

USATF Ozark Executive Committee Meeting  
Minutes

On September 12, 2023, the Ozark Executive Committee held its regular monthly meeting on the ZOOM platform. President Carlos Ross chaired the meeting and Eileen Morris, Secretary, was present. Also in attendance were John Morris, Andrew Scott, Ed Rowold, Bob Nichols, Karen Searcy-Chism, Peggy Rowold, Earsene Andrews and Nick Barron. The meeting was called to order at 7:37 P.M and a motion to approve the agenda made by Earsene and seconded by Ed was approved.

Minutes had been provided to members in advance. A motion made by Andrew to accept the minutes as presented was seconded by Peggy and approved by those present.

Introductions were then made between Jayne Jackson, Communications Chair, and those who had not yet met her. Jane very briefly described her background and experience after which it was decided that a form be created for information for each Executive Committee member to complete and be provided to Jayne.

The treasurer reported that the bank balance as of August 31 was \$31, 265.53 which included most of the \$5000 of Grow to Impact grant. He noted that the major expenses in the recent quarter were for the two championships. He had prepared reports for those chairs to share. As previously approved, he will be preparing a detailed quarterly report for the third quarter. However, it was agreed that a report including fund balances as of August 31 be prepared for the Annual Meeting and sent to the Executive Committee members in advance. He shared information of inquiries into Officers and Directors Insurance. It was learned that up to \$1 million of liability insurance was provided to associations by USATF at no additional cost. He was told the policy was up for renewal but no problems doing so were expected. There was a motion by Ed to accept the report which was seconded by Karen and approved.

Eileen then reported that Membership was currently 444 members, 204 youth and 240 adults. Ozark now has over 40 sanctions which have been applied for and approved. The number of club memberships remains at 18. There are still two still lapsed due to lack of 3-step compliance. Peggy made a motion that the report be accepted as presented, which was seconded by Nick and approved by those present.

Officials Committee Chair, Ed Rowold reported that there are currently 34 fully certified officials: 14 Master level, 10 National, 6 Association and 4 Apprentice. There are 13 lacking completion of required submissions or having some expiration of one of their SafeSport 3-steps. It is hoped that our required minimum will be reached by October 31. Eileen did point out that it might be more fair to encourage "new" applicants to prepare all the required submissions but not secure a membership until November 1 and then make all the submissions online to avoid paying a full membership fee for only a few months and having to pay another for the new year. Others agreed. Earsene's motion to accept the reports was seconded by John and approved by those present.

Race Walk Chair, Bob Nichols was not present, but Eileen assured the group that he intended to be present at the Annual Meeting. She agreed to confirm that he will have a report.

Adult Sports Council Chair, Peggy Rowold, needed to leave the meeting temporarily so Ed gave her report. He began stating that the Open/Master XC and LDR championships are being planned. Although, it is being investigated whether one of the trail races which was sanctioned and already run and marketed as an Ozark championship can qualify as the required Open and Masters LDR events. The date of November 12 for the XC was selected but he explained that the Parkway Central site used for last year's Open/Masters XC was not available this year. It was then noted that the JO Championships would also be contested that day. A discussion

of possible locations took place noting the pros and cons of several of them including Buder Park and might be preferable due to its more centralized location. Ed continued that we need to get more “adult” events on the calendar to which Andrew responded that some of the dates proposed for the Youth indoor meets will include Open and Masters including February 25 for both JO and Open/ Masters championships to be held at Principia. It was asked if cost estimates were available but only an approximate amount of \$1800 for timing was offered. While he stated that timing was set for his meets, bids would be sought for the others, including the association championships on February 25, trying to get the best possible deal. Andrew asked about any requirement for the Open/Masters to use athletic.net to which Eileen responded that for the Track and Field event SimplyRegister was used and there was no objection. A discussion followed regarding the need to check with Kim at athletic.net about Ozark having its own account for registrations. Eileen would be writing to her for that information. Andrew moved that the report be accepted. Karen seconded the motion, and it was approved by those present.

Youth Committee Chair, Karen Searcy-Chism stated that she was working on details of the JO XC Championship as well as the Indoor schedule. She has put out a notice of the Youth Annual Meeting which will take place on October 15, 6:30 P.M. at Belleville West HS and that an agenda will be sent out but has asked for suggestions to be included. It was shared that they needed to get rolling on the indoor meets. Andrew gave his assurance that they will be sanctioned USATF and be in compliance. When asked, Karen confirmed that AAU has been contacted and that it was agreed that she will supply a link for clubs to access a copy of a code of “behavior” for their meets to have consistent expectations of behavior at both AAU and USATF youth meets.

Beginning old business, Eileen made a motion that the requirement in a motion she made and which was approved at the last Executive Committee meeting requiring that new officials officiate at a meet before certification fees can be reimbursed be rescinded. Karen seconded the motion and it was approved.

The USATF Annual Meeting was then discussed including the required three athletes for our delegation. At that time, Eileen shared that there were two Ozark members who attended the recent Adult Sports Council meeting, including one “actively engaged athlete”, both not only interested in serving on the committee but would be interested in filling positions which may need replacements as well as considering attending the meeting. During the discussion it was shared that several who currently hold council positions have been inactive and do not respond to communications. It was agreed that this was unacceptable. Others were then identified as possibilities for filling the requirement of athlete for the Annual Meeting. The following Executive Committee members expressed their intentions of attending the meeting: Eileen, John, Ed, Peggy, Carlos and Karen. Carlos stated that he would reach out to Angela regarding her decision. It was agreed that an announcement be made at the Association’s Annual Meeting regarding delegates.

John requested that budgets be prepared by Peggy and Karen for upcoming association championship meets for the October meeting and affirmed that a club not be the “host” for those meets.

As there was no further business to be discussed, a motion was made by John and seconded by Karen that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 9:17.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Morris, Secretary

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