

AEC Conference Call February 22, 2009

Attendees:

Karen Krsak	Ed Koch	Alan Roth	Ruth White
Linda Bommicino	Richard Messenger	Harry Simonis	
Pam Fales	Bill Roe	Steve Vaitones	

Conference call began at 8:00 pm ET.

We discussed the status of the membership card mailings and the fact that this delay in mailing has been going on for years. It is now the end of February, and we are just now starting to get the 2009 membership cards. Steve feels anyone with multi-year memberships should have their cards as soon as possible after January 1st. This is not a new problem and we go through this every year. Karen also stated that the timing of publishing the new Rule Book is also an issue. It is almost March, and we still do not have the new Rule Books. Karen suggested that we should go to a 2-year rule book, with a supplemental in the off year if something comes up. Ed also mentioned that we haven't had a paper directory in about five years. Bill said he tried to work on the on-line directory, but ran out of time. He is pretty close on his end, but someone in the office must have ownership and continue to update it. Alan said he was recently able to print pages of the new Cross Country rule book from the website.

Karen reported that Clif organized a phone call with Coaches Education to discuss level 1 and level 2 schools for youth coaches. The call was well attended, but the one person missing was the chair of Coaches Ed, Boo. They are trying to get a shortened level 2 for youth coaches, but it will still be 7 days. They are putting together a list of wants and asking Coaches Ed to help put it together. Bill pointed out that the new High Performance Division Chair has not been selected, so there is no permanent Coaches Ed chair right now. Bill recommended that we pay close attention to how Boo handles this issue, and then let it be known to the new High Performance Chair, and/or the new Board, if there is a continuing problem. We simply cannot put up with this much longer. We still do not have Level 1 classes on line, which people want so that they can get to Level 2. However, Level 2 is so oversold, and we have so few opportunities to do Level 2, that it's very hard to get in to a Level 2 class anyway. Karen stated that they have really dug their heels in regarding putting Level 1 on-line because they have a developmental program on line and that where they are determined to go. Steve mentioned that a level 2 class for youth should be renamed, and Karen said that would be done. Karen said that the purpose of the youth level 2 is, in Lionel's view, to prepare the youth coaches to handle the world youth teams and the youth world Olympics in 2010. Bill thinks that Lionel may be confusing preparation for international team leadership with what coaches education is all about. Coaches Education is not about preparing people to go on an international trip, or how to handle exceptionally talented athletes at the world youth level. If we get those two confused and continue to let that happen, we will not solve the problem. We want and need more Level 2 schools to be offered. We want Coaches Education to get off insisting Level 1 be an in-person session so that they can devote their resources to additional Level 2 schools. The Coaches Ed people said the problem is that there is no facility available to handle youth classes as schools are back in session. This is a problem now because they pick one weekend a year to hold Level 2 and they are not exploring other weekends and other sites. Bill pointed out that if they

would hold four level 2 schools on the same weekend around the country, they would be able to do it with different, additional instructors. The class for 2009 is in July, right when youth coaches cannot attend and they are having a difficult time getting Coaches Ed to budge on the timing of the classes. If we do not see satisfaction on this issue by the time they are ready to select the new Coaches Education chair, they we must speak up emphatically. Karen said that was the whole purpose of their conference call, to try to come to some consensus on what time of year is good for us and what they can do. Alan thinks it may be necessary to get the new Board, in their strategic planning, to build that into the youth program; one way to improve youth would be to get the coaches Level 2 education. Doug Logan made a commitment in a Youth meeting in Reno that we would have coaches education for youth, but Bill thinks there may be a confusion in terminology. Karen now sits on the Youth Executive Board and they have a meeting in March, at which time Karen plans to get Lionel's thoughts on what he thinks a youth Coaches Education program should look like. Bill will also try to speak to Lionel to determine if we do have a confusion in terms.

Karen wanted to confirm that Andy said D&O Insurance would be available again this year, and several people acknowledged that they heard that. The National Background screening program is still not fully up and running. Harry would like to see an automated system on-line whereby they would be taken to the background screening process immediately if they checked off the youth coaches box when they purchase their membership. This would help our tracking. However, when youth clubs renew, they only have to list one coach. The Board passed a program that was for anybody who worked with youth to be background screened. Part of the policing action needs to be the parents going to the website and seeing which coaches are not on the list. Harry said Oregon has a paragraph on their website that tells parents it is up to them to check on the background screened coaches. New Jersey handed out a letter to each parent at the JO Preliminary meets that listed all the coaches who passed background screening on the back. Only Coaches who have been background checked should be allowed in to meets for free. Ohio is going to issue a credential to the coaches who were background screened, and only those people with the credential will be allowed on the field.

Karen has not heard anything from Andy regarding a page for Associations on the website. Karen wants to find out if anyone who comes to the annual meeting would be interested in representation our Committee in Masters LDR, Masters T&F, Women's T&F and Women's LDR. Although we do not have a vote in those committees, we need representation. Bill commented that it's a risky business if we sit outside the sport committees and let individual people from Associations tell the sports committee what Associations thinks when that might not be our opinion. Getting a vote in the sports committees should be something that we aspire to, and this would be a good rule change for next year as the Association Committee should have a vote in those committees.

Karen asked that we send her anything we need brought up at the Youth Executive Committee meeting in March. Steve mentioned that the Youth Workshop memo that recently went out was not basic enough for a new person. Harry said it was well defined on the National website. The Workshop is March 27-29 in Atlanta. The main emphasis will be Hy-Tek training.

Harry reported that Andy is working on Clubs and sanctions online. Pam reported that mid Atlantic has already done something on their website.

Harry asked to find out if we are being charged for people who check the Uncertified Officials category. We will need to verify this with Andy. Why do we even have an uncertified block? Ed suggested the terminology should be changed from Uncertified Official to Volunteer. Oregon reports that they are approaching 450 certified officials. Pam said they should be using the Officials database to charge for Officials insurance as opposed to the National database, where anyone can check off official, whether they are certified or not. Steve pointed out that Officials payments should also be reported on the monthly membership accounting statements.

Karen announced that the Workshop will be in Des Moines, IA, August 28-30, and 2010 will be in Buffalo, NY the last weekend of August most likely.

Pam has posted the application for the Masters LDR Phidippides Award at our USATF_AEC yahoo group. This is a participation award for our 40 and over LDR members. Please let your members know that they have about a month left to apply for the award for their 2008 road races.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Submitted by
Linda Bommicino, Secretary