

OCT – USATF Ozark Executive Committee Meeting  
Minutes

The USATF Ozark Association Executive Committee held on the ZOOM platform on October 10, 2023, was chaired by President Carlos Ross. Eileen Morris, Secretary, was present. Additional attendees were Karen Searcy-Chism, John Morris, Bob Nichols, Ed Rowold, Ed Cockrell, Peggy Rowold, Andrew Scott and Earsene Andrews. The agenda was approved, and the meeting called to order by Carlos Ross at 7:36 P.M.

Minutes previously sent out were approved to be accepted on a motion made by Bob Nichols and seconded by Ed.

Treasurer, John Morris, reported a September 30 bank balance of \$30,956.30. He reviewed the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Financial Report, expressing concern that he had not yet received certain receipts for expenses of the Region 9 JO Championships. The Youth Chair, Karen Searcy-Chism, agreed to send what receipts she had. She did not have receipts for all of them but had a journal of all expenses. A suggestion for a debit or credit card for her to use in the future was suggested as a possibility. A motion by Bob Nichols and seconded by Earsene Andrews to accept the Youth Chair's report was approved.

Eileen Morris reported current membership to be 444 including 240 adults and 204 youth. There have been 42 approved sanctions to date and 18 approved Member clubs to date with 3 pending. Bob Nichols' motion to accept the report was seconded by John Morris and approved.

Ed Rowold, Officials Committee Chair, reported that there are currently 33 valid officials, which reflected that some have either an expired SafeSport course or Background screening. The Ozark Officials' Committee will be represented at the NOC in Orlando by our Certification Chair, Eileen Morris. He noted that officials are needed for upcoming Race Walk meets. He then explained that updating the Officials' Operating Procedures has been in progress but now needs additional changes or additions to reflect changes in the association's bylaws, and to include required elements required by National. He stated that these will be completed for the committee to vote on at their next Mid-Year meeting. A motion made by Bob Nichols and seconded by Earsene Andrews to accept the report was approved.

Race Walk Committee Chair, Bob Nichols, reported that 2 meets of the Fall Series have been completed. The two remaining are the 1-Hour Postal on Oct. 15 and the 1500M Open & Master Championship on Oct. 22. This series is being held at Maplewood/Richmond Heights High School. A motion made by Andrew Scott and seconded by John to accept the report was approved.

Adult Sports Council Chair, Peggy Rowold, informed us that plans for the Association Cross Country Championships have not progressed as she had not been together with the others involved. Karen confirmed that the XC Championships have been planned to include Youth, Open & Masters and would be held at Buder Park of the St. Louis Count Parks system. She is working on the arrangements. Eileen agreed to forward to Karen the appropriate form. Karen stated that TRXC Timing was selected for the event. There was a discussion regarding the need for appointment to vacancies and replacement of inactive chairs of the Adult Sports Council. Eileen clarified what committees are represented on the council and that there was not an individual XC committee or chair, but that XC is included under LDR chairs. She further explained that the council's representation on the Executive Committee was determined in early 2022 and how the misinterpretation of Brian Sheble as a XC Chair happened. Peggy spoke of her expectation to have two Ozark members who have expressed interest in participating and filling vacancies of Masters T&F and Women's T&F appointed. It was decided that Eileen would forward brief resumes to the Executive Committee to review and return a reply to the legacy email addresses of the President and Secretary, of accepting them to be appointed or submit

questions or comments. A motion made by Bob Nichols to accept the report was seconded by Earsene and approved.

Youth Committee Chair, Karen Searcy-Chism, announced that the XC meets were ongoing and would end with the Championships being held at Buder Park on November 12. She reminded us of the Youth Committee Annual Meeting on October 15. She reviewed plans for Youth Indoor meets to be held at Principia ending with Association Championships. She and Andrew Scott explained the number of meets being held each by Principia, Tallwah Roos, or Ozark and that several meets would include Open & Masters, particularly the final meet on February 25, 2024, which will be an Ozark Association Youth, Open, & Masters Indoor Championship. Later in the meeting, Andrew added that Para races would be included in several of the meets but that lack of equipment prevented holding Para field events at this time. John expressed concern about the costs of the upcoming meets and the funds which may need to be accessed. Carlos agreed that some budget or outline should be prepared for the meets for the Executive Committee to be kept informed. The report was approved to be accepted on a motion made by Earsene and seconded by Bob Nichols.

Eileen asked about the appointment of Andy Amsden to Campaign Manager, a position which has been vacant for some time preventing what was recognized as BLAST mails. Eileen agreed to provide a brief resume of Andrew and include it in an email with those being recommended for Adult Sports committee chairs.

Members who will serve as Ozark delegates to the USATF Annual Meeting in Orlando was discussed. We have about 10 who have confirmed their plans to attend or already registered. We are still waiting for a response from Angie Miller, including whether her son, Brandon Miller, would be able to attend as one of our athletes. Who will qualify for our 3 athletes was also discussed. Eileen expressed concern of a need to evaluate our finances and what amount of stipend that will be possible for each delegate.

Eileen brought to the attention of attendees the presence of Ed Cockrell, present as the Para Committee Chair. He had been appointed in 2019, but a formal addition of a Para Committee to the Bylaws had never been done. It is now in our Bylaws granting the position a vote on the Executive Committee. Ed shared that he will be in California and hoped to be able to have a discussion with the Southern California Association Para chair for ideas which might work for our association. He also shared that he may have some para equipment for throws, particularly shot put which might be used for association meets.

Eileen repeated the information from Lori Bird in the National office regarding use of our Grow to Impact Grant funds. That is, the proposals can be scrapped or adjusted to achieve the best results possible. Reported that some Ozark funds have been expended and that others could be used to assist upcoming meets, but if at some point before December 31 all funds not used, we might consider buying an OWL for hybrid meetings to improve quality of participation for those on ZOOM. She stressed that we must use the funds by December 31 to be eligible for next year's grant.

Carlos confirmed receipt of funds to PAL from Ozark's Grow to Impact fund and will forward written acknowledgment. He also confirmed possession of a SafeSport flash drive which he will deliver to Eileen.

A motion made by Ed to adjourn was seconded by Eileen and approved. Adjournment time was 9:22 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Morris, Secretary

