

USATF Ozark Mid-Year Meeting
March 5, 2023
Minutes

The Mid-Year Meeting of the USATF Ozark Association, held at Florissant Valley Branch SLCL was called to order at 2:12 PM by Ed Rowold, appointed chair until the arrival of Carlos Ross, Vice President. A total of 17 attendees were signed in. A motion to accept the agenda as presented was seconded and approved.

Minutes of the Annual Meeting held September 18, 2022, had been posted online and copies were provided if needed by attendees. Tom Winkelmann moved that the minutes be accepted as presented. The motion was seconded and approved.

Eileen Morris stated that Membership, Clubs and Sanctions numbers would be reported at a later time.

John Morris, Treasurer, reported a bank balance of approximately \$36,400 at the end of 2022. Copies of the 2022 Financial Report itemizing the several funds and a list of the major expenditures during the year were available. A refund of \$1700 from AAU Ozark for an errant deposit was being pursued and expected to be successful. A motion to accept the report was made by Bob Nichols and Seconded by Peggy Rowold. A discussion took place of several expenditures leading to the questioning of the item labeled Grandview School District Ad. The explanation offered was that it was believed to be an ad for a MSHSAA program. It was acknowledged that no evidence of the ad was available nor had been seen by any of those present and that it was something that would be investigated. Following discussion, the motion to accept the report was approved.

Ed, as Officials Chair, shared that the Officials Committee held a banquet in January where presentation of awards and certificates took place noting that some had not been presented since 2019 due to Covid. He then announced that the Officials Committee would be holding their Annual Meeting on Sunday, March 26, at 1:30 P.M. at the Mid-County Branch of SLCL. He reported that of the 82 Certified Officials at the end of previous Olympiad, 2020, many did not recertify. Currently there are a number who recertified but may have expired background screenings or SafeSport courses as well as 11 whose recertification procedures are incomplete. Due to our low numbers, he expressed concerns about being able to handle the Region 9 JO Championships which Ozark is hosting this year.

Sports Committees

Bob Nichols, Race Walk Chair, reported that an annual meeting was held in February. The 2023 schedule was planned, opening with a race on April 23. It is expected that the Spring Series will be held at Holman Middle School, the Summer Series at Parkway North, the August Duet at Tower Grove Park and the Fall Series at XXX. He described the difficulty finding a venue with a 400-meter track. He also may have difficulty scheduling enough judges due to the low number

of certified RW officials and one or more unable to participate. He noted that there will be only 2 championship races this year, but both will be held for Open as well as Master level athletes.

Peggy Rowold, as representative for Adult Sports Council, reported that on October 15, a 5K & 10K Championship for both Open and Masters was held within the Gumbo Flats Pumpkin Races. The woman who was the overall female winner in the 5K was a USATF Ozark member. There were four other USATF Ozark participants, 2 Open and 2 Master level men. She continued by reporting on the Open and Master Cross Country Championships held at Parkway Central on October 30 in which there were 5 participants including 1 woman. She pointed out that these meets would again be held in 2023 but there would be better marketing. She also noted that we would be trying to get more courses certified and described how the Parkway HS course was modified to allow our adult races. She announced that an Open & Masters' Track and Field Championship was planned to be held on June 24 at Parkway Central and we were negotiating with TRXC Timing. Para athletics would not be held at this meet due to the limited number of Officials who would be available. Some discussion included reminding those present that DASA would be holding some Para events at their Gateway Classic to be held in St. Peters in May. Attendees were encouraged to review the documents submitted by the National Para-athletic Committee on the USATF website (Annual Meeting Document Library) which includes a schedule of more Para events being held nationally.

(Carlos Ross, Vice president, arrived and assumed the chair.)

Youth Committee Chair, Karen Searcy-Chism announced that a meeting of the committee will be held on Tuesday, March 28, at Belleville West High School in Belleville, IL and an agenda be would be distributed soon. Topics to be covered would include safety protocols including specific ones required for active shooter procedures, as well as the need to create a code of conduct for parents, athletes, and spectators. She explained that each association and region may be doing their own depending on circumstances. She reported ongoing work on the plans for the USATF Region 9 Championships including identifying a host hotel. She announced the Association JO Championships will take place on Saturday, June 17 at Belleville West High School and that the USATF Region 9, for which Ozark is the host association, will be held at Jefferson City High School July 6-9. Karen stated that there may be calendar changes for "club meets". A concern was expressed that few clubs have gotten USATF sanctions and that in the past it was more evenly divided. Angie Miller pointed out that some clubs may not have been attempting to get USATF sanctions due to the protocols put in place by National. Eileen assured those present that those protocols were no longer in effect and hoped for consideration of USATF sanctions by youth clubs. She stated that unusually low youth membership compared to pre-Covid years was a great concern and that if there were more USATF sanctioned events, we might be able to do some recruiting at those. It was agreed that more discussion could take place at the Youth Annual meeting where more clubs might be represented.

A motion by Bob Nichols to accept the previous reports as presented was seconded by Andy Amsden and approved.

New and Other Business

Several present who served as delegates to the 2022 USATF Annual Meeting in Orlando presented highlights of meetings each covered. (Written reports would be available for those interested by contacting the secretary.)

John Morris reported for Mountain Ultra Trail (MUT) and Associations Committee meetings.

Ed Rowold attended several LDR meetings as well as Coaches Education meetings.

Peggy Rowold, Adult Sports Council Chair reported on the various LDR meetings.

Eileen Morris, as Ozark's Certification Chair, reported on the National Officials Committee proceedings. Karen Searcy-Chism, Ozark's Youth Chair, reported on the National Youth Committee's business.

Carlos Ross attended and reported on Men's Track and Field meetings.

Several delegates reported that during various meetings discussions took place regarding "active shooter" preparations/plans including sessions hosted by a law officer. Concerns were expressed that plans before each meet be provided to key personnel (coaches/club admins officials) to assist with implementation. It was stressed that points of exit be made known and that those in attendance be informed that a plan is in place. A template might be distributed to follow but each meet may need more specific plans tailored to the particular facility being used.

Eileen announced that a budget for 2023 would be worked on at the next Executive Committee meeting and published on the Ozark website.

John Morris asked for an update on our Grow to Impact grant. Eileen explained that David Searcy had been the contact with the national office and that she had only recently informed them of recent association changes. It was her understanding that there would not be another \$5000 received for this year as we would need to use the 2022 grant which had not been used yet and that resubmission of proposals was required. Further discussion included a reminder that funds could not be used for membership fees. However, Eileen suggested that some funds may be able to be distributed to clubs to assist with certain costs freeing club funds to assist some club members to participate as USATF members. She expressed that unusually low youth membership compared to pre-Covid years was a great concern and suggested that if there were more USATF sanctioned events we might be able to do some recruiting at those. Angie Miller pointed out that some may not have been attempting to get USATF sanctions due to the protocols put in place by National. Eileen assured all that those protocols were no longer in effect and hoped for consideration of USATF sanctions by youth clubs. She suggested that more discussion could take place at the upcoming Youth Mid-Year meeting.

It was announced that Jayne Jackson was appointed as Ozark's new webmaster had been selected. She would begin familiarizing herself with its format and procedures for posting information.

All were reminded of the upcoming Officials and Youth meetings. A motion was then made to adjourn. It was seconded and approved. The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Morris, Secretary