

ASSOCIATIONS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

11/28/07

This meeting focused on identifying and ranking the agenda items for the four upcoming sessions of the Associations Committee. We will have one 3-hour session and three 1 -hour 50 minute sessions. These are the topics:

- Andy Martin's report
- Background screening – how it went in the various Associations.
- Association Championship criteria. There are questions as to what some Associations are doing regarding combining championships. Notification is critical – it cannot be done at the last minute. Andy will print out a list of suggestions for the meeting. We discussed Youth meet scheduling and determined it is not just a 2008 issue. However, we can only devote a short time to a discussion on youth meet dates.
- Sanctions – the variance in the fees charged by each Association. Andy reported that we have a new insignia for sanctioned events that includes the year so it cannot be recycled every year. There is another for certified courses, and another that merges the two together. The Hasty Awards catalog displays these new insignias on medals on the back two pages, and they are also available for download via our website. Hasty is also offering 10% off to our sanctioned events.
- Headphone ban - notification of the ban must be announced. Disconnect between what the LDR runner does during practice and what they do during a race. When a race is sanctioned, they agree to run according to USATF rules. There is a safety issue that is present during a race as opposed to practice. You have to be more aware of your surroundings with a lot of people running. People get hurt with headphones. When a runner signs up for a race, they sign a contract that they will abide by the rules. There is no entitlement to run with a dog, run with a carriage, etc. It is key that it is stated that you are subject to disqualification. The Army 10 miler doesn't allow any headphones, water bottles, heart rate monitors, anything but a watch. Although it is difficult to police, it is a needed rule. It is generally felt that it is the event's responsibility to enforce our rules. The literature doesn't specify the consequence if a runner wears a headphone. The National Office is working on a statement.
- Timeliness of Grievances and Panel Disposition – 45 days wasn't enough time for Association level grievances. Could there be a panel of 3 people who would be able to immediately look at a grievance – is there a better way to handle a grievance; is there a way to eliminate steps? At the National level, we now have a pool of people that the panel chair can draw from immediately. We must do better to avoid ill will. We should also provide monthly status updates to all parties until the grievance is resolved. How many Associations actually have a grievance panel in place? The boilerplate for the by-laws is almost complete.
- Conflict of Interest – do Associations have Conflict of Interest statements in their by-laws, and/or signed statements by the Board members?
- Level 2 Coaches Ed – this will be discussed in the General Competition Division meeting.
- Zone Meetings – these meetings need to be scheduled up front. During our first 3-hour session, we will break out into the zone meetings – 2-2:30.
- Harry said that Andy is having a major problem with Associations not filing the annual incorporation document. There is at least one state that only has to do it every 4 years. We need to remind the Associations of this requirement.
- Background screening – it was decided to discuss this topic during the zone meetings since it was felt we have debated this over and over again for many years. It was felt that background screening should be one of the items needed for accreditation.

**Motion made by Bert Williams: The Associations Committee and Organizational Services Committee request the Board, per Reg 15 A1d, change Article A1a, as a part of the required standards for accreditation, to add the requirement of background screening, with evidence of an on-going background check program, and also request the Board change Article A1c from 6 of 9 to 7 of 10 requirements.
Seconded – Ruth White.
Unanimously approved.**

Agendas for the remaining meetings:

Thursday – 1:00 – 4:00 pm

L&L – Scott Erwin

Youth meet dates

Zone meeting breakout sessions (background screening and Assoc championship requirements)

Zone meeting feedback on Championships

Articles of Incorporation filing requirements

Friday – 9:00 – 10:50

Andy Martin presentation

Timeliness of grievances and grievance panels

Conflict of Interest (Scott and Lamont)

Saturday – 10:00 – 11:50

Sanctions

Committee Reports

Saturday – 3:30 – 5:20

Business meeting

Club Council – Skip Stolley

ASSOCIATIONS COMMITTEE MEETINGS

NOV. 29, 2007

Alan told the committee about the General Competition Division session on Dec. 1st and asked that everyone attend to hear about the restructuring task force committee results and a new development from the Board of Directors meeting. Jim Scherr of the US Olympic Committee, in a surprise visit to the Board of Directors on Nov. 28th, addressed the group and told them they wanted us to restructure immediately down to 10 or 13 people. They want a report in the February – March timeframe. Alan commented to Jim that their consultants had given USATF a glowing report saying that every aspect of our organization was working well and asked Jim to let us know where we are deficient or dysfunctional. Jim responded saying that modern Boards today are small and flexible and independent (meaning outsiders). Almost every Board member spoke up very forcibly and basically said we don't buy it. There is a lot the USOC can do, like take away our NGB status. We are the strongest NGB, and they know it, and give the USOC more medals than any other sport. We will go back to the USOC with a restructuring plan, but it's not going to be their restructuring plan. The Saturday General Competition Division meeting will discuss this tweaking idea. Grassroots has a lot of votes in the General Session, so we need to act in a unified way.

L&L – Scott Erwin

The current L&L package contains only a couple of items relating to Associations. They are basically changes to Reg 15 pertaining to elections and grievances.

The 2008 Youth Regional meet dates are scheduled over the July 4th weekend. This is problematic because it is difficult to get facilities for those dates. There are 3 or 4 meets in the next 10-13 years where the meet will be held during the July 4th weekend. The Youth committee bases the meet dates from Memorial day out and that's how the dates are determined. We know how difficult it is to put on meets over that weekend, so we need to talk to our Youth chairs regarding this matter. Bob Flint reported that the Youth committee made arrangements for any Association with a problem to move the meet to the following weekend.

At this point we had the Zone Meeting breakouts.

Articles of Incorporation – Not every association is meeting the requirement of annual incorporation filing for their state. (Some states do not require this on an annual basis, so they are not required to file annually.) Some Associations are registered as a 'foreign' corporation. This simply means your business is incorporated in a different state. Some Associations mistakenly believed they were part of USATF national, when, in fact, they need to be registered as an individual corporation independent of USATF. Ed Koch said if you have territory in a neighboring state, you should register in that state as well. You could be fined if you don't. Alan urged everyone to find an attorney to work pro bono for your Association to ensure you are in compliance.

All Associations must have their by-law revisions turned in by October 15, 2008. Associations need to ensure that they start the process as early as needed to be in compliance with their by-laws so that they can get their by-laws approved before the 10/15/08 deadline. Lamont Jones is finishing up his review on the by-law boilerplate, and they will be available no later than January 15, 2008. A question was asked if Associations can put a single line in their by-laws stating that in the event of a grievance, reference the National by-law? This is not permitted. Another question asked if any association permitted electronic voting in their by-laws? There were several associations who do. Another question raised asked what happens if the membership does not approve the required by-law change from the National office? Some have it written into their by-laws that their board can approve the change on an emergency basis until the next meeting where it can be brought before the entire membership for approval.

Guidelines for Association Championships – The East zone reported that in cases where you are backing onto an existing event, you may not be able to follow all the guidelines, like having the Championship name in the event name. It is important to let people know early, at least 60 days out, of your Championship event. It is not acceptable to tag on a Championship to an existing event shortly before that event is to be held. Andy stated that sample contracts are available. The other zones agreed with what was proposed.

East zone reported that they would like to see online club membership that more clearly identifies which clubs are current members. They would like to see the out-of-date clubs removed. Currently, we show current year clubs in bold to distinguish them from the other out-of-date clubs.

We need to ensure that we have the youth athlete addresses listed and not that of the coach. We must have the correct legitimate address of every member. Another concern is the coach signing for the parent. This is illegal. The coach is not even a legal guardian and has no right to sign for athletes.

There is an Officials Committee subcommittee focusing on insurance for officials when they officiate at any track meet including non-sanctioned events.

Karen asked that we write down any ideas for next year's Workshop sessions and give it to any of the Workshop subcommittee members.

NOV. 30, 2007

Andy Martin reported that in 2007, the National Office had several staffing issues to deal with – turnover and medical leaves. Our new legal counsel, Lamont Jones, was hired in September, and Liz Turner Suscha unexpectedly left for a wonderful opportunity to take a job with the NCAA.

