

**USATF Southern Association  
Winter Meeting Minutes  
January 16, 2016  
Greater King David Baptist Church**

NAME	CLUB AFFILIATION	VOTING CATEGORY
Traci Landry	Future Track Club	
Gloria Louis	Lafayette Track Club	
Al Olive	Official	
Jake Ford	Official	
Michael McDaniel	Ultimate Performance	Coach
Jackie Callender	LAX	
Erica Garner	New Era	
Dennis Groll	Peak Performance Track Club	Coach
Ray Brock, Sr.	Progressive Track Club	
David Georgetown	Play 60	
Roderic Newton	GKD Track Club	
Keith Johnson		
Jacquelyne	GKD Track Club	
Shelia King	Faith Track Club	Coach
Rev. Burnett King, Sr.	Faith Track Club	Coach
Bryan Wayne	US Express	Coach
Clarence Morgan, Jr.	Rabbits	Coach
Harold Ingram	GKD	Coach

NAME	CLUB AFFILIATION	VOTING CATEGORY
Eddie Walker	Hattiesburg Flyers	Coach
Isaac Knightshead	Official	
Ruby Chaney	Official	
Detrick Massey	Massey Miracle Run	
Charles Smith	Massey Miracle Run	
Charlie Floyd	Southwest	Coach
Rashad Hannah	Play60	Athlete
Marvin Early	Road Runners	Coach
Kathey Early	Road Runners Elite	Coach
Martha Harris	Treasurer	Exec. Committee
Margeaux Walker	New Era	
Eddie Payne, III	Wildcats of Port Allen	Official
Myrtis Robins	N.O. Stars Express	Coach
Pam Carey	Official	
Mike Carey	Official	
Vinetta Brods	New Era	Administrator
Phillip Travis	LDR Chair	Official
Zachary Whitfield	USATF	Official
Pliny Auzenne	U.S. Express	Coach
Earlett Buckley	Membership Chair	

The meeting of USATF Southern Association was called to order by 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Rashad Hannah, in the absence of President James Simmons, Jr.

Association Chaplin Rev. King opened the meeting with prayer.

Secretary Buckley did the roll call of the clubs.

Secretary Buckley asked the Parliamentarian how the voting will be handled. Parliamentarian Johnson stated that the Association does not have a parliamentarian as he was resigning. Secretary Buckley asked Vice-President Hannah how he would like to proceed with the meeting as the parliamentarian has stated that he resigns. Vice-President Hannah said he accepted the resignation and asked that he put his resignation in writing.

Jackie Callender, USATF Southwest Region Zone rep was asked to preside over the meeting as parliamentarian. Mr. Callender accepted and meeting continued.

Vice President Hannah gave anyone who had not registered for 2016 to register prior to us continuing.

After Jackie discussed the club membership concerns with the membership chair, it was decided that the clubs that had submitted a bid for a track meet be allowed a 30 grace period to complete their background screening and safesport in order for their club to be approved.

Treasurer gave the treasurer's report. The report was accepted as presented and will be made available online to the body.

#### OFFICIAL'S CHAIR GAVE HER REPORT:

All Officials must have SafeSport.

Encouraged officials to complete their Background screening as well. She stated that the background screening will be good through 2020.

If you are an official and you take the test, and your membership is not current, you are not covered nor considered an active official.

If you have any questions, please contact her.

Recertification will not start until after the summer. She will only be focusing on new officials right now.

She stated that any officials that are interested in completing the training at their leisure or their own privacy, they can go to [www.safesport.org](http://www.safesport.org).

All officials have to complete SafeSport and Jackie will be handling clubs because the club coaches and volunteers.

This Association has gotten an "A" this year in regard to handling everything for officials.

Committee report – Talked about officials knowing the rules. You can't work high school meets by using USATF rules. These were the things that were stressed. She will be sending out a copy of any rule changes, and they are found online as well.

She said she will be sending out a list of new high school rules.

She will have a clinic and Safesport at UL on January 30<sup>th</sup> at 9:00. Umpiring, weights and measures, (If Keith is available to come) and upgrades (Starts in March and ends in March).

She opened the floor for any questions.

She stressed that we have a lot of track meets and encouraged individuals to return the participation forms so that she can determine how officials are still needed to work the track meets.

If you come to work the meets, please don't come and sit down, work in the assigned areas.

Auzenne: Do we have any high school rule changes in the State of Louisiana that is not usually associated with the information that has not been shared with us? Ms. Gloria stated that Mr. Alexander of LHSAA will send us the rule changes. She said that Jackie went to the rule changes meetings and he could elaborate on this question. Jackie went to the rules meeting and the information can also be found online. Mr. Auzenne asked for clarification relative to jewelry. Ms. Louis stated that we don't follow the jewelry rule, our athletes can't expose themselves.

Auzene:

There is a proposal that was submitted, LHSAA – no jewelry in the areas of competition. We are asking our principals to keep it there, concerned about jewelry possibly falling off.

Callendar: Discussion was held clarifying who does or doesn't allow athletes to wear jewelry. LHSAA proposal on the table, no jewelry in the area of competition. We are asking our principals and athletic directors to leave it there. The other proposal is to allow them to wear tights. Should be coming up in about a week or so.

Ms. Louis stated that she always tries to forward us information when it becomes available to her.

The new book won't be out until February, and she will send the link once it becomes available.

Gloria: Stated that something will be sent out about logo changes and logo usage. This will state what can and can't be done with the logo.

Callendar: Asked if there were any additional officer reports and committee chairs.

Landry: 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice-President (Handout) – Attachment I. Encouraged the coaches to take advantage of the coaches' education through LHSAA. Level 2 is always held before we go to Junior Olympics. Any knowledge that she can grasp, she does and brings it back to the

Association. Her motto is the more you know, the more you grow. January 29-30 at LSU is a Coaches Clinic – Technical certification course. John Talley one of the speakers is awesome in his field. Very knowledgeable when it comes to shot-put and discus.

Groll: Asked a question relative to USATF Level I. Landry encouraged the group to go on the website at [www.usatf.org](http://www.usatf.org) to find a Level I class schedule. March 5<sup>th</sup> and March 6<sup>th</sup> in New Orleans. They also have Level I classes in other states not just Louisiana.

Callendar: Anymore officer and committee chairs.

King: Race walking update was provided. There is a very strong national push in the sport of race walking. This is not considered an event this is considered a sport. At the convention it was stressed that they are trying to reward those race walking athletes. We've done a race walking clinic in the past and are looking at having another one in the future. The national office is trying to award the Elite race walkers. We are trying to get our kids from getting disqualified.

In 2014 we collaborated with Ms. Gloria to have a race walking clinic. In 2015 a race walking book was issued to each club.

We want to make sure that our athletes are knowledgeable of the technique so that they won't get disqualified at the national championships.

Effective communication between leadership and the body was stressed when the Presidents, Vice-Presidents had their meeting at the convention. He thanked Ms. Ruby and Mr. Knighthead. It was added that the coaches need to know the rules for race walking.

Early: Handout was given out

She went through some bullet points from her handout to share with the body.

Indoor Championships – We don't have a lot of representation at the national level for the indoor championship. She encouraged everyone to go to the website

One of her goals last year was to make cards so that the athletes would have access to the resources that are available to the kids. This will be something she will attempt to get done this year. She wants to make sure the athletes have access to Facebook, twitter, and instagram accounts.

Getting information from the National Office to the Association to the athletes. She will be making sure that she will have push cards with pertinent information that will be put in packets at track meets. The National Office did not renew the contract with Coach O and will not be using Hy-Tek this year, they will be using Meet Pro. They have been using it at High School and Colleges for years.

Software system is \$200 per year is available for unlimited licenses. The rollout should be coming out in January.

Georgetown asked for clarification: Early stated that you purchase one software, but you can have the software on 5 or 6 computers.

Harris: It depends on the license that is purchased to determine how it can be used. If you pay more then you can use the licenses for different meets.

Groll: You're not saying that you can't use Coach O?

Early: No, what I'm saying is when the results are sent in for the championship meet it is sent on Meet Pro. Clubs can use what they want to at Invitational meets.

