

**USATF Southern Association
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
January 16, 2015**

President James Simmons opened the meeting by thanking Mr. Phillip Travis for assembling the meeting. He wanted to stress that he doesn't want people to feel as though the Southern Association just consist of Baton Rouge and New Orleans, he wants to get Shreveport and Monroe people involved. The only time we see people in the other areas of Louisiana and Mississippi is when we have a meet. He told Dennis if he would get all the clubs in the Mississippi area together he would come and talk to them to see if they had any concerns as he would assure them that we are here for them.

He's been involved in a lot of things. Last 23 years in the Lafayette School System compliance in the school system. He was the Athletic Director. He was the compliance officer, coach, and over all the sports programs in the school system. He has been in meetings over the years and may have been in a meeting with some people that he may not have cared for. He wants to say that he does have issue with anyone in the Executive committee. We want to make the organization as good as it could be. We are in the organization together. About 85% of the organization is the youth. If the kids are not there, this thing just won't go. We have to try to do some things that will get the attention of the people in a positive way. He stated that he does not strive on being a pessimist or being negative about things. He wants to say good things about the organization and that we are making a difference. He doesn't believe in negative speaking. When it's all said and done and over, it's us. We can hear what people say and it's bad, we can't run to them. When one thing goes bad for Earlett Buckley, it goes bad for the entire Executive Committee. It is our job to make sure that this organization is run correctly and run right. He had some goals and put them on the website. He wants to be transparent, there is nothing to hide. There is one thing that he's asked everybody to do is to keep the politics out of the business. Nobody should have an agenda about what's going on with this organization. Hopefully it's not hard for us. He doesn't expect when one of us leaves tonight to go out and bad mouth what we do in the Executive committee meeting because that is not how he likes to conduct business. He has encouraged us to "Let's do what's good for the Association".

Each year he tried to add 10% to what he did the previous year. He is never satisfied with what he has done the previous year. He has some things in mind and he will address them as we move on.

Meet Selection Policy: Very extensive dialogue took place concerning this topic.

We need to get an understanding when we walk out tonight and be on the same page. He's ahead of that "when you think you got me" Here's what coaches used to do. Guys would have

meets and they get it out early and not wanting other schools to participate. He stopped them all from going to the middle meets. Just an example of what he sees going on. He told the superintendent why things were done. The following year, they were all invited. The bottom line is there won't be any discrimination.

We come to the meeting tomorrow and people start throwing out their dates and someone came in with the same idea. Comparison was given in terms of hosting a meet in Shreveport and New Orleans. He was talking about the distance between the meets.

We had a mileage. Dennis discussed the meet selection policy that was voted on in August. Hannah asked him to elaborate on that. Dennis said it was kind of how we had done it. It's in the minutes, it's supposed to start in January.

Secretary Buckley was asked to pull up the minutes.

Hannah was saying that we should not implement one part of the document and not implement the other parts of the document.

Kathy stated that we all have read the document: Her concern was there is no way that we could have determined what club was considered a club in good standard. No one could explain the questions that were asked.

Successfully hosted: No post evaluation was done, so how could it have been determined that a meet was successfully hosted.

Even if the policy was to go into effect in January, there was no way to pick a club that was in good standard or had successfully hosted, because nobody would have met the criteria.

The document would not have had anything:

Dennis: Keith said it went into effect in January in the meeting in August. Evaluating goes into effect now, it does affect the teams that have hosted a meet in the past. You just go in and host a meet and put it on the schedule, and then the evaluation will be done beginning now.

Kathy: Why are you trying to hold us accountable if the policy doesn't go into effect now.

Dennis: The first two or three pages doesn't go into effect until January. The document should have started in August.

Keith: He wanted a copy of the minutes to see what the minutes state. There was a lot of discussion. It was his recommendations that the policy be

Earlett: Pulled the minutes up electronically. When we had the meeting in Lafayette, questions were asked. The Executive Committee met the night prior, according to the minutes it says that once it's clarified and posted on the website it would go into effect. There things that weren't clarified, so it's still in draft form. In regard to the National Championship, it was said it should

be a part of that policy. It was asked when does it go into effect. Once it's verified. It would take effect once it's clarified and verified.

As the president at that time Dennis, you were the chair over the meeting and that was not finalized at the meeting.

Dennis: There were some things that he does not like about the policy.

James: The document still says draft, so when does it not say draft.

Dennis: Should have been rewritten, it should no longer be a draft. It should be a policy now.

