

# USATF Southern Association Annual Meeting Agenda 8/23/14 Minutes

Meeting attendees: Shelia King, Isaac Knightshead, Lisa Pitre, Ruby Chaney, Rev. Burnnet King, Sr., Michael murray, Pliny Auzenne, Jackie Callender, Trent Ellis, Leah morgan, Dennis Groll, Martha Harris, Rashad Hannah, David Georgetown, Herbert Jefferson, Pam Carey, James Simmons, Vincent White, Willis Louis, Kendell, Donald Mills, James Trotter, Gloria Louis, Kelsey Thibodeaux, Melissa Thibodeaux , Mariah Georgetown, Marvin Early, Victor Montgomery, Charlie Floyd, Kathey Early, Clarence Morgam, Jr. Traci Landry, Yolanda Anderson, Nicole Carnesone, Keith Johnson, Sr., Ray Brock, Lloyd McMillan, Joan Gordon-Labadie, Kunt Turner, Kevin Dartez, Al Olive, Carolyn Williams, Vanassa Urine, Stewart Blue, Rico Griffin, Ursula Domingue, Allen Congue and Earlett Buckley.

Roll Call of Clubs – There was a quorum. We were able to conduct the business of the Association.

Reading of minutes of preceding meeting – Motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes from the January 2014 meeting. The minutes were adopted as printed on the Association’s website and forwarded via email.

Treasurer’s Report – Dr. Martha B. Harris gave her treasurer’s report that was approved at the Executive Committee’s meeting the night before the General Assembly. Motioned was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer’s report as presented by the Treasurer. This report will be made available to the body on the Association’s website.

Report of Officers and Committees – Association President Dennis Groll encouraged the body to participate in the various committees and programs that are available within the Southern Association. He talked about the Association grant that was available to the Association. He gave examples of the disabled athletes, officials, etc. Dennis made mention of the increase in membership this year. He stated that by-laws could be amended, there are Operation’s procedures. When we come to the meetings we would have things in writing, so that when we come to the meetings we won’t have conflicts. We can He encouraged the coaches to join the National Youth Track Coaches Association. USATF is the only organization that gives certification for officials. He informed the Association of the accreditation requirements and asked Jackie Callender the Southwest Zone Representative to elaborate on the topic. Jackie commended Gloria Louis on the fact that the Southern Association ranks within the top five Associations as it relates to the number of certified officials. Our Association should have 50 certified officials and we currently have over 200. He also stressed the need to renew your membership if you are a certified official.

1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President – Byron Turner was absent, however he forwarded an email from the Baton Rouge Area Sports Foundation:

Dennis stated the National body was impressed with the presentation/bid that was made last year at the National Convention, so they wanted to give us the opportunity to host the Master’s National meet. Email is provided below.

*Good morning Byron,*

*Please share with the leadership and membership of the USATF Southern Association –*

*The Baton Rouge Area Sports Foundation continues to pursue and work to bring USA Track & Field national championship events to the Baton Rouge area.*

*As you know, our bid for the 2016 Masters Outdoor Track & Field championships was not successful last December. However, the quality of the bid was not lost on the site selection committee, as the chair of that committee contacted me recently to express his hope of putting together a “single bid” process for the 2017 Masters meet. Baton Rouge/Southern Association would be the single bidder and assured of hosting the event. We should know more about this set of circumstances in the coming weeks but we intend to pursue this event in this time frame. Of course we welcome and need the support of the Southern Association to make that event a success should it be awarded to us.*

*Secondly, BRASF intends to bid on the 2016 USATF Junior Olympic Cross Country meet in December of 2014. I have been in contact with the USATF staff; the bid packet should be made public in the coming weeks. BRASF already produces its own high school/middle school cross country meet which hosted nearly 1,000 athletes from 40 schools in 2013. We feel confident that, again with the support of the Southern Association, we can successfully bid for and host this event in 2016.*

*As always I will stay in contact with the leadership of the Southern Association as to where we are in the bid process for both of these events. We very much appreciate all your support and look forward to working together on these opportunities.*

***Eric Engemann***

*Vice President*

*Baton Rouge Area Sports Foundation*

Kathey Early asked the question: We won't have to bid for the 2017 meet it will automatically be given to the Association? Dennis responded, That is correct.

Martha Harris wanted confirmation: The meet is to be given to the Association and not a particular club nor the BRASF.

Jackie Callender: Only the Association can put in a bid. No matter what organization wants to put on a bid, they have to have the support of the Association.

Dennis stated that if we were given permission to host the meet, then we would have to accept. Jackie asked that we be prepared to support and be a part of the process.

Rashad Hannah: Is this an Association meet, not to allow a club to host the meet. This will not be a meet for a club to host the only question that was asked was if this would be a meet hosted by the Association.

Keith Johnson: If additional questions need to be made, we need to develop internal procedures in regard to how this would meet would be awarded inside this Association. Association controls the meet.

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President – Rev. Burnett King, Sr. stressed that the key to the updated by-laws is to read them. That is one of our major downfalls. They can always be amended.

He is also the Racewalking chair and he acknowledged the race walking officials that were present at the meeting thanking them for working with us this past season. He stated that you see them at the meetings, and track meets. He encouraged the coaches to push racewalking. He had a kid to medal in Humble, Tx this year.

He also serves as the Association chaplin and it reiterated the desire that we keep the entire body in our prayer. Some of our officials travel the United States and we have to keep them in our prayers. If you have death in your families, or major illness, Ms. Buckley, Dr. Harris, Coach Traci Landry are some individuals that help out in that area.

Dennis came back up and stated that our Association finished the race without getting disqualified in the top percentile.

Mr. Vincent White informed the body that one of the athletes from Feliciana Heat set a record and got a gold medal in Hephtholon. Ms. Gloria Louis noted that SPAR also had an athlete that set a record.

Dennis said that the Southern Association was well represented at the National meet in Humbles, Tx. leaving a remarkable mark in some of the age groups.

Secretary/Membership Chair – Earlett Buckley also stated that there was an increase in sanctions and membership. We made every effort to accommodate everyone in regard to date of birth verification and hopefully we were able to see how important deadlines are. The timely submissions allowed her to process the verifications effectively and efficiently.

The flow of paper has decreased but the computer processing has increased.

Treasurer: WE are continuing to move forward

Official's Chair: This was the 1<sup>st</sup> time that we exceeded 100 officials working the meets this summer

286 certified officials. She thanked the officials that worked the high school, college, conference meets, as well as the Association meets.

Recognized the officials that live out of town, they are always attended the meets and the Association meeting. Joan Labodie and Lloyd McMillan. She asked her committee that assist with clinics to stand to be acknowledged.

She asked the officials that worked the Junior Olympics to stand. She acknowledged all the officials that worked meets this year.

She acknowledged Ms. Williams for assisting her with the championship meets. They confirmed they had over 87 officials that worked the championship meets.

If anyone wants to upgrade, she reminded everyone that there is a National timeframe. It does not matter how many meets are worked there is a process and timeframes. You Move In A Process. If assistance is need with any paper

Announced the clinic date will on September 20<sup>th</sup> in Lafayette. We are trying to not conflict with three major schools so that will allow people an opportunity to attend the clinics if they'd like.

She has a list of all the meets that individuals work. All meet directors should provide her with a copy of the list of there officials for verification purpose.

We don't have falsified numbers.

Jackie: This Association does a good to make sure that officials have membership. If you're not a member, you can be a certified official.

Jackie stepped in the role as the Youth Chair. His report is as final. He also identified himself as the Southwest Zone representative. He just came back from the Association Workshop.

There are 10 standards that we must meet:

The minimum required officials is 50. 280+ says a lot. To say that we have this number, is not the easiest thing in the world to obtain a membership number. If Ms. Gloria Louis pushes for membership, don't fight it, just do it. We could lose our accreditation.

