

USATF Ozark Association Annual Meeting  
Minutes

The 2023 USATF Ozark Annual Meeting was held on September 17 at the Florissant Valley Branch of SLCL in Florissant, Missouri and on the ZOOM platform for virtual attendance. The meeting was chaired by President Carlos Ross and Secretary Eileen Morris was also present. Thirteen in-person attendees signed the attendance sheet, and ten participants' names were noted as ZOOM attendees. The meeting was called to order at 2:12 P.M. and the agenda was reviewed. A motion to accept the agenda as presented was made by Bob Nichols, seconded by John Morris, and approved.

The president then made introductions of the association's Executive Committee after which he noted that the minutes from the association's Mid-Year meeting of March 5, 2023, had been previously provided. A motion was made by Bob Nichols, seconded by Peggy Rowold and approved that they be accepted as presented.

Treasurer. John Morris, explained a document he presented as reflecting all the Ozark fund balances as of August 31. He noted that the major financial activity revolved around two track and field meets, the Open & Masters Outdoor Championship held on June 24 and the Region 9 JO Championships held July 6-9 in Arkansas, each meet ending with a deficit. The bank balance on August 31 was \$31,265.53, but there are some outstanding checks. He explained that it had been approved by the Executive Committee for full reports to be submitted only quarterly and that the upcoming report would include details of income which had not gone through the bank and the expenditures which had been paid from that income. John responded to an inquiry of the final deficit of the meets that it would be in the quarterly report posted on Ozark's website. As there were no further questions, a motion was made by Bob Nichols, seconded by Nick Barron and approved that the report be accepted as presented.

Eileen Morris reported that Ozark individual membership was currently 444, including 240 adults and 204 youth. She noted that except for a few membership applications which might be made by those interested in cross country or other long-distance events, it was not likely that there would be any significant increase soon. She added that we have at least 40 sanctions, and possibly more depending on how certain series' applications are considered and that there are currently 18 club memberships. A motion made by John was seconded and approved.

Officials' committee Chair, Ed Rowold, reported that at the committee's annual meeting held September 10, it was reported that there are 34 fully certified officials. He explained the reasons for a "pending status" of a number of previously certified officials and how some of those completing the process, updating their background screening or SafeSport course, could help bring us to the minimum required for accreditation. Ed reported that the Officials' Committee had a treasury balance of \$1,223.41. He explained a previous suspension of dues for two years due to Covid and a reevaluation of expenses likely to be incurred, but that it was agreed at the recent meeting to restart collection for 2024 and maintain the amount of \$20. He noted that some of the funds are used in odd numbered years to provide USATF Rules Books for all certified officials. He continued by reporting that amending and improving the committee's Operating Procedures had been in progress for some time but will need a reevaluation due to recent changes in the association's Bylaws, some of which reflect changes or additions mandated by National. He shared that a list of meets composed for officials would be posted on our website. Carlos then remarked that clubs need to encourage and recruit officials from among family members or coaches of the clubs. Ed indicated that the report was concluded. As there was no further discussion, a motion made by Bob Nichols to accept the report was seconded and approved.

For Race Walk, Chair Bob Nichols, announced a sanctioned series of events in October. Eileen's motion to accept this report was seconded and approved.

Adult Sports Council Chair, Peggy Rowold, reported that an Open and Masters Cross Country Championship was being planned and being combined with the Youth meet, but that the location had not been confirmed. A motion was made by Bob, seconded and approved to accept her report.

Karen Searcy-Chism, Youth Chair, announced that the Youth Committee's Annual Meeting would take place on October 15 and be held at Belleville West High School. The meeting is scheduled for 6:30 P.M. The agenda would be forthcoming,

but she asks that questions and topics to be considered at the meeting be submitted to her. She reported that a Youth club cross country schedule has been completed and that plans for a series of indoor meets were under way. Bob's motion to accept her report was seconded and approved.

Eileen then reported that only a small part of Grow to Impact funds had been used thus far. To encourage clubs to sanction USATF, contributions were offered to assist with the higher cost of doing so. Posters and handout materials were produced to be used at those meets and other events for marketing to increase USATF individual memberships. She explained that flexibility is granted by National to adjust our proposals for use of the funds if efforts with previous proposals were not productive or possible, as long as funds were not used to pay for individual memberships. We have not thus far met our improvement goals particularly for 20% membership increase. Although the youth membership increase was more than 20%. She noted that the funds were last year's which had not been used and that these must be expended by December 31 to receive an additional \$5000 grant for 2024. A new proposal for 2024 must be submitted for that.

Bob Nichols, as lead member of the Bylaw committee, then provided explanations felt needed or requested regarding additions or changes made to Ozark's Bylaws. There were several areas on which he made note of such as the addition of a section on Diversity. He explained that this is now required to be included in all associations' Bylaws and guidelines were provided by a national committee member. More details under "Secretary" and "Treasurer" had been added to define the fuller extent of their duties more clearly. Two committees, Communications and Para Athletics, were added to the Executive Committee. Several election issues needed changes and clarification, often due to the possibility of meetings being virtual or hybrid. Within the section on National Delegates, the required athlete delegates definitions were included. It was noted that the Bylaws now include that 3-step compliance must be held by all officers, directors and committee chairs and members. Committees and their functions were listed. Changes were necessary to be made regarding revenue and the collection of various fees. This was due to the changes by National requiring many procedures to be processed online and paid directly to USATF and then appropriate portions distributed to the association by bank transfer. A motion was made by Bob to approve the amended Bylaws as presented but allowing the committee to make corrections in punctuation, grammar or similar items which would not change the intent or spirit of the document was seconded by Peggy. There was a concern expressed regarding a requirement under Eligibility as well as similar wording under Committee Chairs regarding not being an officer, director, or chair in an organization similar to the Association or USATF, but after some clarification, no objection or recommendation of change was made. There was also a question on a quorum expressed but was resolved after some clarification. With no further questions heard, the motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

Eileen was asked to explain the formation of our delegation to attend and represent Ozark at the USATF Annual Meeting being held in Orlando Florida November 30-December 3. She brought attention to the requirement of having athletes as part of our delegation. She then explained that members of the Executive Committee and Committee Chairs often make up much of our delegation but there are times when someone is needed to fill a position. The requirements of a delegate and the limitations of what our budget can sustain were shared. She noted that a stipend is usually provided and is expected to be this year, but also indicated that it often cannot cover the complete cost. Members who may be interested in attending were encouraged to notify her within the next few days.

Eileen then explained the need for additional or possible replacement of sport chairs on the Adult Sports Council. Interested members should contact her.

A motion to adjourn was made by John seconded and approved. The meeting was adjourned at 4:18 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Morris, Secretary