1. **Membership fee restructuring** – the Board approved the membership fee increase, which would give 50% of the fee to the Association. It also standardized the fees among Associations. This fee increase resulted in \$130,000 in incremental revenue for Associations (average \$2k per Association). Additionally, \$310,000 in incremental revenue, compared to 2006, was realized for National programs. These new programs highlight what was accomplished from the additional revenue:
 - Commemorative spike bag to each youth National JO competitor.
 - Additional \$10k to Mark Springer travel grant program, raising the total to \$50k.
 - Each youth club received a copy of the Youth Guide.
 - Associations were eligible for complimentary Directors and Officers Liability insurance
 - Background check subsidy program helped defray the cost of the required background checks.
 - Associations received the first two installments of the USATF Association Marketing Kit that included championship banners, a large table skirt, event directional signage and \$500 toward the purchase of other marketing items, such as tents and flagging.
 - New letterhead and envelopes were sent to each Association.
 - Sign and banner kit for many National championship events, including all MUT championships.
 - Travel assistance for athletes to attend an international Mountain Running Championship.
 - A new staff position, Grass Roots Marketing Coordinator, was created and filled by Kristina Hervey to help us better market and promote our grass roots programs, events and initiatives. Through Kristina's work, we have:
 - Produced the first of three new broadcast commercials promoting the Junior Olympic program.
 - Created a two-minute promotional video for the Rim Rock Farm course in Lawrence, KS, hosting the JO Cross Country Championship.
 - Helped develop a new outreach program for our youth athletes called *A Postcard from Team USA*. The first one went out right after Thanksgiving.
 - Helped develop a proposal to leading running magazine to sponsor the 2008 USA Trail Championships.
 - Created the logos for the Stretch Study and the 2007 Annual Meeting, saving us thousands.
 - Helped develop a new member benefit for a bundled package for two running magazines, *Runners World* and *Running Times*, for \$25 – a \$20 savings.

Looking ahead, we will focus on:

- Webcast of grass roots national events.
 - On-the-Roads marketing unit - will promote our grassroots programs and membership. The truck will go to running specialty stores and we hope to bring in elite athletes to do autograph signings. Will also visit Visa series events and maybe club practices when they're in the area.
 - Making sure the Associations have dynamic promotional materials for their marketing efforts.
 - More print and broadcast ads that can be used on local and national level.
 - Work with Alan and Katharine Branch on the member, club and sanctioned event benefit programs.
2. Volunteer Background check program - some have called this the single most important program that USATF has ever initiated. Background checks became mandatory in 2007. To protect the youth athletes, it was very important that we do this. Over 1,900 individuals were screened, and all but 4 were deemed to be in good standing. This program will evolve and improve over time. Work is currently underway to fine tune certain areas of the program to ensure that we do a better job to provide the necessary training and communications to the Associations/Background Screeners.
 3. USATF Logo - Introduced the new federation brand, which included the new USATF logos. The new logo has been very well received. Merchandise sales are at an all-time high. The new logo has better positioned us within the sports industry. Most of the Associations have introduced the new logo on their various

communication devices. Each Association has received their own logo - use of the National mark without the Association name is not allowed unless approved in advance by the National Office. Associations must use their own Association logo. Hasty Awards is professional and timely and wants to be a true partner with us. Over the past few months we've worked with them to produce the first track & field specific catalog. The last 2 pages brand track & field and show our sanction event logo. They've also provided merchandise only available to sanctioned events. A great way for events to tie in their affiliation with USATF. Additionally, all sanctioned events receive a 10% discount on any items on those pages.

Membership and Sanctions - It looks like membership numbers will be flat, or show a slight decline, for 2007. In 2006 we had 91,000 members; in 2007, we had 85,000, a decrease of 7%. While the fee increase contributed to this decline, some of the decrease was attributable to other factors like the change in the JO schedule and the remote location of the Masters meet. Hopefully, we will get those 6,000 members back and go beyond that. We have changed our fulfillment company since they were late in getting out our membership packet in 2007. We expect the cards to go out no later than end of year. 69% of members joined on line. We continued to communicate via Fast Forward and FF Express (email blast). We had about a 3% decline in clubs, but totaled about 2,400 clubs.

