgiving day, November 24<sup>th</sup>
- 2023 USATF-NJ Championship bidding will open within the next few weeks.

### **IV. Cross Country Championships.**

- USATFNJ hosted a 5k Cross Country Championship August 28<sup>th</sup>. Event saw a good participation level with most of our clubs. Clubs had tents setup at the Natirar venue. Welcome return to cross country after three years.
- We have partnered with Garden State Track Club. They will host the 8k/6k USATF NJ Cross Country Championship November 6, 2022. Buccleuch Park, New Brunswick.

### **V. COED Team**

- The final race of the four scheduled COED Team events in 2022 is the East Brunswick 12k, October 16, 2022
- There is prize money for club teams. Scoring 3 of 4 events.
- Details on website LDR Page.

### **VI. USATF NJ MUT**

- The MUT Division is looking to expand our offerings in 2023.

## Track & Field Committee Zoom Meeting Agenda

September 28, 2022

- Review the 2022 outdoor season
- Review the race walk program
- Plan the indoor season. Will there be another dual meet with USATF-NY for 2023 at Ocean Breeze and it will also be the Eastern Regional Masters Indoor Championships?
- Start planning the dates for the 2022 outdoor season
  1. Will we have development meets at the Peddie School again?
  2. Date for Association outdoor open & masters championship meet and location and will it also be the Eastern Regional Masters meet?
  3. Date for the youth meet
  4. Possibility of another USATF National Club/NJ International Meet?
- Master's Grand Prix
- Old Business
- New business