Fun Elements at meets: A Lot of kids sit for a long period time, and some of the things that we would like to see is face painting. This is something that we will try to do at the Association championship meet.

She encouraged clubs to apply for the Mark Springer Travel Grant. She stated that she never sees anyone from the Southern Association to apply for the grant. It helps clubs to get to the national championships.

Blocks – At Nationals the kids cannot use blocks. Keep in mind, due to a time factor the youths are not allowed to use blocks. This is due to a time factor. 15 an up. At regionals this is something that they want us to mimic.

Run, Jump, Throw, The ideal is to get more kids in this program to jump start track and field. If you're at a school, you can request it. They will go through some drills. They really want to see more and more of that. They want to get these kids to become USATF members.

Groll: Future Stars is something similar to developmental meets. They could provide funding for awards

Early: Her report was typed in December and she doesn't have the most current information, however, an email came out within the past two days that may have some enhanced information in it.

Hannah: Stated that he would provide the Youth Chair with some information that he has.

The National Office has been pleased at the success of USATF and Hershey's youth activity program, RunJumpThrow, which has reached more than 275,000 American children in just over a year. With the advent of RunJumpThrow (RJT), Hershey "sunsetted" its Track & Field Games and shifted their focus to RJT.

As the first year of RJT drew to a close, USATF Associations expressed their support of the RJT concept, but we need a "next step" to help move kids from general activity into competitive track & field.

The New Check-In process. There were more protest with athletes missing their events. At the Regional level they want us to mimic the same process they use at National because we don't want them to miss their events. It overwhelmingly passed. Someone stated that athletes were sitting there under the tents for hours.

They want us to mimic Nationals so at Regionals they probably will begin this, not sure. They want the children to be familiar with the process. The kids are released to the officials that are there.

The Youth Chair stressed that it overwhelmingly passed. She will be happy to speak on it, however it was already in place.

Once the athlete officially checked in they were not allowed to leave. The Youth committee has discussed this and has not finalized or ironed out the kinks on some things. There are Town Hall meetings, anyone can be involved in it.

Callendar: Once the athlete checked in they weren't to leave the tent. The Youth Committee is fighting over Meet Pro for reasons we don't want to talk about. They tried to have a teleconference. When the Town hall meetings occur the Youth Chair stated she will make sure that everyone gets the number.

Championships results have to be sent through Meet Pro. You can use any meet management program that you would like to use for your developmental and invitational meets.

Future Stars Enhancement this is a program looking at athletes and trying to pair them up with professionals. There is a lot to offer when the kids go to the website. This is something we are hoping to get the kids to do.

Kim Hayes scholarship. Last year was the first year they offered the scholarship. Most of the youth chairs were aware of it either.

The only requirement was that you have a 3.0 GPA

Scholarship Ranged From – 3.0 GPA - **\$500**, 3.5-3.7 - **\$1,000**, 4.0 GPA - **\$1,500**

There isn't the 2016 criteria posted on the website yet. This is something that will also be on the cards.

She encouraged the coaches to get the information in order to get the information to the athletes.

Mark Springer Grant – Encourage everyone to apply for the travel grant. This is a grant to assist clubs with travelling to the national championships.

In order to help do that, last year USATF launched FUTURE STARS MEETS, a program designed to provide financial support for the kind of mid-level competitive track & field meets that once comprised Hershey's Track & Field Games.

For 2016, we've revamped and simplified the program making it a more streamlined program that provides financial assistance, branding materials, awards and insurance for mid-level meets. As part of the relaunch, we are instituting two new elements which provide direct benefits to USATF Associations.

As a USATF Association you will:

Be presented with a list of meets in your area who have applied for FUTURE STARS MEETS support, to vet the meets and help us determine which merit consideration for funding.

Be allotted USATF memberships for children who participate in FUTURE STARS MEETS, The number of membership provided will depend on the number of children participating in FUTURE STARS MEETS in your area. USATF will then give you the full \$10 per membership revenue normally associated with a USATF youth membership.

No FUTURE STARS MEETS are independently operated meets and are not USATF-run meets nor championships, therefore USATF membership is not required. However, each Association that hosts a Future Stars Meet will be given a limited number of USATF memberships for children who participate in a FUTURE STARS MEETS, are not already USATF members, and who wish to continue in competitive track & field.

Early: Coaches Scholarship: She encourages everyone to become a member. Coaches association. She has it on Facebook.

USATF Calendar – List the year of the meets and the rotation. This calendar gives you some idea of where the next meets will be held. They have both AAU and USA, some people do both, it depends on their funds.

Protest Form – The National Office is working on one protest fee, and that will be \$50. They want to make it uniform. One Association was charging \$200 for a protest. They want to make it uniform. The National Office is asking that the form they use be modified to fit our Association.

Inquiry Form – They want every Association to develop an inquiry form, because some inquiries are not protest forms.

Association Meet every athlete will receive one of the cards she referenced earlier. Just so they can have the information. We want to be able to have everything in hand.

Callendar met with members of the Executive Board (National) and Lionel Leach to discuss the protest fees, because even in our Association we have had a protest fee of \$150. We were asking a fee that was higher than that of the National. The Youth guide sets the tone for the fees set at each championship meet. The National J.O.s is only \$100.

A protest begins when the referee makes a final decision and then that goes on to the Jury of Appeals. That referee has the right to ask for the protest paper work so that they could make a well informed decision.

If you have any questions to ask of the Youth chair, you can contact the youth chair via the youth chair email address and her personal email address which she provided to the group and can be found online under the association directory.

**PARA ATHLETE:** The J. O. for this upcoming year is looking to be combined for this. There is going to be a para part for your athletes that have a disability. Not sure how many of you are aware of the athlete that is missing a part of his arm that has already won a championship. If he qualifies he will be going to Rio to compete in the Para Championships. You might have a child at one of your meets. A child with one arm, one leg, using a wheelchair. Carey had cards that were available to assist in coaching para athletes. Invite these kids to your events. Encourage them to come in they may actually qualify to compete in the para championships.

Callendar: In 2005, they have been competing disabled. There was a stated tie. The kid that competed on a Thursday that nobody saw. The wheelchair added to the team championship.

Callendar wanted to share with the group a few things that were discussed at the national Convention. He wanted to briefly hit on some high notes.

USATF has 57 Associations. We are one of the 57. Each of the Associations have accreditation. Coaches Education is no longer a mandatory requirement. The 21 championships has now been reduced to 15. He is the Zone representative and they have had to

Website is a standard website that we must meet. Information went out two weeks prior to the meeting to all of the Associations.

Display of the logo. You don't have the option of displaying the logo anyway. We haven't had a problem with that in our Association.

We are fully accredited. If we deviate on some of these requirements we won't be fully accredited. He will resend all of the information out as a follow-up, because he wants to make sure all his Associations

Patty Petesch-206-604-6462 (cell) you can tell her Jackie gave you her number. She does an exceptional job of assisting Associations with getting money. You must justify your expenditures. They just want to know what you do with their money.

Some Associations and teams get more than one grant. We need to take advantage of this opportunity.

Hannah: For the sake of time the reports from the Annual meeting will be made available online. If anyone has any questions they can refer to those reports that will be made available online.

Callendar: After the meeting adjourns, he will be conducting a screening. This is something that USOC has mandated that all NGB volunteers, officials, administrators and coaches to go through the Safe Sport requirement. Driven down by USOC. Unfortunately we have some individuals that have caused harm to our young people. We are required to report this and protect our young youth.

Some coaches because of the power that they hold over young youth they can have the kids to do what they want them to do.

AAU is not a national governing body. They only get to conduct championship, the only thing they can do is elect officers from within.

Ms. Buckley stated earlier, you file an application with names within your local Association. Member, background screening and safe sport are a must. In order to complete the trilogy Jackie Callendar is available to complete the course today.

The link/list of who has completed Safe sport is available on line. We encourage the parents to know that if you are seeking a team for your kids check these list to see if the coaches and volunteers are certified. You need to know who is valid.

Let's not get upset with Ms. Buckley when you are not approved or afforded the privilege of the club being clubs in good standing in this Association. It is a requirement.