Keith: Both parties are right. The body technically approved this policy. He has several notes written on his documents, there were corrections that should have been put on the website. The phase that wasn't done was it was not put on the website.

Implementation for the first section. Every track meet that was held in 2015 there must be an evaluation form for the track meet.

There were questions in reference to the Junior Olympics.

The document wasn't modified and it wasn't put on the website.

It is recommended that the Association co-host the championship meet.

Dr. Harris: Questioned for point of clarification, is it understood that any club can bid on a track meet at this time since there is nobody that is considered in good standard.

After lengthy discussion it was stated that the previous administration didn't take under consideration that the next day we may have a new administration, so the new officers had no input.

Everyone was supposed to review the document on the website and submit any changes so that the Executive committee would implement the first phase of the process.

Keith: We discussed the first two pages. We can't penalize anyone from the past, we have to start somewhere, so we will start in 2015. From that day forward (every track meet would have to have an evaluation) In 2016 the track meets will become that part of the process.

Everybody starts out anew. It is the responsible of the Executive committee to determine what good standing means. It is the responsible of the Executive Committee to go back and clarify what evaluation form is to be used for every track meet not just some track meets, it will continue to roll into this policy.

2015-2018: It will become mandatory criteria in 2019.

One of the documents is a rolling document. Start with the evaluation and start the process.

Kathey: Stated she didn't vote for the document and wouldn't have approved it, but she wanted to know if this policy could be replaced. She asked the parliamentarian what the process would be to put this in place.

Dennis: Tried to explain the process by which we should implement a policy. Keith interjected.

Mr. Simmons: Asked that we clear this up and move forward. Question: The draft is off of the document? The policy should already be out there. Whether we have a problem with it, we need to discuss it and proceed in what we should do.

Kathey: The phone calls that she has been getting where individuals were relating to the policy. The people have been very argumentative. That is why she is bringing up the policy. The clarification needs to occur because nobody but her has been receiving the calls.

The only thing that starts tomorrow, is that every track meet that is held this year has to have an evaluation

It's a phase in affect.

The evaluations are complete when we come back in 2016.

According to the understanding of this particular policy clubs feel that the youth chair and the 1st vice-president getting the bids out by a certain date.

It is understood that only a portion of the document is in effect at this time.

Dennis: Stated that the last 5 or 6 years there was a schedule sent out to the clubs and when we got to the meeting we just had to vote on a few meets.

Rashad: Why does it matter if you put in a bid for a meet, you put in a bid?

Dennis: If he put in a bid against somebody then they could have worked it out prior to the meeting.

Keith: There was no criteria established. You can't put policies in place without criteria. Until we put it in writing. The evaluation process, successfully hosted (You had no criteria to compare successfully versus non-successfully hosted a meet) – Keith proposed the policy takes effect January 2015. However the Executive committee will be in charge of the evaluation process.

Post it on the website for comments and suggestions for the August meeting for finalization and implementation.

This is to be posted within the next 30 days. The policy can't be posted because we currently don't have a webmaster in place. Verification and clarification needs to be provided prior to our next meeting.

It was suggested that within 60 days this information is to be posted on the website for people the body.

Policy must be emailed to the Executive committee and all coaches within 30 days.

Mr. Simmons: Asked that we move on to the next item on the agenda.

BRASF – Baton Rouge Area Sports Foundation – They made a bid for the Masters National Championship. A document was disseminated to the group.

He had an opportunity to meet with the BRASF. Eric Engemann is the person representing the Sports Foundation.

They didn't have any competition so they got the bid – Not unanimously, but they got the bid.

Things can't go without the blessing of the Association. Any entity could bid on a National meet, but if they don't have the blessings of the Association it doesn't look good on them when they get to the National convention. He was invited to attend the Association annual meeting, but he had a conflict.

Whatever we're up to today, we need to start doing. Bid sheet didn't go out, nobody has an upper hand on anybody.

July 2015 – Will go to Jacksonville, FL to observe the meet there. He's encouraging any other members of the LOC to attend the meet. Clarification was needed in terms of who will pay for the LOC to attend the meet.

He will continue to work closely with the Association.

Responsibilities page is what Mr. Simmons asked that we place close attention to.

We're not sure how it happens in this area, in terms of who will handle the financial end of the LOC attending the meet.

Mr. Simmons as the president stated that he will meet again with the BRASF to have any unanswered questions, answered.

Clarification was asked in regard to the Master's Chair, which Vice-president does this chair fall under.

1st Vice President Hannah – Master's Chair falls under this office.

Updating Executive Committee on Co-host agreement on March 7, 2015: Mr. Simmons stated that he doesn't think that one club should dominate every year putting on certain meets, especially if someone else is interested in doing it. He got with Byron and they collaborated, and discussed the financial part of the meet. It was agreed that the Association would co-host the meet. The Association would pay for the facility and the sanction. He asked Byron if he was

okay with that and he said he was. He got with the secretary and we drew up a co-host agreement.

Minor edits were made to the document and Mr. Simmons says that he will be travelling to Baton Rouge to discuss with Byron.

If Byron is okay with it he will sign and Mr. Simmons will sign it on behalf of the Association.

Mr. Simmons questioned the location of the Association timing equipment. The Executive committee was told that the secretary has possession of the timing equipment as of July 2014.

Question: How did the Association allow someone to make money off the Association's equipment and not reap any benefits?

Response: Years ago an agreement was made that they would be allowed to house the timing equipment and in that they would time all of the meets no matter if they were Invitation or championships. It was fine. It was a marriage made in heaven. It worked fine until 2012. Rev. King contacted them to time his meet he was given a price.

It was proposed and agreed that moving forward that we don't use anyone who has a club or affiliated with a club not be allowed to do the time. This is a complete conflict of interest. Use someone else, definitely not use specifically RedStix and Adkins Timing, because there are individuals affiliated with both timing companies AND clubs working for them. There are so many problems with someone has a club and are doing the timing.

COST CENTER FOR THE OFFICIALS CHAIR :

President Simmons has been getting so much negative feedback. She's charging too much, where is the money going? She's using it for other interest. He said we're going to straighten this up once and for all. We're going to put together a cost center for the official's chair.

Travel, postage, hospitality, etc. For the 1st year of 2 it may not be accurate, but the official's chair can come up with an estimated amount that is being spent. Official's chair will have to operate within this budget.

This will put away all of the innuendos. We need to be transparent, we don't have nothing to hide.

All checks are being made to USATF Southern Association.

Ms. Louis was told that once she does the line item, she will see just how much she has shorted herself.

Where other people pay \$60 and \$70 she still has our people paying \$35.

Mr. Simmons: We will get it right.

He wants us to increase the number of clubs.

Dennis: I created 10 teams in the past 3 years. Mr. Simmons said we need to hit the Shreveport, Monroe, Lafayette, and Ms. Areas.

We have a lot of kids that don't know about the meet that Dennis runs cross country in Ms.

Mr. Simmons says he is going to get with some guys to help promote that.

It was stated that we need to do what we can to make the meet attractive to the kids to make them want to participate.

In La. Cross country is not as important. We need to have something to market the meet.

The meet is scheduled the week after Thanksgiving

PFI: We have to do some things to keep our accreditation. Increase our championship meets.

Ms. Buckley: When we met with Jackie he reiterated that we could piggyback off of some other area meets. I tapped in to another meet director's meet. I was able to sanction 9 meets.

Last year we were one short because we didn't have that LDR number.

I was given permission to sanction up to 12 meets to help the Association to meet the number for championships.

Mr. Simmons envisions us having a track and field banquet and he knows how to do it. His money was from donations and sponsorships.

He hopes to have a track and field banquet to recognize athletes who have made All Americans to be invited to that banquet.

The top 8 for the Junior Olympics, the top 25 for Cross country.

The only question would be is the location of the banquet.

Dennis suggestion was that we should dividing the money back out to the clubs that go to the National meet. He thinks that is a better way of rewarding those All Americans.

Mr. Simmons let us know that he is thinking outside the box. He wants to do something that has never been done before.

When you give money to club, you also have All Americans that are unattached.

Keith: Asked if we considered a luncheon in Baton Rouge to give people a time to drive down and back.

Kathey: In the past when money was given to a club, the kids never saw it. It is good to want to go in a different direction. She feels that if we did it the right way we're certain that people wouldn't mind travelling to come to a banquet to be recognized. Lodging

Mr. Simmons: Kids like to be talked about. The more exposure that we give our youth, the more people see what's going on in our organization, the more people will be willing to step up and get involved.

He likes to see folk have a nice sit down, dressed up other than tennis shoes and sweats.

If we do this, this will put us in a position that no one else is.

WEBSITE: Bart emailed us and let us know that he would be resigning. We wasn't sure of his effective date, because he is no longer responding. Because a viable website is part of the accreditation process we need to take a vote and move forward to act on the proposal that we received. NOLA Media and Design.

We accepted the proposal from NOLA Media and Design and Dr. Harris will contact them in order that they may move forward.

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn.