

# USATF Southern Association Semi-Annual Meeting Minutes January 17, 2015

Attendees: Shelia King, Martha Harris, Trent Ellis, Dennis Groll, Rev. Burnett King, Sr., Clarence Morgan, Jr., Kathey Early, Rashad Hannah, Roderic Newton, Traci Landry, Phillip Travis, Charles Green, Gloria Louis, Keturah Maurice, Keith Johnson, James Simmons, Willis Louis, Ray Brock, Sr., Charlie Floyd, Linda Travis, Rico Griffin and Earlett Buckley

## Roll Call of Clubs

Secretary Buckley called the roll of current clubs. There were enough clubs present for a quorum in order to conduct the business of the Association.

## Reading of minutes of preceding meeting

The minutes from the January meeting were made available to the body via LCD projector and presented on the screen for review. Dennis asked that the name of a Cross Country meet be changed. The minutes were adopted with that change.

Mr. Simmons informed the body that we had a great meeting last night. He introduced the Executive Committee and asked that they stand.

First Vice-Rashad Hannah

Second Vice-Rev. Burnett King, Sr.

Third Vice-Traci Landry

Secretary – Earlett Buckley

Youth Chair – Kathey Early

Treasurer – Dr. Martha B. Harris

Official's Chair – Gloria Louis

LDR and Masters – Vacant

Athlete - Mariah Georgetown – absent but recognized. She is a current athlete on LSU's Track team

Parliamentarian – Keith Johnson

This is who represents you. You hold us accountable. If we aren't handling things right, then you should let us know. We want to try to make this organization something to be proud of. We have ideas that we discussed at the Executive Committee meeting.

President Simmons encouraged the group by sharing a story to remind us that the bulk of what we are doing is for the kids. We want to help the kids be better in a positive way.

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 wanted to say that he doesn't 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 it be understood 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.

He has encouraged us to "Let's do what's good for the Association". He is one of those guys who believes in walking the walk.

## Treasurer's Report

Dr. Harris shared the Treasurer's report. Stated that there is a Budget Committee in response to a question that was asked of her. Moved by Roderic Newton and Seconded by Ray Brock to accept the proposed 2015 budget. This information will be posted on the website as part of the Accreditation process.

## Report of Officers and Committees

President Simmons informed us that he went to the cross country championship meet and asked that Dennis Groll provide us with a report.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Rashad Hannah

He is the Vice-President of Operations. He is conducting business Fair, Equal and Transparent. With that being said we may notice some changes. It is his duty to be fair, not meaning that everyone will be pleased. The scheduling will be differently. There are documents and rules that are not being followed. We do have a lot to do.

Things will continue to be looked at and then will come back to the body for you to vote, because this is our Association and we want to do things to encourage everyone to get involved. He encouraged the body to be in contact with the Executive committee. This is about the athletes. Look forward to a lot of changes. We will be transparent in what we are doing. He just kept reiterated that this is “our Association”

He shared his email address for any questions

[vicepresident@southern.usatf.org](mailto:vicepresident@southern.usatf.org)

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Rev. Burnett King, Sr.**

He shared that the one word that kept ringing in our ears from the President is “Transparency”

He encouraged people to come to the meetings for themselves. We need to get more parents, coaches, etc. involved.

Racewalking – This is the first year where we have not had a racewalking athlete to be dq’d in that area. He encouraged the coaches to teach this and encourage this event. He stated that we would have another racewalking clinic. He also stated that we would have a racewalking meet to promote this event. He would be working along with Ms. Gloria Louis.

[revbking@bellsouth.net](mailto:revbking@bellsouth.net)

In the capacity as chaplain he encouraged the group to let us know how we can minister to your needs. Coach Traci Landry, Earlett Buckley and Dr. Harris are a part of the Benevolence committee. Let us know of illnesses, deaths, etc. that we

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Vice-President – Traci Landry**

Her passion is Coaches education. She will support the vision of the president. She shared that she appreciated Rev. King, Ms. Buckley and the Association for being there when they lost one of their athletes. It meant a lot to her when we went to Anaheim and she saw a picture of her on the large screen. That meant a lot to her.

Increase your knowledge, so that you could be the best coach that you could be to our kids. Everybody can’t run and everybody may not be able to throw, but there is something that everyone should be able to do.

[Tracialj4@yahoo.com](mailto:Tracialj4@yahoo.com)

## Official's Chair – Gloria Louis

She gave God the glory for her health and strength. It doesn't take a large group to make things happen, reflecting on the number of people in attendance at the meeting

We have a lot of athletes and then a lot of coaches. She stressed the need for additional officials.

She has two recent upcoming clinics. February 15<sup>th</sup> – Southern Miss and February 21<sup>st</sup> – Pearl Ms. Louis is attempting to space out the clinics this year. North Louisiana, Baton Rouge, Lafayette, New Orleans, Ms.

Multiple locations will not be done this year because there are a lot of clinics being done and people aren't showing up.

The number of clinics will be downsized.

Background screening will take place for officials this year. Safe sport is here. Coaches and officials are going to have to do Safe sport.

Outstanding Officials: Clarence Morgan, Zack Winfield, Jeff and Pat Arceneaux

Selection Officials from the Association: Donald Mills, Paul Stelly, Curtiss Stelly, Gloria Louis and Lloyd McMillan

Gloria Louis was also asked to be a head official at the Youth National. She will also be travelling to Jacksonville.

Upgrade: Apprentice Level may apply for an upgrade at this time. She did have an upgrade form available.

- Serve the time
- Do the track resume
- Have a current membership – 2015 membership
- Active

Ms. Louis provided us with a list of upcoming meets.

February 28<sup>th</sup> - Youth Indoor meet at LSU – need officials to work the meet

March 7<sup>th</sup> – Masters meet at LSU

March 21<sup>st</sup> – Louisiana Classic at UL Lafayette

April 10<sup>th</sup> – Pelican Relays – they won't be having the youth along with the college meet anymore. The youth meet will be held another day.

April 11<sup>th</sup> – GCAC In New Orleans

April 15<sup>th</sup> – Northside High School

April 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> – Southern Ms.

May 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> - Southeastern

Ms. Louis ended her report with a thank you to the officials that worked the meets the past year and gave them an incentive.

[Marialouis1@aol.com](mailto:Marialouis1@aol.com)

### **Youth Chair – Kathey Early**

Kathey shared information that she received from the National Convention.

She highlighted topics: SafeSport Course, Run Jump Throw, Future Stars, Branding Guidelines (Stringent guidelines in terms of logos), Honor Roll program

She encouraged everyone at the meeting by letting them know that she is available to serve them. And asked that they contact her with any comments/concerns.

[youth@southern.usatf.org](mailto:youth@southern.usatf.org)

[lkearly@bellsouth.net](mailto:lkearly@bellsouth.net)

### **Official's Chair – Gloria Louis**

**Ms. Louis failed to mention:**

**March 31<sup>st</sup> is the deadline for current officials to get their membership or they will be kicked out of the system.**

**President Simmons chimed in here with wishing that the room had more people in it. Because he has people that have some good information to share.**

**He believes that in order for those individuals to do what they are doing they have to:**

- I. Love What We Are Doing
- II. Give A Little Bit More
- III. Make Your Weakness Your Strength
- IV. Be Yourself – Don't Try to Imitate Someone Else
- V. Have A Place For God In Your Life

**The president feels as though the board that we have want to do a great job. With that being said he encouraged those in attendance to share his vision with someone else in hope that they will get on board. We anticipate doing great things.**

**President Simmons went to Jackson to the Cross Country Championship meet. He stated it was a good meet, we just need to increase the participation of the meet. He asked Dennis to give a report.**

### **Dennis Groll gave a report on the Cross Country Championship**

Held at Choctaw Trails in Clinton, MS

74 participants

36 were from his club – Peak Performance Track Club

Dennis provided a handout/financial report to the meeting attendees. This report will be made available online.

President Simmons asked Dennis what could we do as an Association to help to make this meet better.

President Simmons acknowledge those individuals who were in attendance at the National Convention. He thanked everyone for doing a great job in attending the meetings and getting the information and sharing with the body.

He shared with the body that at the National Convention the BRASF made a bid for a National meet and had the Association not been there, they would have not been awarded a meet.

Ms. Buckley stated that one of the perks of going to the National Convention the individuals who attend as delegates for the Association, they have to provide a report to share with the body. They have been received, but is not yet posted.

A report will be made available online for the body when the website is updated.

Youth Chair and 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President handled the discussion the 2015 Track Meet schedule

A copy of the proposed meets was made available to those meeting attendees

Kathey stated that the document contained the actual bids that were sent to her.

The 1<sup>st</sup> meet in question was the Pelican Relay. Clarification on the date was needed.

The name Pelican Relay was also questioned. It was stated that we should call it Jr. Pelican Relay until we received clarification. Debate was the name and the age division of the meet.

Rashad Hannah provided clarification in stating that we would go week by week on the calendar and if anybody wanted to place a bid at that time they would do so at that time.

February 28<sup>th</sup> – La. Governor's Games

March 7<sup>th</sup> – To be hosted by USATF Southern Association and US Express Track Club

March 28<sup>th</sup> – Pelican Relays - US Express

March 28<sup>th</sup> – Peak Performance Developmental Meet

April 11<sup>th</sup> – Ultimate Performance

April 25<sup>th</sup> – Open Week

May 2<sup>nd</sup> – Ultimate Performance and Roadrunners Track Club – Developmental Meet

May 16<sup>th</sup> – Ultimate Performance and Faith Track Club

Youth chair chimed in and stated that the Invitational meets were to have all age divisions (Youth, Open and Masters)

May 23<sup>rd</sup> – Greater King David, Feliciana Heat, USATF Southern Association

[The Youth Chair provided clarification that the Southern Association is attempting to assist other clubs in hosting track meets to help them in being able to host meets in the future, to nurture them]

Since there are multiple bids for this date, the Association withdrew their bid

Greater King David withdrew their bid

May 30<sup>th</sup> – Hattiesburg Flyers

June 6<sup>th</sup> – Peak Performance

Westside Striders

June 13<sup>th</sup> – Association Championships

Northwestern University

In lining up with the vision of the president we are trying to move the meets around the states of Louisiana and Mississippi

Question was asked regarding concessions and who are awarded the opportunity to get the concessions

It depends on the contract and who the Association is coordinating with in regard to the location

June 20<sup>th</sup> –Greater King David

Hattiesburg Flyers

Louisiana Governor's Games Open and Masters

Greater King David asked to remove Open and masters from their meet because he thought that the Louisiana Governor's Games Open and Masters was a qualifying meet for the Open and Masters national championship

Youth Chair asked for clarification

Rashad Hannah said if it was a qualifying meet then it should have been a championship meet – No representative from US Express was available to provide clarification in this regard.

Question was asked if the Invitational meets had to invite open and masters to their meets.

Clarification will be received later in regard to whether or not the Governor's Games is a qualifying meet

Two meets can't be held on the same day in the same city

June 25<sup>th</sup> – June 28<sup>th</sup>

Future Track Club

US Express Track Club

USATF Southern Association

Question was asked if the body is no longer bidding on the JO's.

## **BREAK**

Parliamentarian Keith Johnson came before the body after the break to share: The President having a vision to have the Association host championship meets. We have not formally adopted the procedures to have the Association take over the championship meets, therefore all three of the clubs/organizations that placed a bid for the meet were allowed to bid.



Every track meet has to be evaluated to determine who could host championship track meets in the future.

Future Track Club/New Iberia Track Club

US Express Track Club

USATF Southern Association – are those placing bids for the JO's

May 23<sup>rd</sup> – Up for vote

Greater King David and Feliciana Heat [Greater King David withdrew their bid]

June 20<sup>th</sup> – Up for vote

Greater King David and Hattiesburg Flyers; Governor's games is not included in the vote. No vote was necessary for this date.

June 25<sup>th</sup> – June 28<sup>th</sup>

Question: La. Governor's Games is this now going to be a USATF meet – this is generally an open and masters meet only was the response given.

**Vote: JO's – Future, Association and US Express**

Association won the vote. They will host the JO's

Date	Event	Target	Host	Location
28-Feb	Louisiana Governor's Games Youth Indoor Classic	Youth	US Express Track Club	LSU, Baton Rouge, LA
7-Mar	USATF Southwest Regional Indoor Open and Masters Championship	Open and Masters	USATF Southern Association/US Express	LSU, Baton Rouge, LA
28-Mar	Pelican Relays	Youth, Open and Masters	U.S. Express Track Club	Southern University
28-Mar	Developmental Meet	Youth	Peak Performance	Madison, Miss
11-Apr	Developmental Meet	Youth	Ultimate Performance	Monroe, LA
18-Apr	Developmental Meet	Youth	Future Track Club	Northside Lafayette, LA
18-Apr	Developmental Meet	Youth	Peak Performance	Madison, Miss
2-May	Developmental Meet	Youth	Ultimate Performance	Monroe, La.
2-May	Developmental Meet	Youth	Road Runners	New Orleans, La.
7-9 May	LHSAA Championships	Informational Purposes Only		
May 8-9	Miss. High School Championship	Informational Purposes Only		
16-May	Invitational	Youth, Open, Masters	Faith Track Club	TBA
16-May	Invitational		Ultimate Performance	Monroe, La
23-May	Invitational	Youth, Open, Masters	Felician Heat	Northeast High School Zachary, LA
23-May	Invitational	Youth, Open, Masters	Peak Performance	Madison, Miss
30-May	Invitational	Youth, Open, Masters	Hattiesburg Flyers	West Harrison High School Gulfport, Miss.
6-Jun	Invitational	Youth, Open, Masters	Peak Performance	Pearl, Miss
6-Jun	Invitational	Youth, Open, Masters	Westside Striders	Plaquemine, La.
13-Jun	Southern Association Championships	Youth, Open, Masters	USATF Southern Association	Northwestern State University
20-Jun	Greater King David Challenge	Youth, Open, Masters	Greater King David	Northeast High School
20-Jun	Invitational	Youth, Open, Masters	Hattiesburg Flyers	West Harrison High School Gulfport, Miss.
25-28 June	USATF Southern Association JO Outdoor T&F Championship	Youth	USATF Southern Association	West Harrison High School Gulfport, Miss.
10-12 July	USATF Regional JO Outdoor T&F Championship	Youth		Middle Tenn. - Dates Tentative
27 July-Aug 2	USATF National JO Outdoor T&F Championship	Youth		Jacksonville, Fl

## New Business

The President's Volunteer of the Year candidate was Mr. Willis Louis. To him the volunteer should go above and beyond the call of duty. He has always assisted the Association with making certain they receive the things they need for the operation of a smooth meet.

It's also Mr. Simmon's desire to have an honor's banquet where we would have a sit down banquet and honor all youth, open, masters, cross country all americans this year. We are in the process of working this out. Tentative timeframe would be two weeks after the JO's. He is excited about it. This is a good way to showcase our sport. This is a good way to bring heavyweights in. This thing could really grow.

## Adjournment

President James Simmons closed the meeting by thanking Mr. Phillip Travis for assembling the meeting.

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn.