

USATF New Jersey General Membership Meeting  
Wednesday, March 15, 2017  
Garwood New Jersey

**I. In attendance:** Ed Neighbour, David Friedman, Madeline Bost, Reno Stirrat, Terry Mullane, Lisa Morgan, Greg Hatzisavvas, Ben Teixeira, Anthony DiFiore, Gary Rosenberg, Debbie Braithwaite, Deb Hall, Beau Atwater, John Chachi Sabatino, Ron Salvio, James Cook, Pam Fales, Bruce Fabrikant, Josiah J. Novack, Wayne Smith, Phil Galli, Phyllis Smith-Livingston, Wayne Baker, Bob Andrews, Tony Lombardo, Bob Skorupski, Eva Fisher, Roger Price, Jennifer Simpson, Claire Tafelski, Mike Walters, Gerold Velli, Jason Lattimore, Alex Hall, Peter Warren, Jane Parks

## **II USATF-NJ Presidents Message** by Edward Neighbour

This evening we begin the transition to a new Executive Committee with the elections of President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary. This evening we will also be looking to make some revisions to our Bylaws. They are small additions but by recognizing them in the bylaws the Association will be in a better position to promote and champion them within the boundaries of our Association

For the LDR Division we will be looking to add Cross Country and Mountain Ultra Trail or MUT to the Bylaws. We already have Association representation at the National level through appointments but this will give the LDR Sport Committee the ability to promote and grow those programs within the Association with dedicated representatives on the LDR Committee.

In Youth Athletics it is proposed we add Track and Field and Cross Country to more clearly define the programs in which we have Youth Championships which feed into the regional and National level. It is my hope the Youth Committee promote additional representation among the committee to help strengthen and promote our Youth Programs.

Finally Para athletics will be formally recognized in our bylaws. It is my hope that by adding this to our bylaws we can begin to develop ways to serve this community of athletes at the Association Level.

In conclusion as I step back from my twelve years in service to the Association I want to thank all of you that have dedicated your time and energy in volunteering for the Association. To those that have stepped up and served our Association in committees and at the Annual meeting you have my gratitude for without you we cannot continue to grow and promote the sport.

**III. Minutes** of the September 22, 2016 General Membership meeting were approved with corrections for spelling.

**IV. Administrative Report:** Terence Mullane

Individual Memberships

- 2017 as of 03/15/2017 Membership is 3,661, 1,966 are Adult Members, and 1,695 are Youth Members,
- (1,499 Female, and 2,162 Male Members)

Events/ Sanctions

- 216 Sanctioned Events as of 03/15/17
- 455 Sanctioned Events in 2016

Clubs

- 94 Clubs as of 03/15/2017- 23 Clubs are waiting on the Background Checks to be confirmed
- 128 Clubs in 2016

News & Notes

- Facebook has been a great resource for distributing information,
  - 1201 Friends, 295 Likes, 800 Twitter Followers
- Our Annual Banquet was a Great Success, as we had two honored Guests, 2016 New Jersey Olympians- Sydney McLaughlin and Robby Andrews. They were fantastic with guests of all ages, signing Autographs and Taking Pictures all evening!
- We are planning Run, Jump, Throw Clinics in the Summer of 2017

**V. Financial Report:** Reno Stirrat

- Membership is running in line with previous years. We had a drop in Youth in 2016 due conflicts between AAU and USATF NJ Association schedules. This year we are not expecting that issue to impact our Association
- Sanction revenue is running much stronger this year.
- Our Clubs Membership is running ahead of last year . There are still 59 Clubs that need to renew in 2017.
- Grant forT&F equipment and we have been approved.
- We were also given a \$2000 grant at Associations in the annual meeting.
- The Financials can be seen on USATF NJ site.

**VI. Proposed Bylaw Amendment to Article 12**

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Purpose: Additional Sports MUT, Cross Country to LDR Division, Para Athlete to Administrative Division. Brings NJ Bylaws into alignment with USATF National. Submitted as per NJ Association Bylaws Article 20.

B. 3. and 4. to bring into alignment with USATF National.

See attachment

President Ed Neighbour presented the proposed by-law changes and the reasons for the changes. Vice Chair of the national para Olympics committee, Phil Galli, spoke of the work being done to offer more opportunities to compete to para athletes.

The proposed new by-laws were approved with no dissension.