We expect to process over 43,000 sanctions and 8,500 certificates of insurance in 2007. All the events were entered in the USATF calendar database. The inclusion of these events on the calendar will become more and more important. Hasty Awards will look at the calendar to know if they should award the discount for a sanctioned event or not. Carmen now enters 85-90% of all events on the calendar since the Associations are not doing it in most cases. Also, there will be a new sanctioned event insignia, which they will be able to download as long as their event is on the calendar as a sanctioned event. You can renew the calendar event from the previous year; you do not have to reenter the event from scratch.

Association-based Programs:

- Forty-one Associations sent representatives to the Association Workshop in August. Just over 120 people attended. Kudos to Karen and her subcommittee who took over the Workshop for 2007, and did a great job.
- Accreditation – 36 Associations are fully accredited; 20 provisional; 1 suspended. The number of fully-accredited Associations continues to grow. This is an indicator that the program is working and the associations are taking it seriously. Nine associations were recognized as outstanding: Inland Northwest and Maine, gold; New England and New Mexico, silver; and Mid Atlantic, New Jersey, Oregon, Pacific and Pacific Northwest, bronze.

Club Championships:

- Worked with the Metropolitan Association and the Club Council to promote and stage the National Club Track & Field Championship in New York. Nearly 500 athletes from 50 clubs competed, establishing 11 meet records.
- In addition to the National meet, we worked closely with the three Regional Club Track & Field Championships which were held in Los Angeles, CA, West Edwardsville, IL, and Albany, NY. With the guidance of the Club Council and the Associations Committee, the National Office will continue to work to build the regional championship program. Our goal is to ensure that athletes in the post-scholastic years have as many competitive opportunities as possible.

Youth programs - conducted a series of successful programs to support our grass roots youth base constituents:

- For the second year, the USATF Foundation awarded a \$20,000 grant to the Mark Springer Travel Grant Program. A total of \$50,000 in travel grants were awarded to 50 different clubs in 2007. Since this program was instituted, we've awarded over 200 clubs nearly \$200,000 in grants to get their athletes to the various youth championship events.
- We worked very hard this year to have current and past elite athletes attend our National youth championships. At the youth championships in Lisle, an exhibition of the Men's Professional Mile provided our youth athletes the opportunity to watch 12 athletes attempt to break the four-minute mile, with the winner running 3:58.86. Additionally, the youth witnessed a new US Masters record of 4:04.98. The athletes participated in an autograph and photo session. Kevin Young, the world 400m Hurdle record holder, and Craig Virgin, 2-time IAAF World Cross Country champion, spoke to the athletes and signed autographs. At the JO T&F championship in Walnut, CA, the youth athletes had the opportunity to meet and get autographs from Kevin Young, Johnny Gray, Jenny Adams and Maurice Green. At the

JO Cross Country Championships in Lawrence, KS, they met Billy Mills, Daniel Lincoln and Katie McGregor.

- Indoor Zonal Track & Field series - meets were held in Flagstaff, Baton Rouge, Jersey City and Lincoln. In addition to medals and bib numbers, they each received a \$2,500.00 stipend to help put on the meet. The dates and locations of the 2008 meets are on the calendar (Feb – Mar).

Andy concluded by congratulating Sherry, who was promoted to Manager this year, and thanking Liz Turner Suscha, who will be greatly missed, as well as many other people.

Alan talked about the timeliness of grievances. Grievances were lingering at a local level, especially when it was against an Association. In the past, there was no way to change that, so the Board established a policy that the Association would have 45 days to hear a grievance, or it would be moved up to National. We have since realized that 45 days is too short for the things that need to take place at the association level, so we are recommending that this time frame be increased to 90 days. After that timeframe has elapsed, the grievance will be bumped up to National, which can have very serious results. To facilitate grievances in a timely manner, Associations need to put together a panel of people to draw from who are as independent as possible. One of the people should be an athlete, and if you have a lawyer or judge, that would make up a good panel. It is also a good idea to put all the panel members through the background check program to ensure the panel members are in good standing.

Background check program: There is talk about putting all officials through the background screening process. The Officials Committee will report on this and it will probably happen shortly. The Associations can also mandate this at the local level. This passed as a consensus vote at the Officials Committee meeting. Some Associations have turned the Background Screening processing into a credential. Once the person passes, they will be issued a picture id credential that must be worn at all events whenever they are in the presence of youth.

Conflict of Interest: A statement is needed in Association by-laws. It is important because it brings potential problems to light. The Board of Directors already has a document in place that the members must sign every year. It is important that everything be transparent so you can decide if the conflict is acceptable or not. You must also have a committee of non Board members who review all the conflict of interest statements. The Associations Committee is proposing that the Committee have a panel that would review conflict of interest statements from Associations when they have trouble putting together such an independent panel. There will also be something in Reg 15 to this effect.

Alan announced that Jesse Johnson is our new chair of the Communications Subcommittee. One of the changes Jesse will make is to shut down the current listserv because it has become too 'public'. We have people on the current listserv who are not involved in association matters. We want the administrators, membership chairs, the people who are administering in their Associations. The new listserv will be reestablished on the National website server. Jesse has a lot of things in mind that he wants to do and anyone who wants to help is encouraged to contact Jesse.

It was reported that the entire Club membership late fee appears to be going to the National Office – a portion of the fee is not coming back to the Associations, as was promised. Sherry will look into it.

Officials – we want to insure officials at non sanctioned events. Officials are at risk at these events. We're developing a package, probably \$9.50 a year per official, to give them wrap-around insurance. Of course, they must first be a member of USATF to get this insurance. Some Associations help to defray the costs the Officials must pay.

12/1/07 – MORNING SESSION

Alan stated that we needed to have a discussion on sanctions because we need to have more uniform fees. We really don't know how to proceed, so we need to generate some ideas.

The Association portion of the sanction fees are varied. Some Associations have one common fee, while others have graduated fees. Should fees be proportionate to the services offered? National charges graduated fees to cover the higher cost of insurance for larger events.

Associations can waive their portion of the sanction fees.

A point to consider is third-party liability. One marathon requires 70 third-party insurance coverage certificates. This would require considerably more work to process than the average sanction.

Some associations are charging late fees for sanctions not received in a timely manner.

As long as a sanction is received in the Association BEFORE the date of the event, it can be accepted, but it needs to get to the National Office as soon as possible.

Third party insurance certificates cannot be issued after the event.

The insurance policy ends on 10/31 each year, so events in November and December have a lag time from the National Office until the new policy is available. Insurance companies will not renew for multiple years.

Records will not be accepted if the event is not sanctioned, so that is a benefit to having a race sanctioned.

Dispute resolution can also be a great benefit. If the event is not sanctioned, USATF cannot get involved in any dispute resolution. Hasty Awards gives any sanctioned event a 10% discount.

We have a new sanctioned event insignia. Events should NOT be using our logo and slapping them on their applications. They need to use the sanctioned event logo only. Some events also use our logo without permission.

Safety is always a factor to consider. Charity races, in general, tend to be less considerate of the runners and are focused on dollars. There may be runners and walkers starting at the same line. They might encourage strollers, dogs and roller bladers and not have a water station near the start. If you are told or know something is clearly unsafe, you need to do something about it.

RRCA is in competition with us to insure events. RRCA allows events to be a club, so it is often less expensive for an event to be an RRCA 'club' rather than taking out a USATF sanction. However, RRCA does not have rules, so if there is a protest and the event is not sanctioned by USATF, nothing can be done about it. If there are no rules, there can be no protest.

If an event already has insurance, they can get a sanction without our insurance coverage for a reduced fee. In this case, USATF, the Association and USATF certified officials, must be named on their third party insurance.

The National Office is considering publishing a checklist to go along with sanction information.

Some associations may be charging too little and not taking advantage of potential revenue. Of course, the other side is what additional services are being provided for events that are charged more on a sliding scale? If you are doing the same work for every event regardless of the size, then it doesn't matter.

But when you do more work for the larger events, than the higher fees may be justified. The quantity of communications may be more with the larger events.

Some associations put all sanctioned events on their website, including a link to their entry form.

Some associations waive the association portion of the fees for their championships and/or youth developmental meets. Others charge more because they have clubs bid on the right to put on the championship. Sanction fees among Associations seem to be all over the place.

A question was asked if any of the volunteer sanction processors are paid. Alan said it's a judgment call because once you start paying for volunteer work, it's hard to stop. If you pay your volunteers to do this type of work, it is important that you put this on your 990 if they are paid over \$600 per year. Florida pays their sanction person \$2.00 per sanction.

Some associations do not send out sanction paperwork at all, but just rely on their website.

Sanction administrators can download data from the calendar database, much like the membership database.

We don't cover anyone at an event who offers professional services. Police officers are covered for traffic control only, not for their professional services. So, if a police officer is out directing traffic and has to pull his gun, any repercussions from that are not covered and don't need to be.

Alan mentioned that we are trying to get more discounted products and services provided with our sanctions, so in the future we may be able to go out and market sanctions. Andy said they have a brochure that will be available shortly.

A straw vote concluded that we should not have uniform sanction fees.

Headphone discussion:

- We have a new rule against using headsets at sanctioned events. However, it is not really being enforced. The LDR Committee tabled the subject because this is not a rule year. This rule is not under safety but rather assistance. Headphones are not allowed because they could be listening to someone giving the runner assistance. For example, someone may be telling the runner that a competitor is 50 meters behind them.
- At one race, 186 runners were disqualified for wearing headphones. Grandma's Marathon also disqualified people. The Army 10-miler banned anything electronic other than your watch. They inspected every runner before they went to the starting area. This is the second year of this ban. In the 2nd year, they had a record number of runners, so the ban did not impact the event.
- RRCA does not allow headphones or strollers in their races. Although they advise the runners of this before the event, they do not enforce it.
- At this point in time, insurance will cover the event if headphones are allowed. However, Andy said we can have them excluded in our policy, and we should probably do so. If we were able to tell event directors that we were not covered by insurance if headphones are used, that would help to have them prohibited at events.
- To enforce this rule, you would need two volunteers, each at a different point on the course, taking down the bib numbers of violators. If the numbers from both volunteers match, then you can disqualify the person.

12/01/07 – AFTERNOON SESSION

A quorum was present so business could be conducted.

Scott Irwin read the motion proposed in the Associations Executive Committee and Organizational Services Committee meetings. Regulation 15 states the board can add or remove accreditation categories and minimum standards.

Discussion that we did not need the language stipulating the number of required standards since a number is not stated presently in Reg 15. Ed Koch reported that the Organizational Services Committee unanimously approved the motion for background screening.

George Ragan, speaking for the small associations, states that they do not have resources to contract with a background screening agent. George is the Snake River association and does all the jobs. He feels there could be a link on the national website where the volunteer goes to get background checked, as opposed through the local Association. Several Associations have contracted with TC logiQ to do all the background screening for them. So there is not a lot of additional work involved for the person who does background screening. The volunteer puts their own information in at the tlogic.com website, so no sensitive data needs to be given to the Association background screener.

Motion by Robert Kuyoth: The Associations Committee and Organizational Services Committee request the Board, per Reg 15 A1d, change Article A1a, as a part of the required standards for accreditation, to add the requirement of background screening, with evidence of an on-going background check program.

Motion unanimously approved.

At a minimum right now, we need to have 1 coach screened per club.

Craig Masback addressed the meeting stating that no area of the organization has showed more dedication to innovation and improvement and progress than the Associations Committee. We have the willingness to implement difficult programs, like the one just being discussed. Having high expectations is what allowed us to first have the vision to have the kind of department that Andy Martin leads and also to fill it out. No area in the National Office has shown more growth than grass roots and Craig is very impressed by what Andy has done to continually raise the bar to provide services and be responsive on a daily basis. Alan has been a tough task master of the National Office, but that is exactly the way it should work. The people who are out there every day need to let the National Office know what we want and need to expect them to serve us effectively. We should, however, be sympathetic and understanding when they can't get things done perfectly, but need to expect them

to do more. That has been the relationship we've had over the last few years, and it has worked extremely well. Credit goes to Andy who is extremely dedicated. Craig is very proud of what we've done, as we've addressed and solved many issues during the last 9 years.

Bill Roe said ditto! He usually attends all AEC meetings and conference calls and is keenly aware of all the issues that are out there in Associations. He tries to stay abreast of it, participating as much as he can because he was an association leader. When his term as President is over, he will probably go back to being an Association leader because it is at the grass roots level that everything really happens. Alan thanked Bill and Craig for their support and everything they have done to help Associations.

Club Council – Skip Stolley

The club revitalization movement is really gaining traction and momentum. In the last two year, the number of elite development clubs has increased from 21 to 38 in 26 states. Most of our clubs are LDR clubs, so it is important to note that 13 of those 17 new clubs are track & field specialty clubs. At last year's Outdoor Championships in Indianapolis we had 126 Association club athletes competing in that meet. Participation in our Club Championships has been growing at about 20% per year. We had 1,200 plus in our Club Cross Country Championships and almost 500 athletes representing 67 clubs from 22 states in our Club Track & Field Championships. Unfortunately, this success has caused some clubs to try to skirt Reg 7, association residency requirements. They're dealing with this by an amendment that will be recommended by L&L that will provide the Club Council with the authority to govern the rules of competition for their own championships. One of the issues they are dealing with is Association membership waivers. In 2006, the club that won both the men's and the women's team titles had 17 athletes who had been granted residency waivers to clubs not adjacent to their Association and 5 others from neighboring Associations. This same club had 20 other athletes all registered to the same address, including 4 athletes who were on the Jamaican National team, 1 on the Trinidad National team, and 1 the Bahamas National team. The good news is Club Championships are getting a lot more participation and stature, but now we need to protect the integrity of the championships. Skip is appealing to our membership chairs - if the Association is NOT adjacent to you, there needs to be additional scrutiny of the request. We need to have awareness to this as it is compromising our club program. The problem with allowing this is that it in effect creates national clubs, which we banned several years ago. Alan noted that we need to keep in mind that we want to give a home to our athletes after their collegiate career so that they can stay with the sport. The more elite development clubs we have, the more opportunities for the athlete. This concept doesn't work when athletes leave the local Association and go somewhere else because then those athletes might be integral for a club to form locally. Several membership chairs argued that they have no grounds to prevent an athlete from going to another Association to compete for a club. Alan agreed that we need to work on a finding a way that the membership chairs could feel justified to deny a waiver. Bill offered to work with Andy, Alan and Skip to provide guidelines for the membership chairs regarding athlete transfers.

Jesse Johnson – Border, new Chair of the Communications Subcommittee.

- We are waiting on Wasserman Media Group to complete the technical setup for what we are trying to accomplish on the website.
- We will drop the listserve on Yahoo and will move it to the USATF website with a specific member list, possibly all of the officers in each association.
- Get feedback from associations on issues, like the Snake River problem with doing background screening. This would be a good topic to discuss on the listserve, as other associations may have a solution.
- We are looking at providing a ranking system for USATF athletes on our website.
- Using a chat feature to enable associations to more easily communicate with each other when in need of assistance or general information.
- Need more interaction among associations. There seems to be a fear of people to respond.
- One issue is that many people do not even know about the existence of the listserve.
- We will try to control the mudslinging as much as possible.
- Information sent out should be important info and not conversations between associations.
- Must have full names of people and not a nickname.
- Longer-term objectives are to do elite athlete or 'celebrity' training routes. Give America's running routes more functionality.
- The Resource Center needs to be reformatted so that it is easier to find information. Also needs to be updated.

- Considering adding photographs to identify people.
- Will be contacting all Presidents and Webmasters for input.

Athletics for the Disabled – Barbara Chambers, Chair

It was announced that Inland NW was awarded Association of the Year for their support of the National Disability Championships. In 2008, the third week of July, Rutgers University will hold a meet in conjunction with our National Junior Disability Championship. This will be a multi event competition, including track and field. Endeavor Games in Edmond, OK, as well as hosting the Paralympic trials in Phoenix or Mesa. All events and activities are posted on the www.wsusa.org calendar.

Member Benefits – many new benefits awaiting legal approval.

- Roadside Assistance, similar to AAA. Studies have shown that they are less expensive and provide better service than AAA.
- Supplements are not regulated – there is an organization called Banned Substances Control Group. The supplement companies contract with BSCG to test every batch they make. We will post a couple of those companies on our website so everyone can buy supplements and know that they're clean.
- Talking to many different companies to add value to our membership.

Submitted by,

Linda Bommicino
Secretary