USATF Ozark Association

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

The Executive Committee of USATF Ozark Association held a meeting on September 13, 2022, on the ZOOM platform. President David Searcy chaired the meeting and Secretary Eileen Morris was also present. Additional attendees were Ed Rowold, Peggy Rowold, Bob Nichols, Karen Searcy-Chism, Earsene Andrews and Treasurer John Morris. The meeting was called to order at 7:01 P.M.

Minutes were provided in advance by email. A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the minutes as presented.

The treasurer reported that there was no change in the bank or fund balances since last month’s meeting. The bank balance on August 31 is $43.634.95 which included the Adult Fund – $3,699.44, Youth Fund- $3,666.78, Special Fund - $1,228.00, Bid Fund - $500.00, and General Fund - $34,540.73. The General Fund includes the $5000 Grow to Impact grant. Eileen made a motion which was seconded and approved to accept the treasurer’s report.

The Membership of 417, including 181 youth and 236 adults reflecting an increase of 5 adults was reported by Eileen. She also presented the Clubs report explaining that currently there are 18 fully approved club memberships. The additional club added was due to adjustments regarding the two East St. Louis Athletic Clubs’ accounts bringing them both into fully paid and approved membership status. Sanctions appear to stand at 28 but some review may be needed to confirm particularly how the Race Walk series races are counted. Ed made a motion to accept the three reports, Peggy seconded and all approved the motion to accept the reports as presented.

Ed reported that the Officials’ Committee met for their Annual Meeting on Sunday, September 11. There were 14 in attendance. Minutes of the meeting will be posted on the website. He reported that the number of fully certified officials stands at 29, 8 short of the 37 minimum needed for our accreditation standard. He reminded us of needing more officials particularly since we are hosting the Regionals next year, as well as more currently for Race Walk, Cross Country and Gumbo Flats races coming up. A motion made by Bob, was seconded and approved for the report to be accepted.

Bob reported that four races are scheduled for October. We will be providing 3 Race Walk officials for the Illinois Senior Games on September 18. A motion was made, seconded and approved for his report to accepted.

Adult Sports council representative Peggy Rowold reported that we have scheduled a Cross Country Open and Masters’ Association Championships meet to be held at Parkway Central High School for November 19. Women will compete in a 6K, and men will compete in a 10K. Ed reminded us that the 5K & 10K LDR Open and Master’s Championship will be at Gumbo Flats Pumpkin races, as a race with in a race on October 15. Peggy reported that we are planning an Open & Masters track and field meet on June 24, 2023. Eileen made a motion to accept the Adult Sports Council’s report which was seconded and approved to be accepted.

Youth Committee chair Karen Searcy-Chism reported on a number of items which had been discussed at Youth Committee Chair meetings. They are advising us to still stay considerate of practices regarding flu concerns such as the wearing of masks etc. There was concern that there was no emergency contact when an official became ill and that we should probably have some system in place to have emergency contacts for our coaches and officials at meets. A suggestion was made that these people may need to provide at each meet emergency contact info of their preference should something happen. There was also a discussion of violence and uncontrolled behavior at Youth meets. There was a consensus that there was really nothing that National office can do. It seems that it is something associations should work to put together to make certain that these meets remain family friendly events. She announced that the “Journey to Gold” scholarship has been established and that she sent out information to the clubs as well as will have it posted on the website. The Mark Springer travel grant also was announced and she will put that information out as well. A motion made by Bob and seconded by Eileen was approved to accept the report.

Eileen then began new business introducing “Ozzie” our Owl, rented to help enhance our hybrid Annual Meeting on Sunday.

John explained that the check requested to be sent to McKendree for charges incurred for concessions for our meet which had been cancelled was prepared but not sent as he discovered that Ozark Association had no contractual agreement for this meet. Concerned that the original intent for the Dashers’ club was to be financially responsible for the meet was not disclosed. He asked for input. Dave stated that there is a “step-in” clause for the association to help out in such an event. It was decided that in “good faith” to McKendree, the check should be sent.

John then reviewed the issue of the two checks totaling $2400 written to Laura Borman in May 2021, ostensibly for the Association JO Championship which never took place. Efforts would once again be made to enlist Ms. Borman’s assistance by email from the treasurer’s legacy account to assure delivery. Further efforts to contact appropriate officers of AAU Ozark would be made, possibly by calling the National office in Orlando for current officers’ names and contact information. Discussions also included going to “small claims court” if necessary, costing approximately around $100.

Plans were made to notify all committee chairs and executive committee members, about needing their decisions regarding attending the USATF Annual Meeting and what information and actions might be taken at Ozark’s meeting Sunday for making final delegate selections. It was noted that those with experience in specific areas needing coverage should be given first consideration.

Dave announced that Vince Bingham has been hospitalized. Eileen shared a good report on Ginger Mulanax who had returned to her home.

As no further business needed to be discussed, the meeting was adjourned at 8:08 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen D. Morris