

USATF Ozark Executive Committee

July 11, 2023

Minutes

The Ozark Association Executive Committee held on the ZOOM platform on July 11, 2023, was chaired and called to order at 7:33 P.M. by Carlos Ross, President. Eileen Morris, Secretary was in attendance as well as John Morris, Ed Rowold, Bob Nichols, Karen Searcy-Chism, Peggy Rowold, Nick Barron, Earsene Andrews and Angie Miller.

Minutes were provided in advance. Bob Nichols' motion seconded by Ed Rowold to accept the minutes as submitted was approved.

John Morris presented the quarterly financial report showing a bank balance on June 30 of over \$36,000. He noted the major expenses included a deposit made to TRXC for Open/Masters meet timing of \$942 and \$475 for the Region 9 sanction. Outstanding expenses include approximately \$1250 owed to Parkway Central for facilities for the O/M Championships and the remaining \$942 for timing costs. There is also a debit of \$275 which has yet to be identified but will be. There was a recent deposit of a \$2000 contribution made to the Adult Sports Council for the O/M Championships. He reported that the storage unit contract in Belleville has been ended with no further balance due and all items moved. A motion by Bob Nichols and seconded by Peggy Rowold to accept the report was approved.

Eileen reported that Membership stood at 440, including 236 adults and 204 Youth; Clubs were at 18 with one pending and Sanctions approximately at 36 depending on how "series" are counted. A motion by Bob Nichols and seconded by John Morris to accept the reports was approved.

Ed Rowold, Officials Chair, reported that there were currently 33 officials, Eileen clarifying that there were again several with an expiration of one of the 3-step requirements and not showing on the report. Ed continued, stating that there were 10 officials who worked the Open/Masters Championships on June 24 and 7 officials and several Ozark volunteers were at the Region 9 JO Championships in Jonesboro. Eileen noted one nearly certified new official and believes several certifications and recertifications would be completed in the near future. Ed pointed out that officials, particularly LDR officials, would be needed for the upcoming XC season and association championship meets. Bob made a motion, seconded by John, to accept his report and it was approved.

Peggy Rowold, Adult Sports Council Chair, reported that the Open/Masters Championships went well and while it was reported that there were 10 officials, 3 of them served only for the Race Walk event. However, TRXC provided assistance, including EDM for measurements, and the 7 officials worked in teams and alternated to complete field events before moving to track events. Participants expressed appreciation for the opportunity and offered compliments on how well the meet went. She then advised us that a new XC Chair was needed. However, a discussion followed clarifying that there was no adult XC committee nor chair, but that LDR chairs covered XC events. Chairs currently included on the Adult Sports Council were identified. It was pointed out that a Para committee was established in 2019

and Ed Cockrell appointed as chair but had been “overlooked”. Carlos suggested he and Eileen discuss contacting him to make certain he is at least included in Adult Sports Council meetings. Bob Nichols informed us that a “chaired” Para Committee was being added to the Bylaws as well as MUT being added to the Adult Sports council. He then made a motion seconded by Eileen to accept the report, which was approved.

Race Walk Chair, Bob Nichols, then reported that due to heat and limited attendance on Monday, July 10, officials present decided to hold a 1600M instead and Bob said that the 3000M would be held the next Monday. He explained that the 5K held at the O/M championships would count as a championship held. He also noted that a sanction for the Fall Series was in progress. He planned on making the 1500M at the last October event a championship giving us 6 Race Walk championships for 2023. He then announced Ozark had 2 champions at the Senior Games. Gina Bufe came in 6th in the 1500 and 7th in the 5K for her age group and Dave Coutts took 2nd in the 1 in the 1500M and 2nd in the 5000M for his age group. John’s motion, seconded by Eileen, to accept the RW report was approved.

Karen Searcy-Chism, Youth Chair, then reported that the Region 9 JO Championships which we “hosted” took place in Jonesboro, Arkansas at Arkansas State University and had 440 entrants. She noted that all events were contested but that several of them were cancelled on the last day when weather required extended suspension of activity. She was currently working on getting participants who earned advancement, as well as some who would require automatic advancement, into the system for those who wished to participate in the National JO. She then gave a financial accounting for the meet as follows: Expenses for ASU facilities, including custodial services - \$2,576; Tents, chairs & tables - \$1,470; Jonesboro Police Dept. - \$2,265; Sanction for 1000 entrants - \$475.58 which included processing and late fees; thus far there was no invoice for the ASU PD. Income from Gate and participant fee receipts - \$11,101 from which she paid for Port o potties, timing, hotel costs after discounts, Head officials, Starters, Event facilitators and food and drinks for officials. John requested a detailed financial report for all income and expenditures. She agreed. Ed added that he and Peggy carried 24 implements from Ozark and that all were used at the meet and all 24 were returned. Bob’s motion seconded by Peggy to accept the report was approved.

John then reported that there were ongoing difficulties finding Director and Officers Liability insurance. Once again, he has several applications out with two agents and waiting for more information. He also reviewed the situation regarding the changes in Group Exemptions. He reported that our 1023 has been filed and we are waiting on the IRS decision but that for our size group it is a pretty straight forward process.

Eileen reminded us that our Grow to Impact proposal included scholarships for new officials. She proposed/moved that she be allowed to offer an amount to cover background screening and certification fees including any processing fees required to new officials primarily between the ages of 18 and 40, requiring that their certification process be fully completed and that they first serve at a USATF Ozark meet. She also advised us that if there were funds from other parts of our proposal not likely to be used, it was permissible to move funds and this might be needed depending on how many new officials before December 31 qualified. This was seconded by Bob and approved.

Every Kids Sports Pass Fall application period was noted to begin on July 18. Karen agreed to reach out to her Youth list/clubs to spread the word offering the link to be provided to interested families.

Eileen reported the recent Accreditation information received and explained the deficiencies which would need PFI's written including Membership, Clubs, Sanctions, Officials and Championships. She agreed to send copies of the report to the Executive Committee members when "screen share" could not be accessed. Bob's motion to accept that report was seconded by Peggy and approved.

Carlos made a request that we all make every effort to share information with others, particularly with those who could use specific information in as timely a manner as possible. Eileen then asked that emails have a clear topic in the subject line and that all conversation in a thread remain on topic, starting a new thread for something not related to the previous one. She also recommended considering the same practice of staying on topic in text threads.

Discussion of possible XC dates took place. Andrew Scott, not present at this meeting, had been asked to supply dates of other major XC meets so that we could avoid any conflicts. Further discussion regarding reaching out to groups to take part in our various XC meets included Angie's input of reaching out to middle schools, the CYC and Lutheran schools. Nick also suggested that perhaps at Principia's October 7 XC event younger groups/clubs might be able to be included.

Carlos spoke of the need to begin thinking about the USATF Annual Meeting which will be held in Orlando again the week following Thanksgiving. He noted that it would be nice to have as many board members as possible but that we will need to know soon who can attend so that we can fill any openings needed from other Ozark members interested in taking part.

We were reminded that our next Executive Board meeting would be August 8 and that our Ozark Association annual meeting would be on September 17 at Florissant Valley SLCL.

A motion to adjourn by Eileen was seconded by John and approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Morris,
Secretary

