

## August USATF Ozark Executive Committee

August 8, 2023

### Minutes

The Ozark Association Executive Committee meeting on August 8, 2023 was held at the home of John and Eileen Morris. It was chaired and called to order at 7:09 P.M. by Carlos Ross, President. Eileen Morris, Secretary, was in attendance as well as John Morris, Ed Rowold, Peggy Rowold, Karen Searcy-Chism, Nick Barron and Andrew Scott. Bob Nichols and Angie Miller joined via a ZOOM call.

Minutes were provided in advance. Typographical errors were noted in P8, line 7 to be corrected to read "Dave Coutts took 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 1500M and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 5000M for his age group....." A motion made by Ed Rowold to accept the minutes as corrected was seconded by Bob and approved.

John Morris, Treasurer, reported a July 31 bank balance of \$36,935.53. No funds were received from National. The Adult fund had a balance of \$1761. After a deposit of a \$2000 donation and \$822 income from the Open/Masters Championships and expenditures of \$914 for the remainder of the TRXC Timing contract and \$255 for officials' lunches, the fund balance is \$3385. There is an outstanding charge from Parkway Central HS for use of their facility. There were no Youth fund deposits or expenditures in July. The fund ending balance was \$3820. Expenses recently paid for the Region 9 JO Championships were for facilities and custodial charges and the Jonesboro Police Department totaling \$4776. There are outstanding charges for Managers, Trainers, and ASU Security Officer(s) as well as an expected small deposit. The \$275 unrecognized debit noted last month is being investigated by US Bank. Bob's motion to accept the report was seconded by Peggy and approved.

Eileen reported that Membership was at 440, Clubs remain at 18 and Sanctions are now near 40 due to the correction regarding individual meets in a series. Bob's motion to accept the report was seconded by John and approved.

The Officials' Committee report given by Ed included setting a date of September 10 for the Officials' Committee Annual Meeting. A recommendation was made to check with city libraries for available space. Eileen reported that "Outstanding Official" award certificates would be provided by National. Those to receive the awards will be selected in the coming weeks. It was suggested that an "officials' certification" meeting be held September 16. A "space" would need to be found. Karen would be checking with Belleville High School.

Peggy Rowold, Chair for the Adult Sports Council announced that a meeting of the council will be on Thursday, September 7. Existing Adult Sport Chairs have been notified. The council may need to replace any who do not wish to continue serving in their appointed position in addition to filling already vacant positions. She noted that we still have Cross Country and LDR championships to hold before the end of the year as well as possibly holding an Indoor Championship in early 2024. John's motion to accept her report was seconded by Karen and approved.

Bob Nichols, Race Walk chair, announced that the August Duet, August 12 & 20, will take place. On August 20 both a 5K and 10K will be contested. Sanctions have been approved for the Grand Prix Fall Series. He reminded us that a 5K was held at the Association's O/M Championships and that the 1500M will be changed to a Championship during the Fall Series.

Karen Searcy-Chism, Youth Chair, turned over to the treasurer the remainder of Region 9 meet gate and registration and t-shirt sale proceeds of \$1272. She is planning to hold a Youth Committee Annual Meeting in October. She will attempt to schedule more events but explained that we need to consider raising the standards for club/developmental meets. Carlos added that we need assurance that these are well run meets and not just for the "bottom line". Smaller clubs may need to partner with another club in order to have the personnel

necessary for a well-run meet and be willing to share the profits. It was suggested that a template of a “good meet” be sent as well as dates available for meets and proposals or guidelines for standards to be met. Carlos and Karen agreed to reach out to AAU to agree to the implementation of a Code of Conduct for both AAU and USATF sanctioned meets. Angie recommended that clubs should urge parents to consider becoming officials to assist at meets to have adequate and consistent officiating. It was also strongly recommended that a minimum number of marshals be designated at each meet and that they be easily identified, perhaps using vests which the association could purchase and loan out to clubs for each meet. Nick’s motion to accept Karen’s report was seconded by Ed and approved.

It was then agreed that the agenda be altered to allow Bob to provide a presentation of the changes and additions to our Bylaws. After he began, it appeared that there would not be enough time to complete the entire document. Bob agreed to send the latest draft for all to review and submit questions or recommendations by August 13. He would then compose a new draft by August 16 which should be sent to the general membership in advance of the Annual Meeting during which there will be a vote to accept the changes. There was a reminder of the deadline of November 1 that National has set to have these completed and published.

John then announced that our Group Exemption had been submitted and approved. The cost of \$275 will be refunded to Ozark by National. He has continued to pursue Director and Officer Insurance although turned down by several companies. It was recently learned that the type of insurance we need can be purchased through National. He plans to make the appropriate contact and request necessary information and forms.

Eileen made a motion to implement a part of our Grow to Impact grant to provide \$250 to each of the four clubs which sanctioned their meets USATF to offset the difference with the AAU fee. It was asked if clubs hosting cross-country meets would receive similar assistance. Eileen suggested that it was possible. Her motion was seconded by Peg and approved.

Eileen then gave a report of the PFI’s required of us for accreditation, since we did not meet minimum standards in several categories. She explained what she had prepared for submission to the Accreditation Committee. Peggy’s motion to accept the report was seconded by Andrew and approved.

There was then a discussion of holding various meets in the upcoming months. It was agreed that Ozark would hold Open, Master and JO Cross Country Championships on Sunday, November 12. Angie asked and was assured that October 29 was available for USA to hold their meet. Other clubs expected to hold cross country meets are Scorpions, Mustangs and Blazers. Indoor track and field meets are being planned for December 9, January 14, February 10, and a championship meet for Open, Masters and Youth on February 25 all to be held at Principia College. Marketing was noted to be extremely important to get new memberships beginning November 1 of those who may take part in the Cross-country Championships. Andrew also suggested that we consider holding a “border wars” meet. He then announced that he was going to get several social media accounts to increase “visibility” of USATF Ozark, particularly to the youth. He also suggested that streaming our events should be considered. Eileen agreed to provide him with access information to the “branding portal” for marketing efforts.

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and approved. The meeting adjourned at 9:38 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Morris, Secretary