20 out of 21 championships – We missed the mark by 2. We did a good job. We need to do better. We just have to look at how we knock off 9 to 10 championships. We need to communicate with all sports chairs.

We are trying to get credit for Indoor, Disabled, MUT. We are attempting to get review of the accreditation process in 2015.

He stated that he could get some assistance for grant writing. He asked that if anyone needed help with their areas to get with him before he leaves and he would get with them to lend their expertise so that we could stay sharp with the various programs.

USATF is partnered with Hershey. There is a big initiative called Safe Sports. Come November there will be a test. He is asking that we follow up on this. Behavior with adults with the athletes, molestation with coach and official found with an athlete and it's just not been pretty.

Websites: This is a part of the process. We have to update the websites often. Nationally we have to have our financial 990 updated. Our Treasurer has ours handled, we don't have a problem with that. Southern Association is on the top of maintaining our full accreditation he applauded us. He stated the Secretary and Treasurer has to complete a series of reports to assure that we maintain our accreditation. Our folk have done a great job in getting this done.

The other thing is whomever becomes Youth Chair , there are a lot of things he would be willing to sit down with them to discuss some initiatives and things. One major concern is not looking at site inspection, medical support, not on call, (certified trainers being there).

Gloria Louis stated that Mr. Simmons has been nominated for the National Hall of Fame.

Pam Carey: Disabled Athlete Chair. To become a Paralympic athlete you also have to be a part USATF. There is a wheelchair and para-ambulatory division (LHSAA is the only state in the nation that have these divisions at the high school level.

She encouraged the coaches to recruit those athletes to recruit those athletes.

She is going to work towards getting a grant to try to qualify kids for Junior Nationals. She is going to work with Jackie to see about getting a grant.

If you need help with equipment contact her because they have a loaner program. [www.gumbogames.com](http://www.gumbogames.com)

## Unfinished Business

Kathey Early, Scholarship Committee Chair awarded all 5 recipients scholarships. In the past we had not received as many applications, this year they were all remarkable applicants and the Executive Committee unanimously agreed to award these scholarships for this year.

This increase was requested due to the money that was left over from the youth budget to award these scholarships.

Scholarship Committee only has \$1,000 budgeted (One male and one female scholarship)

Treasurer discussed with the budget committee the request and it was unanimously approved. Request came to the Executive Committee. Unanimously approved.

## Operational Procedures

The Executive Committee discussed this item last night.

At the last meeting the Association Host Agreement was tabled. It was posted on the website and emailed and the body was informed that this document would be voted on.

No amendments are changes to pages 1 and 2.

Page 3 C: Cross Country – Invitationals where it says the 1<sup>st</sup> week of October it was amended to the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of October.

Region 6 Junior Olympics #2 Must have successful hosted the Association Junior Olympics.....

Was amended to the following: It is recommended that the club has successful hosted the Association Junior Olympics.

2b. 2019 – Must have successful hosted the Association Junior Olympics.

We're adding.

#4 – It is recommended that clubs Co-host the Region 6 Junior Olympics.

That concluded the amendments.

Questions/Comments:

Mr. Simmons: Questioned the age category. Clarification was provided.

Rashad Hannah and Kathey Early asked that we remove successfully hosted a developmental meet. Request was accepted, moved and approved.

Who determines that a meet was successful?

Whose responsible for making sure that a meet was successful? Dennis stated the Youth Chair

Southwest Zone Championship or South Zone Championship – Is this to bid on or is it that a club will be assigned to host. This policy is done separately.

We can develop a policy to deal with meets that are not included in this policy. This can be done separately.

Clarification is needed [The National Championships is to be awarded to the local Association].

#1 should not be a part of the policy, because the Association will be in control of the championship meets.

Trent Ellis: Association has control of the meets, what is exactly meant by control? On the agenda to be discussed.

How the meet is awarded?

What happens once the meet is awarded?

What's the responsibility of the Association, etc.

Question: Does the policy address the rotation of the Junior Olympic meets?

Response: No

Moved and seconded that policy be adopted with the changes made as voted upon by the Executive Committee.

