

# Missouri Valley USATF Annual General Meeting

## October 9, 2005

2:00 p.m.

Emporia State University , HPER Building

### Minutes

#### **Attendance:**

Mark Stanbrough, President; Susan Melgares, Membership Chair; Edward Thomas, parent of member; Wayne Armbrust, Race Walk Chair; Kenneth Ferguson, Law & Legislation Chair; Alan Webb, Youth Chair, Michele Hart, parent of member; Greg Barron, works with club; Matt Hemingway, member; Rhonda Birdsong, member; K. C. Kitchen, parent of a member; Cliff Wiley, member, Billy Steffans, Kansas Relays Representative.

Cliff left at 2:15 p.m.

#### **President's Opening Remarks & Reports**

The meeting began with introductions of those present.

Our association has potential in the masters and long distance running. The national site selection committee will be in Lawrence Oct. 10-12 to visit Lawrence and Rim Rock Farm as our association bids to host the USATF National Junior Olympic Cross Country Championships in 2007.

Approval of 2004 Minutes: KF motions; SM seconds. Motion Passed.

Shop-4-Zero web site discussed. Members asked to check out web site and see if this would be a good idea.

Discussed selling Association Merchandise as an association or as clubs to use as fund-raisers, etc. Merchandise has to be purchased in quantities. Members thought we should pursue this avenue.

Treasurer's Report: Sherry Heim could not be here. We have \$2667.21.

#### **Cliff Wiley Track Classic**

Cliff spoke about his meet in Baltimore and his plans to bring one to Kansas City on June 3, 2006. He does not have a venue set, but is looking for one. His plans are to bring a quality track & field meet to the area to help spike interest in the area. His meet in Baltimore has had more than 1000 participants and should have close to 2000 this year.

#### **Membership**

##### **Membership Numbers & Clubs**

Susan reported that we have 27 clubs—up 20 from last year. Our individual totals are 745 compared to 643 in 2004.

National office may require clubs to become members by May 1 of the year. Membership may go for a 12<sup>th</sup> month period for individuals.

### Fees

National office is proposing to raise membership fees. Youth \$20.00 and Adults \$30.00 or \$40.00. Our finances are very dependent on membership numbers. Will this price increase scare people off?

Matt Hemmingway—What benefits will the athletes/members see?

The increase in membership fees is to help support member benefits, infrastructure improvements for Grass Roots initiatives, marketing and branding of USATF, and sport committee programs. Members at the meeting do not see how the above benefits will benefit the athletes/members.

Discussion led to making certain that USATF and AAU are not competing at the same time. The conflict is found with multi-events at the national level. If this happens, parents will most likely pay for membership in both USATF and AAU—this will lead to more members so an increase in membership fees would not be necessary.

### Recruiting New Members

Master's track is a way to recruit new members. Tie membership into companies insurance plans.

### Accreditation Review

Mark reported that in the 2004 Association Accreditation Review that the only standard not met was our membership ratio. The MV Association was at 12.70% and we are required to be at 20%. We will have to submit a plan.

At the Association Workshop in Indianapolis, IN, there was discussion about grants being given for brochures. We could try to get a grant to help with brochures that could be put into race packets.

Brochure Needs—What can USATF do for you?

- 1—Various national and world championships—elite levels.
- 2—Quotes from kids who have made it in those events.
- 3—Calendar of events—track & field, cross country, road races, race walking, etc.
- 4—Coaches education.
- 5—Membership benefits—national level and association level—include insurance, etc.

Association Benefits:

Do we want to continue with this? Suggestion is to contact clubs and find out what businesses in their areas would be good businesses to join.

Consensus is to continue to build this program and make it stronger—members are to contact Alan about businesses that are interested.

### Youth Athletics

Reported by Alan:

#### 2005 Missouri Valley Track & Field Championships

Alan gave a report about the championships back in June. There were a few problems during the meet with timing system.

### Proposed Changes for USATF MV T & F Championships

The board is decided to do online entries with no meet day entries. We need to check into credit card possibilities, membership # being required. Cliff Wiley suggested Coach O (Charles Oliver) former Tennessee Track & Field Coach.

Payment must be made prior to packet pick-up. All payments must be certified checks, cashier checks, cash, or credit card.

All Region 9 entries must be made before the end of the association championships. All non-qualifiers replacing a qualifier must be made that day.

All Region 9 payments are to be paid in cash.

We are in favor of proposing to our Region 9 Coordinator to qualify 6 individuals to the Region 9 Championships.

Proposal for changes: KF—motions MH—seconds The motion passed.

### 2006 Missouri Valley Track & Field Championships

Why do clubs host meets instead of having the association running off the Association Meets? The association needs to be more in control of the meets so they are in control of earning more income. Suggestion is to give clubs money for helping us run off meets and to get sponsors to help bring in more money.

A date has been set: June 16-17, 2005, will be the 2006 Association Championships.

A meeting date has been set for January 22 in Kansas City for another meeting so that we can discuss how the Association Championship Bid Process will work.

### 2006 Region 9 Track & Field Championships

July 5-8—beginning with multi-events. KU will be the hosting the championships.

### 2005 Developmental Track & Field Meets

Emporia had three, Lawrence had two, and Sterling had one. We have been given a \$700.00 USATF Grant to be used for Developmental Meets. We cannot use the grant for sanctioning which is what we had originally planned to use the grant.

### 2006 Developmental Track & Field Meets

There is grant money available for developmental meets next year to help promote the grass roots programs. Darren Schmitz, Rhonda Birdsong, Mark Stanbrough will be holding meets that

### 2005 Developmental Cross Country Meets

Developmental meets were held in Emporia, Lawrence, and Sterling this past summer. Clubs hosting the meets were provided with ribbons, t-shirts, and sanction fees. Numerous children experienced track & field for the first time.

### 2005 Missouri Valley Cross Country Championships

This year's meet will be held at Rim Rock Farm since the association is bidding for the 2007 USATF National Junior Olympic Championships. The meet will be held on November 19. Officials and workers will be needed to help make the meet successful.

### National Meet

In cooperation with Lawrence Visitors Bureau & Kansas University, the Missouri Valley Association is bidding for the 2007 USATF National Junior Olympic Championships. On October

10-12, USATF National Junior Olympic Cross Country Championship On-Site Team will be visiting Lawrence and Rim Rock Farm. Mark Stanbrough, Alan Webb, Rhonda Birdsong, Susan Melgares, Harold Cribbs, and Kenneth Ferguson will all be meeting with the on-site team throughout the visit.

#### Other Meets—North Region, etc.

Nothing to report at this time.

#### Throws

Darren Schmitz was not present; no report at this time.

#### Race Walking

Reported by Wayne:

##### Competition

The annual 3000m judged race walk as part of the University of Missouri Indoor All-comers Track Meet was conducted in February. The Heart of America Conference again included race walking in both their indoor and outdoor championships, with association schools Park University, Missouri Valley College, and Central Methodist University entering walkers.

The Missouri Senior Games and the Sunflower State Games contested race walk events for athletes over 50 and all age groups, respectively. Our association Junior Olympic Championships included a race walk event for all age groups.

Unfortunately, due to inability to secure judges, we were unable to contest our Association Race Walking Championships this year.

##### Athletes

Three Association collegiate walkers had outstanding performances in 2005 in NAIA Championship competition. In the NAIA Indoor Championships March 3-5 in Johnson City, TN, Patrick Stroup of Central Methodist University finished second to 2004 Olympic Trials competitor Matt Boyles in the men's 3000m walk, with Roger White of Park University fourth. Beth Lewis of Central Methodist University was fifth in the women's 3000m race. At the Outdoor Championships held in Louisville, KY, on May 26-28, Stroup finished second to Boyles in the men's 5000m walk, with White third. Lewis was fourth in the women's 3000m walk.

Little of note occurred in either the Masters or Junior ranks this year.

##### Officials

Wayne judged the NAIA Outdoor Championships in addition to meets at Missouri Valley, the University of Missouri, the Association JO meet, the Missouri State Games, and a race conducted by the Ozark Association. Other Association judges active in 2005 included Steve and Mary Lee, Kathy Vogle, and Lewis Mead.

##### Goals for 2006

Since the Heart of America Conference, centered in our Association, is one of the leading collegiate conferences in race walking, we should work closely with conference coaches to conduct clinics and provide officiating. We should encourage youth coaches to learn the event and have athletes try walking. Clinics would be very helpful in this area as well and could be conducted by our masters walker. We also need to certify additional judges in the coming year.

Reported by Alan Poisner via email:

### Masters Race Walking

This report is restricted to race walkers in the Kansas City area. Heartland Race Walkers Club (HRW) has sent walkers to events in the region and to national competitions, mainly in Senior Olympics. Five members of HRW went to the National Senior Olympics in Pittsburgh in June and earned two gold medals, three bronze medals, and three 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> place ribbons in the 1500m and 5K walks. At the Kansas Senior Olympics in September, HRW won Gold and Silver awards in men's and women's walks. At the Missouri Senior Games in Columbus, Fred Adams won two gold medals. At the Huntsman World Games in October 2004, Alan Poisner won two gold medals in walks.

On the local scene, HRW helped organize the first Kansas City Senior Games in September that featured a 1500m walk. The Johnson County Parks & Recreation division hosted this, and the sponsors were pleased with the race and plan to expand efforts next year. This has helped to increase awareness of the sport locally. Another way in which the sport has been advertised in the region is through local road races that offered awards to race walkers. Poisner served as race walking coordinator (and course monitor) for these races (4) and worked with both the Kansas City Track Club and MARA, the other major road race organizer in the Metro area.

A final way in which race walking has been promoted in the area is through outreach clinics that have been offered in the area. Poisner has presented race walking clinics to several groups, including the 50+ program of Johnson County Parks & Recreation where they also had a booth at their annual Step Up and Walk. Clinics were also presented at the Olathe, KS, school system, and the KC Track Club new runners clinic. One is scheduled at the Jewish Community Center. All of these are designed to expand the public awareness of race walking and ultimately to get more local athletes (or potential athletes) interested in the sport.

Finally, HRW has begun assisting in the training of an 11-year-old girl who has competed nationally in race walks and plans to compete in December in the great 5K race walk in Texas. This is of course not in the masters area, but it has allowed us to make contacts with some youth coaches. We hope that this will eventually spill over to more youth race walkers and ultimately to masters walkers as well. We now have contact names for several local coaches and hope to initiate some competitions for youths in the area in the near future. Some of these will come from current AAU clubs, and Poisner would be interested in getting names of any USATF youth clubs to contact.

### Officials

Harold reported that the number of officials have dropped severely in the association; there are 60 officials at this time. This includes past officials and coaches. Some have not renewed yet. Columbia has had a good renewal rate as has Gerald Christensen's group. Harold is worried about Cliff Wiley's meet and how we will be able to get officials for the competition.

Unfortunately, the Columbia group does not move from Columbia—they are a good group, but they do not travel.

Mark contacted college coaches about former athletes & parents to begin getting a new officials. He has not received any response.

The three officials clinics from last year brought in a few new officials—these were held in Columbia, Lawrence, and Emporia. UMKC would be a possible venue for another one. We have emailed all officials of the clinics. High school, middle school, and college coaches all have a list of

workers who help run off track & field meets. We need to get these lists and mail them information about the clinics—this can be our base. Parents of USATF members can be a group that will be another base. Master athletes are also a possibility.

It was suggested to have a schedule of meets that need officials listed on our web site.

### LDR

#### Run Kansas City

Terry discussed his ideas for Run Kansas City—a portal of races in the Long Distance Running Community; there would be a series of four races that membership would in Run KC would include. The membership fees would include entries into the four races, uniforms, and their USATF membership. Terry thinks that he can get around 1000 members. Financial assistance is close to being secured for a weekly/monthly show on Sports Network.

#### Current Road Races

Terry and Shawn discussed the possibilities of getting more road races tied into the USATF. Grand Prix races were discussed to increase the ability to have more prize monies. Hospital Hill will be the women's Half Marathon National Championships & the Association Championships for Men. The Olathe Marathon will be the Association Championships for both Men and Women. The women's 10K Association Championships will be in Springfield, MO, on October 15, 2006. Looking at finding a 5K race in Wichita area for Association Championships. Mark asked about an 8K Association Championships—this will be looked into.

In summary, hook up with existing road races, must be USATF member to earn prize money. USATF booth will be set up at all races. Shawn suggested to continue to support MARA's Grand Prix and piggy back on that existing series. We need to emphasize the importance of being a member.

#### Bid Forms

Shawn reported that they are discussing a \$50.00 bid fee to bid for USATF MV Road Running Championships. The course must be certified and sanctioned. Medals will be provided for top three finishers. Mark thought that early on we need to be flexible in how we accept bids.

### Sanctions

Jay Mulligan could not be here, but Mark reported that he has been doing a good job with sanctioning events. Each year we have been getting more and more sanctioned events.

Wayne reported that he is trying to get more Columbia road races to become sanctioned. Currently, there is only one race that is currently sanctioned.

The road races will need to have games committees, etc., so that problems that arise can be handled. A few instances were discussed at current races held in Kansas City.

### Masters

This chair is vacant at this point.

### Elite

Matt Hemingway was present. We do have a number of elite athletes in our association. Gwen Wentland is our women's athlete representative. The men's athlete representative is vacant at this time.

Wayne emphasized that we need to have more elite clubs in our association. He believes that they should have coaches with practices every day, schedules with meets, etc. Matt does not think this is as possible since everyone's schedules are different.

#### **Newsletter**

We are in need of someone to do a newsletter.

#### **Web Page**

Pat Melgares has done a tremendous job of creating a new web site this year. Send information to him and he update the page.

#### **Coaches Education**

There are a number of ITC instructors in our association so that we can have more Level I schools in our association. Mark will contact Pat Silvey to see if he is going to be more involved. Ryan Turner could be a possible person to help in this area.

#### **National Convention**

It will be held in Jacksonville, FL, on Nov. 30-Dec. 4. Matt Hemmingway and K.C. Kitchens are interested in going.

#### **Vacant Positions**

K.C. Kitchen was voted in as Master's Chair.

Cross Country Chair is still vacant.

Matt Hemingway was voted in as the Men's Athlete Representative.

#### **Other Business**

None at this time.