**2020 USATF Ozark Association Annual Meeting**

**Minutes**

The Annual Meeting of USATF Ozark Association scheduled for 7:00 P.M., Tuesday, September 29, 2020 and held virtually on the ZOOM platform, was called to order by President Martise Scott, being in the Chair and Secretary, Eileen Morris also being present. Additionally, there were approximately\* 25 members who joined the virtual meeting. Members, previously informed that minutes of the Mid-Year Meeting held February 25, 2020 were available online, were allowed time to review those. A motion to accept the minutes was made, seconded and approved.

Neither Treasurer, Gussie Crawford nor Vice-President, Laura Borman were present to present their reports. Martise requested Eileen to read current balances of Ozark’s funds from materials forwarded by them as follows: the association began February with a bank balance of $36,130.07. At the end of August, the balance was $37,786.07. This included the following funds: Youth-$3,012.69; Adult-43,582.35; Special Youth-$4,567.65; Bid fund-$500.00 and General Fund-$26,123.38. A motion to accept the report as presented was made seconded and approved.

Other reports were also unavailable. However, Martise noted that due to the pandemic, the numbers were significantly down. Eileen shared that membership numbers she was able to access recently, showed just under 290 adults out of a total of about 400, significantly lower than the previous year highest total of 1200-1300 members. Martise then described the Budget process as currently at a stalemate due to Covid-19 but that it would be posted online. An item which especially impacts our budget is the National Annual meeting costs for our delegates to participate. The uncertainty of that prevents us from producing any factual numbers to produce a budget.

Moving on to Sports Committee Reports, Bob Nichols presented the **Race Walk** activities. He explained that they were unable to hold meets in April or May. Their Spring Series was held, completing June and July events. Three August events were sanctioned separately and held. He also reported preparations for four races in October. Informally, some of the racewalkers were participating virtually in the Hot Chocolate event. Martise gave Bob a “shout out” for doing an excellent job keeping his group going given limitations due to COVID and for his nomination for two of the major National Official awards to be decided and announced at the National Annual Meeting

At that time, It was then also pointed out that Mike Davey had been nominated for the National Horace Crow Award. He reminded us that he had been officiating for 52 years and thanked whoever nominated him and Eileen for her successful effort to submit his information.

Martise read from a report sent him by Dave Spetnagel, LDR Chai. It informed us that the Ozark 5K & 10 K Championships Championship would again be held within the Gumbo Flats Pumpkin Race. Registration was still open and USATF members could participate in those races by providing their membership number. Once it is confirmed to be a live event rather than virtual, Dave will contact Laura to process the sanction for the meet. It is hope that should it be only a virtual race, not sanctionable by USATF, the National Accreditation Committee will make exceptions in requirements for those races.

Ed Rowold, reporting for **Masters’** Committee, noted that there are a few athletes participating in the World Masters Athletics (WMA). The 2020 WMA Outdoor Championship in Toronto has been cancelled but will be moved to 2021 and held in Finland, rather than in 2022 with a probable starting date of late June to early July. He then noted that originally The Indoor Championship in 2021 originally to be held in Edmonton, Alberta, has been rescheduled for the first or second week of April 2022.

Shalini Kovach, **MUT** was not present to give us updates on her events if it was possible for any to take place in some of the outlying areas where some events are being allowed.

Tish Hanna, Chair for the **Adult Sports council**, continues to encourage the idea for our association to hold small weekly meets of limited events during the summer. She recommended that we try to hold our association’s Open/Masters Outdoor Championship separately from JO championship if we are allowed due to COVID. She believes events could be scheduled better for these athletes and could provide an opportunity for Open athletes to qualify for USA Olympic Trials.

Dave Searcy**, Youth** chair, confirmed that there would be no Association Cross Country Championship this season and was not sure about the USATF National Championship. He confirmed that there were no youth cross country meets being held at this time, but it is hoped that we can get some things going for next year.

Ed Rowold, **Officials** Committee chair noted that since this is an Olympiad year. Our Chair, V-Chairs for Rules, Training and Awards and the Secretary are supposed to be elected for the next four-year term. Until we have a meeting to get that done, Ozark Officials Operating Procedures state that each officer serves for a term of four years or until his successor is chosen. Therefore, we will have the same people in place until we can figure a way to get the election done. He noted from Eileen that the Sport80 Connect report shows only 35 fully certified officials rather than the 82 we had at the end of 2019. Many of our officials may have been invalidated by National for expired membership, lapsed NCSI background screening or their SafeSport coarse requirement incomplete or lapsed. He pointed out that each official can access his USATF Connect system account once set up, see issues which may be lapsed and access the appropriate link to take care of those. Someone noted that they reported difficulty with their NCSI and received assistance in a day or two. Recertification officially begins November 1. More information will be coming out soon. 2019 Officials Awards which would have been presented at the banquet are: Robert Nichols and Frank Schultz, Outstanding Track Official; Ashley Harris, Outstanding Field Official; Dave Searcy, Outstanding Youth Official and Eileen Morris, Outstanding Field Official and Outstanding Mentoring. They also receive Outstanding Service Awards from National Office. For 2020 Outstanding Service Awards have been received for Earsene Andrews, Patricia Hanna, Dale Huwer, Richard Skirball, and Michael Davey.

Eileen reminded participants that at the last Annual Meeting, having established a Para Committee, volunteers were sought, but there were none to come forward and then Covid has prevented further discussion. Members were encouraged to consider serving on the committee and to contact Eileen or Ed Cockrell.

Martise announced the appointment of Anniece Spencer as Volunteer Coordinator for **SafeSpor**t. It was acknowledged that the basic course can take 2-3 hours online but that it is not financially feasible to host an approved representative to have an in-person group session. He emphasized that once events can be resumed, we need to be ready to go. Officials and club coaches need to have all their requirements in order.

He then announced that no one had come forward to serve on **a Nominating committee** for Association elections and requested that interested persons email Eileen. A discussion followed on the concern of why our elections were delayed until our 2021 annual Meeting and the possibility of having the elections at the 2021 Mid-Year meeting, the setting of a date for the meeting, and possibility of additional amendment make that change. It was noted that a Nominating Committee was needed to be etablished quickly. Ginger Mulanax volunteered, as well as Terry Robinson, Dave Searcy, Darrell Spencer and Mike Davey.

Eileen explained that Ozark was lacking a 2019 Open/Masters Track and Field Championship and therefore did not pass accreditation. She has submitted the required Plan For Improvement (PFI) and expects to have that approved and Ozark given Provisional status.

She then explained that the Blast Communications were not reaching all our members but was able to create a more accurate mailing list from the new system. However, it is temporary, and she urges that members make sure their profile is completed in their new Sport 80 account. She warned that Emergency contact information must be completed to proceed to following pages and that items 1 & 3 must be checked on the “subscription” page to receive important information from National nor any announcements and information sent from Ozark.

Martise brought to our attention the statement USATF had recently made, demonstrating they are passionate about the pandemic, the George Floyd incident, and all issues taking place from a racial perspective in this country. They are supportive of and making sure there is transparency and equality, all the way down to the association level. Expressing concern that we pay close attention to how we handle ourselves, how we behave, and our personal opinions, regardless of what level or event, he stated that we need to be as compassionate and understanding as possible of the issues that are taking place.

Prior to adjournment, Rich Skirball suggested possible availability of the Granite City HS facility for meets needing a venue. It was shared that the KC Relays for Spring 2021 have been cancelled. The GLVC Cross Country Championship in October was briefly discussed

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded and approved.

\*The exact number of participants was difficult to confirm due to the late comers and some couples or small groups sharing access.