

USATF Ozark Association Executive Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 19, 2023

The Ozark Association Executive Committee meeting was called to order by President David Searcy at 2:25 P.M. Other officers present were Eileen Morris, Secretary and John Morris, Treasurer in addition to committee chairs, Ed Rowold, Karen Searcy-Chism, Bob Nichols, Peggy Rowold, and Brian Sheble.

Minutes were made available for reading. A motion made by Ed and seconded by Bob to accept the minutes as presented was approved.

The treasurer reported a Bank Balance on January 31, of approximately \$33,600 which included all funds. A more detailed report was distributed and discussed. He noted several 2022 expenses which were not reflected in that report. A motion made by Bob and seconded by Peggy to accept the treasurer's report was approved. A suggestion made by the treasurer that this type of report be made quarterly rather than at monthly Executive Committee meetings was approved by those present.

Eileen reported that as of Feb. 17, 2023 Membership was 215, including 166 adult and 49 youth. To date there have been 3 sanctions and 13 clubs currently registered for 2023. There are also 2 clubs pending due to some coaches or admins lacking "3-step" compliance. A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the reports as presented.

Officials Chair, Ed Rowold, noted that he was still needing more detailed information of the JO Championships and Regionals which Ozark is hosting to provide to officials as well as for making all necessary provisions and assignments. He asked the Youth Chair that he be included in the monthly meeting of regional coaches for the regional meet. He then reported that the Officials Committee held a banquet on January 15 where certificates and plaques were presented to various officials for 2019 through 2022. He announced plans of an Officials Committee Mid-Year meeting on Sunday, March 26, 2023.

For Adult Sports Council, LDR representative, Brian Sheble, shared that he was looking into some spring road races. Noting that our 5K and 10K Championships may take place again within the Chesterfield Gumbo Flats races, a discussion took place of considering some other smaller 5K and 10K sanctioned races which might allow for our championships to be included but incurring a smaller sanction fee. He is looking for other courses for LDR, as well, but noted that there are not many "certified" courses in our area. Peggy, as Track and Field representative, confirmed that the 2023 Ozark Outdoor Open/Masters Track and Field Championships were being planned for June 24, at Parkway Central. The hope is for a minimum of 100 participants. Paperwork is being prepared to submit for timing bids.

Bob Nichols then reported that the Race Walk Club had set their 2023 calendar, reducing the number of championships by one. They too have had difficulties locating venues, especially with a preferred track length. An April race is planned to take place in Chesterfield Central Park

Youth Chair, Karen Searcy-Chism, reported that the Association JO Championships would take place at Belleville West High School on Saturday, June 17. It is being planned that the Regional which we are hosting, will be held at Jefferson City High School. She explained that costs for the use of the facility would be \$7800 of which \$5120 were custodial fees for the four days, including a weekend. Others present expressed concern that written documentation of the proposal and its details should be

provided for consideration. Karen also noted that she is compiling a hotel list and would be contacting the Visitors Bureau as well as Chamber of Commerce for assistance. She then reported that rules are being changed limiting the allowance of "extraordinary circumstances" for a youth to be advanced without attending their association level championship meet. Also noted was the concern of "membership hopping" and the change in the process of transfers, although this problem has not been as much an issue for Ozark Association. A motion made by Bob and seconded by Peggy was approved to accept her report.

Dave reported that our 2022 Grow to Impact grant would be forwarded to 2023 and that our proposal was refiled.

John then reported that retrieval of the errantly deposited funds from Ozark AAU was in progress and that he expected results soon. He then described his continued efforts, including a demand letter sent by certified mail to rLaura Borman to retrieve \$700 provided believed to have been for the 2021 JO Championship and asking for payment by February 17, 2023. Discussion included Dave contacting Laura and on speaker phone having she give her explanation. There was still confusion of several points, but frustration was also expressed with the time being taken. There was a vote of five in favor of dismissing the issue with one vote in opposition and two abstentions.

John then reported the discovery of a discrepancy of names used on our 990 filings, when checking on the validity of our EIN (Employer Identification Number). For the last twelve years USA Track and Field, Inc. has been used. It was recommended by an IRS agent that when next filed, it be changed to our present official name, USATF Ozark. No objection was made to that change being made.

Eileen, giving a brief summary of our accreditation submission, noted that there were improvements in several items affected by demographics and allowances were still being made for those 2022. She did warn that we were likely to be cited for problems with our website and Bylaws. She also reported that update of our leadership positions had been requested and what she had provided to national office.

The discussion then took place regarding the resignation of Charity Heacock from the position of Communications Chair. It was agreed that Jayne Jackson should be promoted from Vice-Chair to assume the position of chair and would likely cover both the website and campaign manager for the foreseeable future.

Eileen brought up that a number of associations have acquired sponsors and wondered if we might do the same. Dave explained that the numbers of youth memberships in the past have produced a significant amount of our income and therefore we have not needed to seek sponsors. The topic was tabled at the time.

David then announced his resignation from the position of President of Ozark Association. A motion to adjourn was then approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Morris, Secretary