

USATF Southern Association Executive Committee Meeting Minutes Friday, August 21, 2015

Attendees: President Simmons, Rev. Burnett King, Sr., Traci Landry, Dennis Groll, Eric Engemann, Al Olive, Keith Johnson, Kathey Early, Martha Harris, Rashad Hannah, Phillip Travis, Leroy Brisco

Meeting was called to order by President Simmons, Jr., CAA.

Roll Call of Executive Committee Members

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

Rev. King opened the meeting in prayer. Mr. Simmons thanked everyone for their role in the successful meets in Natchitoches, La. and Gulfport, Ms.

Eric Engemann gave a brief presentation relative to the logistical information centered around the 2017 master's meets. He said that he and Al Olive had the opportunity to be in attendance at the National master's championship meet in Florida. They were able to make note of the things that we could do differently to make for a successful meet. He indicated the approximated number of officials that will probably be needed. He stated that we may want to consider teams of officials in order to give the groups a break. One group can work in the morning and one could work in the evening. He's looking forward to working with the Southern Association to host a great meet and will continue to meet periodically with the leadership of the Executive committee and the LOC to assure that everything is flowing according to plan.

RFP FOR TIMING AND MEET MANAGEMENT FOR CHAMPIONSHIP MEETS

President Simmons stated that there be a three person committee formed to get a document out. We need to come up with specs. It is hoped that we can have an independent contractor to time the championship meets. President asked Immediate Past President Dennis Groll if he would like to be a part of the committee, Dennis stated he would rather not.

Youth Chair, 1st Vice-President and Parliamentarian make up this committee.

Item to be put on the agenda for the next Executive Committee meeting.

Special Consideration and the Delegate selection process

Review the by-laws with the 2nd vice-president.

Operational procedures

There are two documents that were floating around.

Someone stated they never liked the fact of hosting two different meets on the same day. The president stated he feels that individuals should have a choice.

Vice president stated that some areas don't put in bids and if bids are placed the Association doesn't support their bids.

It was questioned that the radius is different on each documents.

Mr. Travis had a meet on the same date as someone else. Increased participation has been granted, teams just have to take advantage of the opportunity. He had teams from Tennessee and Alabama. They want to see what's going on in our Association.

President Simmons asked Dennis again to find a contact person in the Ms. Area and he would personally drive there to meet with them.

Ms. Louis went to Ole Miss several times and encouraged the teams to host a meet. They were considering it until this year, the issue was the facility. She has several officials who drive down to work the Association meets. It is a long drive from here to there. Maybe we could go up there and do an Invitational meet for them to show them what it takes.

Some clubs don't know what hosting a track meet involves. They don't know that they can get officials. That's why the president stated that he wouldn't mind going to meet with the individuals to answer any questions they might have and to offer assistance with them.

Vice President stated that we have the same goal in mind, we may be looking at going about it in different ways. Our president when he first took office stated that he wanted to branch out to the areas of the people that we no longer see or no longer see us. That was the whole reason for the Association hosting the Championships. Ole Miss, Mississippi State, Northwestern were some of the facilities that was contacted. Natchitoches was glad to see us coming and they are waited on us to come back.

President says we just need to extend ourselves. It's not a Baton Rouge or New Orleans thing. He wants us to extend to Shreveport. He doesn't want us to stay in one spot all the time and expect our Association to increase in numbers. We do that we can get more people on board.

Dennis or Mr. Travis can set up a meeting with Ms. So that we could hear what they want us to do. The Youth Chair also stated she would be interested in attending the meeting. He will wait to hear from Dennis. He said he could get his high school and two other schools at one time. President Simmons stated he will be waiting to hear from Dennis relative to meeting in the Ms. area.

LDR Chair position has been opened for a while. Nobody else stepped up, Coach Phillip Travis has expressed an interest. He is being appointed our new LDR chair. Mr. Kevin Castille said he would work with him on an assistant level.

All the Executive committee members are from Louisiana, this is an additional appointment from the Ms. area.

Mr. Travis stated that he has a little knowledge in the distance running arena. His son is the record holder in the middle distance and long distance.

Congratulations were extended to him.

This past year has opened his eyes to a lot of things. He is excited in the direction that the Association is headed and he is excited in being a part of it. He is extremely excited about the banquet scheduled for tomorrow. He hopes that we can continue moving forward. He doesn't mind helping, working. Whatever it takes to get it done, that's what he is willing to do, because he loves what he does and he hopes he has proven that.

Secretary stated that she was excited and it's been a pleasure to work with President this past year.

We have a president who doesn't like recognition nor does he give himself credit. When we were trying to gather the names for the award recipients for the banquet he didn't put his own name on there. He has done an awesome job. He has shown why he should be the president of this association. We could put out push cards with his accomplishments on them. Instead of saying Obama Did: We could said Mr. Simmons Did: He had done a lot this year

- He has sought out sponsorships for the Association
- Association hosted championship meets
- Officials received a stipend for the 1st time ever
- 1st Ever Awards Banquet

On Tuesday at 6:30, December 15, 2015 at the Orlando Marriott Resort in Orlando, FL., James Simmons, Jr., CAA will be inducted into the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrator Hall of Fame by the National Federation of High Schools. He will be the first person from Louisiana inducted into the Hall of Fame as an Athletic Administrator and the first African American nationally. It is believed in giving honor where honor is due.

President Simmons said his dad told him if you ever want something you have to surround yourself with good people. He has always surrounded himself with good people. He tries to be eclectic when working with adults. He has written articles and policies, he has spoken and presented at National conferences. He says it is not about him.

He operates with a Nike motto. JUST DO IT.

It's good to honor people when they do good things, whether they are 5 or 95. He said he can't do anything by himself. It is just like having a team.

Tomorrow Dress For Success and We will Try To Get Everything Started On Time.

Adjournment

President James Simmons informed the Executive committee that he invited Attorney Roberts to give an ethics presentation at the beginning of the meeting.

Dennis said that we lose people towards the end of the meeting because the more interesting items or anything you have to vote on is at the bottom of the agenda.

Mr. Simmons said the presentation was important and interesting and he is sure people would stay for the rest of the meeting.

Hannah thanked everyone for a successful year.

Coach Traci closed with a motto remember: **TEAM WORK MAKES THE DREAM WORK**

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn.