

AEC Meeting at Association Workshop August 19, 2011

Attendees:

Karen Krsak	Jackie Callendar	Ed Koch	Steve Vaitones
Marlene Atwood	Tom Confer	Andy Martin	Ruth White
Willie Banks	Scott Erwin	Jim McKee	
Linda Bommicino	Pam Fales	Richard Messenger	
Katherine Branch	Mike Hinz	Bill Roe	

Finance Report given out for review by Richard. Motion and second to accept the report. Unanimously approved.

Barcode Scanners – it was suggested that the National Office purchase a barcode scanner for each committee. The committee would then pick up the scanner when they pick up the 'blue folder' from Sherry, and then turn it back in with the folder at the conclusion of the Annual Meeting. Otherwise, each committee would need to purchase their own for around \$50. Using a scanner will avoid long lines waiting to sign in. We will also use the scanner for voting.

Nonmembers at the Annual Meeting - The committees must learn not to give these non-registered people voice since they are not entitled to it. Bill pointed out that participation by non-members can lead to legal issues on down the line. Karen asked Andy to send out a notice to the chairs regarding Reg 8b which addresses this.

Sanctions Task Force Survey Results – we've compiled various statistics on sanction fees and the task force will review it Friday evening. This ties in to the on-line sanction system since we need to have all the information to program the system.

Club Championships and Region Meets – we added financial support to the Regional meets this year. 5 of the 7 regions conducted meets. \$1,000 per meet plus medals. Also a \$500 travel stipend. The National Meet was held at Ican Stadium in NYC and we had a record number of athletes - 602. Next year's meet will most likely be in Omaha, but it is not finalized yet.

Association Website Reviews – the initial review was done last August with the final review in December. 18 Associations met all requirements. The Association Content Management system will be rolled out on Sunday. This will help Associations that are struggling with their websites. If an Association chooses not to go with the USATF system, they will continue to be monitored. It will be branded as the USATF Network. This will bring in the brand and give a cohesive feel to all websites. It is an easy to use system that has a similar look and feel to Microsoft Word. You do not need a technical person to be webmaster.

Accreditation Subcommittee Report – follow-ups to previous two years accreditation and the first go through on the new two-year process. Several Associations had previously had their voting rights suspended and they were not being responsive. As a result of the letters after the 2010 Annual Meeting, some of those Associations have now submitted their plans or improved based on the new 2010 stats. Those Associations have now been upgraded and they will receive letters shortly. MAC will be decertified shortly and a new entity will be recognized on 9/1/11. Its name is NYTF – New York Track & Field. This will be presented to the Board for approval at their next call. West Texas will be meeting with the committee later today so they can come into compliance. West Virginia panhandle issue is still outstanding as Three Rivers has not responded. It will be put off until the Annual Meeting. Wyoming is decertified. 21 Associations have deficiencies for 2010 and they will receive letters requesting the Plan for Improvement by November 1.

Law & Legislation – Ed submitted three proposals. One tinkers with the time line of Association Grievances. Ed requested that Scott put it in his name since it makes more sense. General Counsel asked for Associations to submit truthful information. Three other items relate to the election process. One related to election notices – a straw poll showed most people prefer that the election notice be via email. If this gets passed, it will be optional in 2012 and mandatory in 2013. Another proposal is to centralize balloting of committee elections, just as you do when you vote for Officers.

Newsletter Criteria – we would like Organizational Services to consider if this is a realistic requirement any longer. Perhaps it should be removed completely or replaced with a quarterly email blast.

Member Benefits – most of the enhancements have been with the Member Appreciation weekend, which included a 20% discount for members on line during that weekend, so people who were not at the meet could also have a benefit. Andy asked for suggestions on what other things we could do besides discounts. New Jersey has 'reward miles' that they give out in place of medals. The athlete can collect them and then turn them in and get specific merchandise.

Board of Directors – has restructured itself into three committees built around an operational structure and they have a closer relationship with the National Office than before. There is one other committee, the Audit and Budget Committee, which has not changed. The CEO search is off until after the 2012 Olympic Games.

Membership Cards – we have bids out to make sure we're using the right vendor. This vendor has been very good to work with, but they had some change in personnel which caused the delay in getting the cards out. Andy feels that we have worked this out now. Lengthy discussion on permanent membership card vs a new number every year.

Grievances – Karen discussed the problems with grievances being handled in a timely manner in many Associations. Karen wants every Association to turn in their list of list of people – 5 to 7 names – who are willing and able to sit on a panel. The names must be sent to the National Office and they must be renewed every year. If the panel has a problem, it is up to the President to move it forward. List needs to go to the Region reps as they will need to be involved to keep the process moving. There must be a penalty somewhere for not moving the process forward. If there is a problem within an Association, then we move the grievance to a Regional panel. The Region reps could pull maybe one or two people from each Association's panel to help form the Regional panels. We must change the process in L&L – all grievances must be submitted to the Region Rep as soon as it is received, so that there will be oversight outside of the Association. The chair of the Associations Committee appoints a new overseer if the grievance is in the Regional Reps home Association. Whoever on the AEC receives the grievance within the 5 days becomes the Grievance Czar. If one party has refused to take part, can a hearing be held? The Czar needs to stay in contact with the regional rep so they know what's going on. If the czar sees that the grievance doesn't have any merit, then they can dismiss the grievance. After 45 days, nothing has happened, then it immediately goes to a regional panel. Anyone willing to be a panelist must send in a bio to have on file. NABR panels are renewed every two years. Bill suggests the grievor gets to pick one person as does the other party, and these two pick the chair. Scott will draft this and present it back to us.

Steve discussed the dwindling participation in Open T&F meets. Discussed participation at all levels. Lionel reported that Youth is about 300 members off where we were last year, but we will pick up some more from Cross Country. So, it will probably remain static or grow slightly. Lionel suggested that something is going on with the Associations and their athletes going to the AAU meet instead of USATF. AAU seems to be penetrating more Associations and we are losing athletes to them. Pam pointed out that we need to educate the parents since the caliber of competition is greater at USATF meets. Steve stated that we have to sell quality, not just quantity, as we are best for many reasons.

All presentations from the Workshop Sessions can be found via the link for the Workshops in the Association Management Area of the website. It is currently located at <http://www.usatf.org/events/2011/AssociationsWorkshop/DocumentLibrary/>

Meeting adjourned.

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