We have problems with by-laws. Jackie asked that the Ethics statement be included in every Association's by-laws.

He opened the floor for questions.

Unfinished Business:

Ms. Gloria forgot to mention that everyone who has applied to be new officials the National office will be giving them a shirt. You must meet all the requirements that Jackie referenced earlier.

Calendar: Question regarding the schedule. He asked that someone from the Executive Committee provide him with a report pertaining to the schedule.

New Business: Hannah: The 2016 proposed scheduled was beginning with the developmental meets.

SCHEDULE:

March 28<sup>th</sup> – SBR Jaguars is not approved club as of yet.

Hannah asked Youth Chair Early to start at the beginning of the schedule (Developmental Meet)

He asked if there were any other clubs that would be interested in taken bids from the floor.

Hannah stated that we needed to change the name from the Jr. Pelican Relays – Should read Developmental meet

Point of clarification there are no bids taken from the floor.

We're in the new operational procedures.

Kathey referred to the new operation procedures that we have online. This is the year that we have to start following the operational procedures.

The only bids taken from the floor are dates with open dates. The parliamentarian resigned and we didn't discuss that because the President said let's move on because we were going back and forth over the discussion.

5 Minute Break was taken to get clarification from what was discussed at the Executive committee meeting the night before the general assembly.

Hannah said someone may or may not want to propose an intention to host a meet, he just wanted to ask if anyone wanted to propose a date and if not we just accept the schedule as it is and move on.

Dr. Harris stated that we are getting too personal. Last year the only bids that were bid on were only for the open dates. It has already been sent in, so the bids from the floor would come from the Association Championship.

What club would like to be a liaison to the Association? It is not a club that is hosted, they will serve as the liaison. This club would help by facilitated and getting a site for us, the food for the officials, the lodging. The liaison would get the concession stand. The youth chair said she would bring in face painting for the meets.

Bids for Meets Resumed

April 30<sup>th</sup> – Future Track Club – TBD

May 14<sup>th</sup> - Ultimate Performance Track Club stated that he did his background screening yesterday, however, they were still not showing that they were not a renewed club.

May 28<sup>th</sup> – SBR/US. Express will not be hosting that meet Auzenne asked to scratch that meet.

May 28<sup>th</sup> – West Harrison High School – Tommie Smith Meet

June 4<sup>th</sup> – 3 meets

Zachary, Monroe, Mississippi

All 3 clubs have been granted their meets

June 11<sup>th</sup> – Pearl/Peak and Hattiesburg Flyers bid for the meet

Natchitoches (Northwestern State Louisiana) graciously gave us the meet last year for free. It was reiterated that a club is not hosting, they will be serving as a liaison. The club gets concession.

Pearl Track Club put in a bid via Dennis Groll. This club is not registered as well.

Membership Chair asked a Question for Point of Clarification Only. The clubs that have placed bids on the calendar are they approved clubs and if not are we going to allow them to register? We just want it to be said in front of the body how we will be handling this.

Pearl Track Club

Ultimate Performance Club is not showing as a registered club. Not showing as pending or anything. It was asked Coach McDaniel for clarification as to when he did the background screening. He stated he did his club membership and background screening the day before the meeting.

Coach McDaniel: In light of that, he states that no one sent an email indicating in the right way saying what you need to have done in order to put in a bid or vote for a meet. He knew that it had to be done before the meet. He just never received an email if it had been done the right way.

Harris: Club membership expires on December 31<sup>st</sup> each year. This is a new year 2016.

Callendar had a suggestion (membership always has its privileges). You can't participate if you're not a member. The day that you come to be recognized to do something, you should be a member. 30 day notice to wrap up all of the provisional requirement was allotted to the clubs present. If it's not done in 30 days, the schedule will be adjusted accordingly.

Keith: Waive the requirements for clubs that were members in the prior year, that's how it's been done.

Membership Chair was about to address the previous comments when she realized that Pliny Auzenne, Association member was videotaping her without consent. She stated that he didn't request permission nor did she give him permission to video her.

Needed clarification as to whether or not Auzenne was recording the meeting via video or audio.

Clarification Given: When your membership expires at the end of December, we know we need to renew our membership. When you renew your membership, coaches, it tells you that you need to have your background screening, and it also stated this year SafeSport has been added as a requirement. What has happened is I've been charged with the task of disseminating information to the Association to the body as a Communications Liaison, so I send out the notice. In the policy it states that we should be a club in good standing.

If you're not a current member then technically you're not in good standing. I actually asked Mr. Callendar to see if we could work that out. Keith is correct in regard to that's how we used to do it, however, when it became something that has been placed in a document that is being questioned and making sure we want to use this document, then we need to not follow one line, but follow it all. So it's not the Secretary or the Executive Committee's responsibility to send out an additional reminder to the notice that the meeting is going to be held today, because as a member you need to know what you need to do especially if you are going to be placing a bid for a track meet. You sent the information to the Youth Chair and she put it on the schedule and all I want to do is make sure that you're able to vote that is why Jackie was asked to step outside. I am not trying to stop anyone from getting a track meet. I don't want it to be said that I'm not doing my job either.

Louis: Stated to the club coaches and officials that she received that information also. So everyone knows. Membership, SafeSport, Good Standing.

Groll: The membership stuff and all is about voting. Clubs that are in good standing from last year.

If your membership ends on December 2015, then it doesn't mean that you're not a club in good standing.

Motion was made and passed unanimously to allow clubs submitting a bid 30 days grace period from January 16 in reference to membership, background screening, SafeSport.

Hannah: It is the responsibility of the club to take action to make sure your club is in good standing. It is a part of your administration work when you are meeting deadlines.

June 11<sup>th</sup>: Pearl Track Meet/Peak Performance and Hattiesburg Flyers

Hattiesburg Flyers: Question was asked what guidelines are followed? Is the club supposed to be present?

Dennis put in the bid for the meet. He is not Pearl Track Club, He is Peak Performance Track Club.

Callendar: There is no proxy participation

Keith: Charlie Floyd represented Victor Montgomery. Clarification From The Membership: Victor Montgomery was a member of Southwest Ms. Roadrunners.

If there is not a representative from one of the clubs then they will be removed.

Keith: Question was is there someone to give the presentation.

Dennis is co-hosting the meet.

Keith: Is it written in our operation procedures that the person has to be present?

Both parties made their presentation.

Kathey asked for the breakdown of the people that are eligible.

Former Parliamentarian Johnson was asked to assist with determining the percentage in each voting category.

Athletes – 4 (entitled to 6)

Officials – 4 – All four can have a vote

Officers – 2 (entitled to 4)

Coaches – 3

Clubs – 18

31 – Total

The category numbers are driven by clubs. The club numbers drives the other numbers.

Former Parliamentarian Johnson requested an official's ballot.

There was a discrepancy with the athlete's vote. It was said that we couldn't revote.

Pearl/Peak 15

Hattiesburg 14

Hannah: Requested a verification on membership, he asked for a revote.

Hattiesburg stated they don't like confusion and they asked to move on to the next item on the agenda. Coach Walker rescinded.

June 18<sup>th</sup> – Ultimate Performance, Massey – Ultimate Performance withdrew

District – GKD – Zachary High School

Open Date on July 2nd

Regional – Roadrunners stated the facility would not be available so they withdrew. The only other bid was U.S. Express.

Tad Gormerly was the only facility that they were able to have the meet at and they wouldn't be available.

July 16th - Ultimate Performance – City of Bastrop

Auzenne: Handed out hotel information for the Regional meet and stated that Byron was working with the LSU officials association on the meet. It was clarified about the role of the Youth Chair, Official's Chair and Regional Coordinator for the championship meets.

Reminder: USATF National Association Chairman Award

Jackie received the President's Award at the National Convention and will be featured in the next newsletter. Information was requested from him but he has been working on some other pressing issues.

President Simmons was inducted in the National hall of Fame is in the previous newsletter and on the website.

Next meeting will be held in Lafayette in conjunction with our 2nd Annual Awards Banquet.

Schedule is pending posting and release, waiting on the 30 day extension.

Meeting Adjourned.