## **VII. Election of Officers.** Three Year Term: 2017/05/01 to 2020/04/30

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**President:** Claire Tafelski was nominated and seconded and elected by acclamation

**Vice President:** Jennifer Simpson was nominated and seconded and elected by acclamation

**Secretary:** Madeline Bost and Beau Atwater were nominated and seconded. Each spoke briefly, then the vote was taken by paper ballot. Madeline Bost was elected.

**Treasurer:** Reno Stirrat was nominated, seconded and elected by acclamation.

## **VIII. Sport Committee Reports**

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**LDR Committee Report:** Edward Neighbour

The LDR sport Committee had a meeting February 23, 2017.

- The meeting presented an overview of the 2017 Championship and event schedule. The selection process in December included a survey issued by the committee to LDR runners that competed in the past two years. Compuscore assisted in getting us the email list. We received 227 responses and results were posted on the LDR page. We hope to use this as a tool to get feedback this year following each Championship/USATF NJ event.
- The Championship Schedule was put together using the bids received and trying to balance the schedule for the year. While this balancing act is always a compromise, this year we looked at adding a few twists.
- There were three Category 3 races that bid for the same weekend at the end of March. While two of the races were new events and there was some work still to be done to ensure completeness in some of the bids, the committee deliberated and because there were drawbacks to all three the committee could not give any of the races a Championship Award. Thinking outside the box in 2017 the three races will serve as a LDR Racing Season Opener Weekend. The Three events will be 700 point events in the South Central and North of the state.
- The other item that will be new is that we will have a Coed Open and Masters Team Championship at the President's Cup 5k. The Team form will be to declare up to four men and four women on a team. The top two men and top two women on the team will

score. Open Team is by time. Masters Teams will have no age divisions but will be scored based on PLP. This event is not in the Team Grand Prix but we are looking to try this and will evaluate the success of the event. The race will have a 700 point value for the Individual Grand Prix.

- The Championships selected this year were not all Championships in 2016, they all had been Championships in previous years.
- New in 2017 is that we will be having a USATF Official at all our Championship.
- The only rule change that passed at the meeting was with regard to the Mini 3 series. Up to three 700 point events of the five scoring races in the series will count. The mini had restricted that to two 700 point events in previous years.
- There was a long debate concerning the scoring in the Individual Grand Prix. The proposed revision to the structure was defeated. There was a discussion on the need to possibly reevaluate the 700 and 500 point system since the races in NJ are growing in size and a race like Liberty Half did not have any points separation between the winner and second place finisher with both scoring 700 points.
- The suspension of the 2017 LDR Travel Stipend program was discussed. The need for a revenue source to help fund this program was discussed. The attendees want the program to come back. The LDR committee is evaluating what can be done this year with limited funding.
- The May LDR Meeting will have Sport Committee Elections. We are hoping to include MUT and Cross Country Positions on the committee to help Champion and grow those programs.

### **Track & Field Committee Report:** David Friedman

The Open & Masters Indoor Championship meet was held at the Bennett Bubble in Toms River on Sunday January 26<sup>th</sup> and was one of the better meets of recent years. Pre-seeding of events and the laying out of hurdle distances along with a crack hurdle crew made the meet run smoothly and on time. There was a great group of officials present and there weren't any issues in that area. An electronic survey was sent to the athletes post-meet and the responses were very favorable.

Our indoor association meet has conflicted with the Eastern Regional Indoor Championships the past couple of years and a group of us met with the Eastern Regional committee in Orlando at the Annual meeting and it was agreed that we would move our meet to another date going forward to avoid this problem. Now the issue will be to find a facility at the right date.

There was a strong group of athletes that competed in Albuquerque over two weekends in February in both the Masters and Open National Championships bringing home a large amount of medals.

A group of Association athletes will be traveling to Daegu, South Korea from March 19<sup>th</sup> – the 23<sup>rd</sup> for the World Masters Championships and hopefully they will continue our Masters successes of recent years at this level.

There are a large number of outdoor meets on our calendar for the late spring and summer months. Our Open & Masters Outdoor Championship meet is scheduled for Friday evening June 16<sup>th</sup> and Saturday June 17<sup>th</sup> at the Peddie School in Hightstown. The Association invited the New York Association to join us to combine both State meets but because of a few issues it doesn't seem it will happen for this meet.

As usual the New Jersey Striders and Shore A. C. are putting on their series of meets for competitors of all ages. On Saturday 7/1 it is back to the Peddie School for the 31<sup>st</sup> edition of the N J International meet with always draws top level competitors. There are always additions or changes to the meet schedule so it's wise to keep an eye on the track and field calendar on our website.

The next track and field committee meeting is tomorrow night (March 16) at 7:00 p.m. at the Association's office in Montville and all our welcome to help us plan the outdoor meet schedule and other events.

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#### **Race walk Committee Report** Ron Salvio

Seven Association Championships were held in 2016 and will again be held in 2017. (3k track indoor; 5k and 1 hour track outdoor; 5k, 10k 15k and 20k roads).

In 2016 New Jersey hosted the National Open and Masters 40k Championships and the National Masters 20k Champs. We still have National Masters 20k Champs for both 2017 and 2018.

Additionally, we are attempting to stage the National Open and Masters 10k Champs but this is still not definite.

Dates remaining for this year are:

April 22 (Sat) Nat'l Masters 20k, NJ Open and Masters 20k, Whiting 9:30am (FARC)

May 20 (Sat) NJ Open and Masters 10k, Whiting, 10:00am (FARC)

June 16 (Fri) NJ Open and Masters 5k – track, Hightstown 7:00pm (Ass'n)

July 30 (Sun) Nat'l Open and Masters 10k, (site TBA) 8:30am (SAC) (Tentative)

Aug 13 (Sun) NJ Open and Masters 1 Hour, Manchester 8:30am (FARC)

Sept 23 (Sat) NJ Open and Masters 15k, Whiting 10:00am (FARC)

Nov 12 (Sun) NJ Open and Masters 5k, Whiting 10:00am (FARC) (date may change due to conflict with Centurian Walk in NY)

Most issues to be addressed:

- A. Increasing participation
- B. Lack of certified judges
- C. Loss of youth/JO walkers reaching High School

#### New Programs:

We have instituted use of "Pit Lane" at events of 10k or less to encourage new walkers.  
We have purchased racewalknj.com but need a web designer and or web master to help.  
A R/W budget has been approved for the first time for 2017.  
Committee meeting date(s) and site(s) to be announced soon.

#### **Youth Committee Report** Terry Mullane

- Association Junior Olympic Cross Country Championship were held on 11/6/16 at the Dear Path Park Complex, Flemington, Special Thank you to the Crimson Knights for Assisting with the Meet
- Region 2 Junior Olympic Cross Country Championships were held on 11/20/16 at Central Park in Morris Plains, Special Thank you goes out to the Lakeland Cross Country Program with their assistance in running the meet
- Our indoor program is coming off a successful showing at both the Indoor Zonal Meet and Indoor Hershey National Championships, both events were held at the Ocean Breeze Complex on Staten Island

Association Outdoor Track & Field Championships will be held on two different dates, and at two different locations.

- Youth 15-18 will compete in the Open & Masters Championship on 6/16 & 6/17 at the Peddie School, Hightstown
- Youth 14-Under will compete on 6/11/17, tentatively scheduled at Plainfield High *School*

Region 2 Youth Outdoor Track & Field will be hosted by the Niagara Association, 6/6/17-6/9/17  
USATF Youth National Championships will be held in Lawrence, Kansas 7/24/17-7/30/17

Youth Committee Meeting- Elections will be held on 3/30/17  
Rutgers University, Livingston Campus, Tillet Hall, Room 209

#### **IX. Officials Committee Report** Bruce Fabrikant

We are holding a clinic at Stockton University this Saturday for those desiring to become certified USATF Officials.

The USATF National office is experiencing a backlog in processing certification and that is expected to continue until a new solution is implemented.

#### **X. New Business**

1. Lisa Morgan reported that there will be another Run, Jump, Throw sponsored by Goldman Saks in Newark on June 11, 2017
2. Pam Fales has been appointed as vice chair of the national Member Organization Services Committee.

3. Greg Hatzisavvas announced that Frank Collins needs names for his list of officials.
4. Greg demonstrated the new javelin for 11-12 year olds effective 2017.  
They are now a 450g “aero-javelin”. It replaces the 300g mini javelin.

**XI. Meeting Adjourned**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by  
Madeline Bost,  
Secretary