USATF Ozark Association Annual Meeting September 18, 2022

Minutes

The USATF Ozark Association held their Annual Meeting at the Florissant Valley Branch of SLCL library, Florissant, Missouri and on the ZOOM platform. There were 14 in-person attendees and 5 remote attendees. President David Searcy chaired the meeting and Secretary Eileen Morris was in attendance.

The meeting was called to order at 2:11 P.M. and Dave began with a welcome and introductions.

Minutes had been provided online as well by email and handouts available for attendees to read in advance. Having no corrections or additions, a motion was made by Bob Nichols and seconded by Peggy Rowold and approved to accept the minutes as presented.

Treasurer John Morris explained some difficulties accessing his Financial Report on Excel but recounted the approximate figures. He stated that at the beginning of the year we began with a bank balance of $43,307 to which deposits from USATF of $7200 for memberships and sanctions and the “Grow to Impact” grant of $5000 were added. Some of the larger expenditures were $2125 for Stipends for the 2021 USATF Annual Meeting, $1000 “Marketing Kit” purchases, $924 for storage unit and $4780 to Husky Trailways for travel expenses to the “Great Southwest”. Fun balances are: Bid fund: $500, Adult and Youth each have approximately $3500 and the Special Youth Fund is at $1600. The actual report will be posted on the website and bank statements were available for attendees to review if desired. A motion by Bob and seconded by Tom Winkelmann was approved for the report to be accepted.

Eileen Morris reported that Ozark has 418 individual memberships, including 181 youth and 237 adults, club memberships are at 18 and there were 18 santions to date this year. She noted that there was some clarification needed of the Sanctions report and that the figures could be reported as an addendum to the minutes when posted on the website. Bob made a motion which was seconded by Andy Amsden and approved to accept the report as presented.

Ed Rowold, Chair of the Officials Committee, reported that the committee met on September 11 for the first in-person Annual Meeting since 2019. He summarized the meeting including that the committee’s treasury balance is $1,639.35. He noted that have 29 fully certified officials and plans to have several track coaches to become certified officials, that but pointed out that 37 are required as a minimum to meet accreditation standards. An awards luncheon is planned to distribute a number of certificates and plaques accumulated since 2019 due to the pandemic preventing in-person meetings or banquets. Eileen Morris was nominated for a second term as Certification Chair and was elected by acclamation. Eileen was also nominated for another term as Treasurer and again elected by acclamation having no other nominations made. There was a motion made and passed to suspend the 2022 officials’ annual dues of $20. There was also a motion passed to delay billing of the 2023 annual dues until the charges of the 2023 Rules Books can be determined. A motion was made by Bob, seconded by Karen and approved to accept the report.

Karen Searcy-Chism, Youth Chair, began by announcing the Youth meeting to be held on Sunday, October 9 at 5:00 P.M. at Belleville West High School, Belleville, IL. The agenda currently planned will cover: ways to grow membership, meet management, securing volunteers form each club particularly to attempt to get at least one new official from each club, a discussion of safety at meets, Fall events including the Association Cross Country and planning the 2023 club meet schedule with team representatives present. She requested that questions, concerns, or issues be submitted in advance by emailing those to Youth@Ozark.usatf.org and she hopes to be able to address those things at the meeting. Bob made a motion which was seconded by Eileen and was approved for the report to be accepted.

Brian Sheble, LDR representative of the Adult Sports Council, announced the Association’s 5K and 10K Open and Masters Championships will take place at the Gumbo Flats Pumpkin races in Chesterfield, Missouri on October 15. The association’s Cross Country Open and Masters’ Championships will be held at Parkway Central High School on October 30 and will begin at 9:00 A.M. An Open and Masters’ Track and Field meet is being planned for June 2023.

Eileen noted that Shalini was not present to report on MUT, Mountain Ultra Trail, which actually hosted several sanctioned meets so far this year. Bob bade a motion which was seconded and approved to accept the reports of the Adult Sports council.

Bob Nichols, Chair of the Race Walk Committee, reported Race Walk events this year which included the Spring fling, a Summer Series which included 2 Open and Masters’ Championship races, the August Duet and a Fall Series to be held in October and will include a 5K Open and Master Championships as well as a One-hour Postal. Several past participants in the One-Hour Postal have received awards. He proudly stated that the Race Walk Club of St. louis was mentioned in the Terrain magazine. He announced information from National Committee regarding a meet at Dakota Wesleyan in early December and another in early February. He shared that several officials had officiated at the Illinois Senior Games that morning and also that next year those games will return to a previous location used which had been under renovation. He stated that he expected there to be less championships next year due to needing to give opportunity to race walk officials to work at other level meets elsewhere to get experience needed to advance.

Eileen then spoke about the Para Athletics Committee which had been established in 2019 but did not get off the ground. She spoke with Ed Cockrell, unable to attend today’s meeting, who had been appointed as chair and who is still interested is leading that committee. She will send him the names of those who are “Para” certified for him to recruit for his committee. Bob took the opportunity to point out and explained how that some “para” events could easily fit into a regular track meet. Bob made a motion to accept the report which was seconded by Karen and approved.

Beginning New Business, Ginger Mulanax announced that she felt it was time to submit her resignation from Vice President of the association. She will be available as a volunteer. She recommends the Executive Committee appoint as a replacement someone with background in our association’s history which is often important to be aware of at times when planning new activities.

Dave explained that a Social Media Committee was being planned and using some money set aside from the Grow to Impact grant for three positions. He currently has a list of about 8 persons interested in those positions. Some of the requirements for hose tpositions would be approving their personal social media accounts; if students, they must have satisfactory grades and that derogatory issues on their accounts will discount them from the list. Names of others interested should be submitted. A list of three social media preferences are being asked of each to determine how to get the best coverage. The current plan is for these positions to be under the Youth chair. Membership in USATF will be a requirement but the issue of being 3-stepped needs to be further investigated, perhaps inquiring of other associations with social media committees or personnel.

The USATF Annual Meeting being held in Orlando and the number of delegates possibly needed to cover the necessary meetings was discussed. We are required to send a minimum of 8 delegates but usually have had about 13 to cover the many meetings. The following officers and chairs have indicated willingness to attend: Ed & Peggy Rowold, Eileen & John Morris, Carlos Ross, Dave Searcy, and Karen Searcy-Chism. Additionally, Regina King and Sam Douglas have indicated their availability and interest in serving as delegates. Brian Sheble and Denise McField stated that they will need to check their availability. Eileen will again write three chairs not present to check on their interest in attending. Registrations will be covered, and some stipend will be offered but the amount will need to be determined at the next Executive Committee meeting. Final decisions were requested by Sunday, September 25 as the delegation must be submitted to National by September 30.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen D. Morris

Note: Following the meeting, the number of “sanctions” was confirmed to be 27