When does this take affect? Once it goes through the verification process.

Any meets that happen after January. Once it's clarified and has been posted on line it will take affect for the 2015 season.

**We didn't have any National proposed amendments to discuss.**

Moved on to the New Business

## New Business

### Elections For Officer of the Southern Association

Question: Does everyone that is running for office make a speech?

Response: Yes

It was clarified that since Keith Johnson is the parliamentarian he is not able to vote.

Membership was verified by Parliamentarian and Membership Chair of all meeting attendees for voting purposes.

Once technical amendment that was made to the bylaws, they were transposed when preparing. The official's chair must be a Master's level official.

Floor was opened for nomination.

President – **Mr. James Simmons** – uncontested

1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President – Dennis Groll  
**Rashad Hannah** - Newly elected 1<sup>st</sup> Vice

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President - **Rev. Burnett King, Sr.** – uncontested  
Herbert Jefferson was nominated and declined the nomination

Question: Since there are two people being nominated could we vote and one of the individuals be allowed to be nominated for another office.

Response: You can only run for one office.

3<sup>rd</sup> Vice-President - Keturah Maurice – absent but sent acceptance of nomination via text message  
**Traci Landry** – Newly elected 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice

Question: Is acceptance of a text message written in policy anywhere?

Response: No it's not

Secretary/  
Membership Chair **Earlett Buckley** – uncontested



Treasurer - **Dr. Martha B. Harris** – Remains your treasurer  
Byron Turner – absent but sent acceptance of nomination via text message

Youth Chair Jackie Callender  
**Kathey Early** – Newly elected Youth Chair

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

1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice-President, Treasurer, Youth Chair were the offices that were contested.

Those individuals who were present and nominated for offices were given two minutes to address the body.

The candidate for the office of Treasurer was asked to approach

There are no provisions for an individual to read the speech of someone that is not in attendance at the meeting. Compromise was made to accept the desire to run for office.

Someone called for the division of the House and objected to the rule of the chair. Moved and seconded to object to the rule. A two-third vote was needed to overrule the chair.

The motion failed. We moved forward.

Election was held, winners are bolded and identified above.

Motion made and seconded to destroy the ballots.

Question was raised and it was suggested that we put the nomination process in writing.

Newly elected officers were installed.

**Delegates for National Convention: The body voted to send 13 delegates.**

**In accordance to the bylaws**

**The Association shall send as many delegates as the Association is allowed, With the minimum being eight (8) Delegates. The following individuals are to be considered automatic delegates except where it's noted as designee.**



President, Secretary/Membership Chair, Treasurer, Youth Chair, Official's Chair  
Masters Chair or designee, LDR Chair or designee, Coaches Education Chair or designee  
An Active Athlete, An Official assigned to Rules, An Official assigned to Law and  
Legislation, Pam Carey, and Shelia King. Alternates: David Georgetown and Clarence  
Morgan.

## Cross Country Schedule

Dennis Groll bidding to host three developmental meets, September 25, October 9,  
October 23.

Invitational meet – November 1<sup>st</sup>

The word championship would be confusing to individuals looking at the schedule.

Agreed that we remove championship. Dennis agreed to call it classic.

Midsouth Southern Association Classic

November 22<sup>nd</sup> meet

There is no Regional, just Association then to National. By proclamation these meets will  
be added to calendar as there are no other bids.

Indoor meet bids:

Pliny Auzenne: 2 dates for indoor

February 28, La. Governor's Games Indoor Classic – LSU

March 7<sup>th</sup> – USATF Southwest Indoor Masters – LSU -Confirmed that this meet is all that  
he has on the text, it does not state that this is a championship meet. USATF Southwest  
Indoor Masters meet, that's all.

Dennis: This meet is not being awarded to anybody it's just that the club is going to host it.

The process of which this meet has to go through needs to be discussed.

Question: Is our Association accepting the meet?

Response: This meet needs to go before the Executive Committee.

The officers were installed.

**Meeting was adjourned. January 2015 meeting location pending.**