

USATF Southern Association

Meeting Minutes

Saturday, August 22, 2015

9:00 a.m.

**Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church
Family Center**

Attendees: President Simmons, Clarence Morgan, Jr., Donald Mills, Martha Brown Harris, Al Olive, Phillip Travis, Kathey Early, Joan Labadie, Gloria Louis, Ray Brock, Sr., Vincent White, Dianne Hall, Kendall Wiltz, Leroy Brisco, Byron Turner, Ray Richardson, Linda Travis, Roderic Newton, Pliny Auzenne, Rev. Burnett King, Sr., Dennis Groll, Shelia King, Rashad Hannah, Reginald King, Sr., Jake Ford, Traci Landry, Jackie Callender, Sr., Zachary D. Winfield, Safiyyullah Yusuf, Stewart Blue and Earlett Buckley

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

Rev. King opened the meeting in prayer. Mr. Simmons stressed that both the meets in Natchitoches and Gulfport went well. We had a little rain, but we worked around that. He commended everyone on what they do and stated that we all do a great job. He stated that we have some outstanding officials in this Association. There are also a lot of coaches who do a great job. Not just from a medical standpoint but also a physical standpoint.

Roll Call of Member Organizations

Secretary Buckley called the roll of the member organizations. There were not enough member organizations present for a quorum in order to conduct the business of the Association. It was asked that we do a recount later as people arrive to determine whether or not we have a quorum.

Mr. Simmons informed the body that he is a certified athletic administrator, he has written policies, he is a stickler for ethics and believes in doing things right. He says that the presenter will share some key points relative to ethics and bylaws.

Mr. Simmons introduced presenter Dr. Nathan Roberts who spoke to the group on ethics issues. He gave the group his abbreviated overview of what the Association had in place in terms of the Association bylaws as well as the USATF bylaws. He made suggestions and shared with the group different ways to handle ethics to help people not find themselves in accidental trouble. He wanted to help people try to keep things positive. Dr. Roberts stated that it takes a long time to build up a reputation but a very short time to tear it down. When he looked at the steps we have in place in terms of guidelines in handling conflict of interest he felt that we have a good set up.

A question was asked if the slideshow presentation from Dr. Roberts would be made available on the Association website or emailed to the body. Mr. Simmons said he would get with the presenter and look into that matter.

After the presentation, Mr. Simmons asked if we had a quorum? It was verified that we did have a quorum. Acceptance of the previous meeting minutes was the next item on the agenda.

Dennis Groll requested change of minutes in 3rd paragraph on 1st page, from "He" to James Simmons informed the body. Mr. Auzenne stated that he didn't have a copy of the minutes. The secretary informed the body that a copy of the minutes have been on the website for several months. The minutes were made available to the meeting attendees via LCD projector.

Motion was made by Byron Turner and seconded by Jackie Callender to accept the minutes with the change.

Byron Turner addressed the body concerning missing minutes of some previous meetings from the website. Mr. Simmons stated that he had a copy of the minutes from the Executive committee meeting on January 16, 2015 in his possession, which was one of the minutes that was questioned by Byron.

Byron's question was addressed by Keith saying that we are in the process of rebuilding the website and minutes will be uploaded. The website was not ours and was not in our name, however all the minutes were on the website prior to the website being rebuilt.

The Treasurer gave the financial report. Hard copies of report was disseminated. It was stated that report will be posted on the Association website.

The floor was opened for questions:

Byron Turner stated that this is normally the meeting that we reviewed the contracts for the Association particularly the stipend for Ms. Buckley, the membership chair/secretary. He said he didn't see it on the agenda, and was just wandering if we would be voting on that. Clarification was requested from him, because the financial report was the item on the floor.

The secretary asked for clarification of the financial report for the March 7th Southwest Open and Master regional championship. The question was what bid process was used in order to obtain the timing and meet management process. Byron responded that there wasn't instruction provided, timing was given to the vendor who is authorized to use LSU. Only 2 timing companies Delta Timing and RedStix Timing are authorized to time at LSU. \$537.68 check was given to the Association for being co-host at the March 7th meet.

Motion was made to accept the treasurer's report.

Secretary asked for delay of accepting the treasurer's report until amendment is reviewed. There was no motion.

The parliamentarian stated that the motion was made and accepted to receive the treasurer's report and that item was not to be discussed at this time.

Dennis Groll stated that it's a good idea to have our budget audited.

President Simmons said he apologizes for not having an audit as of yet, because that was definitely on his list of things to do when he got in office.

Jackie Callender stated that audits are important to any entity especially when there is a change of administration. He strongly urges that we incorporated that into our operational procedures.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1st Vice-President Rashad Hannah – He thanked everyone for attending meetings, meets & especially the championships. He stated that we had a very successful indoor and outdoor season. He is looking forward to next year's season. He encouraged us to stay focused and stay with the vision, with the Association hosting the championship meets, keeping our athletes in mind. He clarified that it's not just the youth, but all athletes. He said he would love to see some of our athletes in Brazil. He said the World Championships are here now. And he just asked that we keep up the good work and keep a positive attitude.

Jackie Callender- Just for clarity we have LDR and cross country coming up. He is a part of the Accreditation committee and we are required to put on 20 of 21 championships. He said that we are probably half way there now. The 1st Vice president clarified LDR and cross country is not track and field and understands and appreciated the comments of Jackie Callender.

Byron asked the 1st vice-president if he could speak on the teams that the athletes from this association has been fortunate to represent. 1st Vice stated that he doesn't always have the information however he asked that Byron share that information because he was certain that he has it. Byron said that he didn't have that information at the mic, however, he had it accessible; He said that there were 12 athletes from this Association. 6 men and 6 women. As he knows he is the only staff person that represented Team USA. The 1st Vice-president thanked him for sharing that information.

2nd Vice President/Chaplain Rev. Burnett King, Sr. gave chaplain report and stated we have had some deaths, Vincent White's mother passed, Lloyd McMillan's mother passed, Wilbert Floyd's mother passed and Earlett Buckley's father passed and Stewart Blue was in the hospital. Rev. King stated that a card in the least is sent, maybe a floral, it varies. He reaches out to the families and prayer is extended to those families. He noted that "We're supposed to be family, when one hurts we all should hurt". He reiterated that the By-laws are a work in progress. President Simmons is in the process of reassigning the by-law committee and they will work under his leadership and guidance. He asked that everyone review the by-laws.

Byron asked the question referencing: Policy – There are several updates on the policies. Is there a timeline in which the policies will be posted on the website?

Rev. Burnett King, Sr. asked Byron for clarification.

Dennis Groll quoted the by-laws: Article 7-D3.....minutes should be posted 30 days from the date of the meeting.

Dennis said that considering the fact of what just happened with us losing our information from the website we should have some backup mechanism.

Byron asked: Had we ever considered dropbox? Kathey responded: We do have dropbox.

Then Byron referenced to the Executive Committee: What was the deadline established for background screening as he remembers it from when he was a member of the Executive Committee. He was trying to reference an actual date, it was stated that it wasn't written anywhere, but it was recommended that the Executive committee should have background screening complete.

Youth Chair Kathey Early – Thanked everyone for their support this past season as this was her first term as youth chair. She attempted to make every meet, to be visible and answer any questions. She wasn't able to make all the meets this year, but will attempt to make them next year.

Kathey stated that scholarship is her baby, so she spoke on behalf of the scholarship committee. She was asking the body for an increase from the \$1,000 that was already allotted for the scholarship. She responded she is asking for \$2,000 additional for scholarship. Motion made by Dennis Groll and seconded by Jackie Callender to increase the scholarship by an additional \$2,000 for this year only.

Jackie Callender asked what the criteria was: Kathey responded that the club receives the \$500 and the club gives the money to the child, after the information is verified and received. Keith said there was a question referenced to age at the end of the track season. Proof of registration to the various track meets is required. It was asked if this information comes back to the Association for verification? Response was the information comes back to the Association for verification. Dr. Harris stated that the recipient has to be an Active Member of the Association. Dr. Harris also stated there is new criteria that has to met in order to receive the scholarship. Kathey stated that there is a committee in place that will go over this information before issuing/awarding any scholarships.

In regard to scholarships, there were a few things that were recommended that we look at and consider for future criteria. President Simmons asked that we look at school accreditation, home school, and private school, etc.

Ms. Harris, Association treasurer stated she would like to see us give all the recipients a scholarship, we may need to look at \$250 scholarship so that we can give more. She even said that we may have Masters and open who may be going to graduate school, so we need to look at this as well.

Kathey said the scholarship is a work in progress. She said that this was something that she and former president Newton came up with to reward our kids.

Jackie said every year we talk about line item, it could be a trade school. He said he would just say post high school.

Keith made every one cognizant of the time and stated that we look at the scholarship and resume discussion later.

Leroy Brisco asked if the Youth chair was finished with her report. The youth chair responded yes.

Brisco asked Kathey about a policy that said that RedStix can't do the timing at the Association championship meets. Parliamentarian Keith said that item is not on the agenda. He ruled that question is out of order.

Motion was made to over rule the parliamentarian on the floor.

Motion failed.

OFFICIALS CHAIR:

Ms. Louis thanked all of the officials for working the elementary, middle school, high school, collegiate, NCAA conference meets, Southern Association indoor, outdoor, invitational and cross country meets this year. Also she acknowledged the people who were selected for USATF National and/or International meets. Joan Labodie, Jake Ford, Clarence Morgan, Donald Mills, Stewart Blue, Al Olive, Gloria Louis, James Simmons, Lloyd McMillan, Wilbert Floyd and Pam Carey. Ms. Louis said that she was very appreciative because we could not have had successful meets without the help of good officials.

This is the first year that the officials will receive a stipend for working to the two championships meets. Additional funds were available as a result of the Association hosting the Association championship meets.

She thanked the volunteers who worked all of the invitational and championship meets. She also acknowledged outstanding volunteers who continued to work for every track meet. They are: Jonathan Harris, Charles Green, Jericka Hall, Shelton Boutte, John Gordan and Charles Martin.

MASTERS CHAIR:

Al Olive had the opportunity of attending the Masters Championship in Jacksonville, FL. It was an awesome experience. He was accompanied by Eric Engemann as the Masters nationals will be held in the Southern Association in 2017.

Pliny Auzenne asked if we are still looking to combining the masters with the youth. Some masters have stated they don't like being out there a long time waiting to compete.

Kathey: Stated that most of the masters liked competing in the meets.

Jackie: Stated that it wouldn't be wise to try to have masters separate for a number of reasons. Expenses, number of participants, etc.

President Simmons also stated that we have issues in getting officials to work regular meets as well as timing issues, so separating the two would be a great cost on the host as well as the Association.

DELEGATES

Parliamentarian handled the voting for delegates:

Delegates: President, Secretary, Youth Chair, Treasurer, Official's Chair, Master's Chair, LDR Chair, 1st Vice-President, (Coaches Education) 2nd-Vice-President, Keith Johnson, Joan Labodie Athlete, Ray Brock, Donald Mills (alternate)

Athlete Representative: The National Office sends a list of athletes that have expressed an interest in attending the national convention.

Byron: Recommended Rodney Brown a discus thrower and graduate of LSU; as the athlete's representative for the Association. He was asked to forward the name to the executive committee.

Dennis Groll motioned and Roderic Newton seconded that those special consideration be moved up as delegates in the event a delegate can't attend the convention.

Gloria Louis stated that in the event an official can't attend, she has an alternate that is already in place to attend.

CROSS COUNTRY SCHEDULE

Dennis Groll – Peak Performance will be hosting several Developmental meets. They will be placed on the sanctions calendar.

November 21st. – Hattiesburg Flyers placed a bid against Peak Performance and Hattiesburg Flyers won the bid for the Cross Country Championship meet.

Adjournment

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn.