

AEC Conference Call April 26, 2009

Attendees:

Karen Krsak	Pam Fales	Ron Mascarenas	Alan Roth
Willie Banks	Val Foss	Clif McKenzie	Annie Shadel
Sharrieffa Barksdale	Ann Gaffigan	Richard Messenger	Steve Vaitones
Linda Bommicino	Ed Koch	Gary Morgan	Ruth White
Katherine Branch	Kevin Lucas	Pat Pretty	
Jackie Callender	Andy Martin	Bill Roe	

Conference call began at 8:05 pm ET.

Coaches Ed - Clif told us that he talked with Pat, Lionel and Matt regarding Coaches Ed, but they have not yet come up with anything. Karen commented that she hasn't seen anything from Doug regarding any of the changes that he spoke about in Project 30. Andy said he knows that Doug wants a major overhaul of Coaches Ed, to the point where we would feel comfortable calling it certification. Duffy is spearheading this effort for Doug. The program needs to be more available and more meaningful. Unfortunately, some may think the current program is a certification and not just education. Andy said Duffy has rejected the word certification whenever it came up, telling people not to call it certification because it's not. There was agreement with Karen's statement that the materials that she's seen over the last year or two actually do use the word certification. Karen asked that Andy send out an email and copy Duffy if he ever sees any come out with the word certification. They would need to be told to remove the word from the document in question.

National Background Screening Program – Most of the kinks have been worked out with migrating the TC logiQ system with our membership database. Information is flowing for the most part and notice went out in the Club packets, as well as being in Fast Forward. There will also be an email going out to the parents. There hasn't been a lot of push back, complaints or big issues. Steve asked how the parents will be notified since the email addresses are not always that of the parents. Andy said we can only work with what we've got. Identifying clubs who are clearly using one address for all their athletes is still one of the items that needs to be addressed.

Association Workshop – Friday, 8/28 for the AEC meeting starting at noon through 8/30 at noon in DesMoines, Iowa. The following topics are under consideration:

- Coaches Ed
- Officials Insurance
- Course Measurement
- Brand – how do we get it out there
- Andy's update
- Communications
- National Background Screening: How is it being received
- Association accreditation – how can we help
- Club Council
- Conference call information
- Member Benefits

- Association websites
- National website
- Ethics 101
- Bidding for championship events
- First time attendees
- Roundtable for Association officers
- Leadership and diversity with a panel of athletes
- Willie Banks report
- Awards lunch
- Motivational speaker
- Zone meetings
- Evening activity
- Grassroots development in the rural areas
- Operating in tough economic times
- Associations committee page on the website
- Watercooler – new name for pot pourri. Everyone will have slips of paper in the notebooks and will be able to turn them in and place them in a water cooler. They will be pre-answered before the session on Sunday.

Associations Web page and Message Board: Andy reported that the Associations Committee now has a page on the website under About, Committees, and there is a link for Associations Committee (or go to <http://www.usatf.org/about/committees/GeneralCompetition/Associations/minutes/index.asp>). Meeting minutes will be posted on this page. There are also links for the Associations Workshop and Resource Center, and will have yearly accreditation site. The message board is live, but we are waiting on an introduction from Jesse. That will replace the existing Associations listserve. Andy reported that essentially our relationship with Wasserman has been dissolved. Moving forward we will consult and hire on a project type basis. We will now contract out the things that Kieth used to do.

Willie Banks introduced himself to the group and reported on the March Board of Directors meeting in Orlando. It was basically an opportunity for the Board to get to know one another and do some housekeeping. The most important thing they did was to elect the officers. Stephanie was elected Chair, Jack Wickens, Vice Chair, Ken Taylor, Treasurer and Darlene Hickman as Secretary, although she is not a Board member. Larry James is our Counsel. They also addressed the Task Force 30 that Doug presented to the group. They went over it recommendation by recommendation and there were no significant changes. Willie hopes to continue to participate in our AEC Conference Call and Workshop. The next Board meeting will be in July.

Grant Applications – are due May 30th and are very similar to the past 7 or 8 years. \$20,000 is available. The Grant Committee is very open to projects, whether they're program related like LDR Grand Prix or Official Training and clinics, or equipment type grants, like PA systems and defibrillator, digital clocks, etc. They are very open to improving what's going on out there in the Associations. If an Association has any unmet required categories, they are required to submit a grant help meet that category. The grant must be specific to the requirement. Last year we had a good turnout of Associations applying for grants. One thing to mention, they will not award for paying of staff or salary. There is a link to the grant application in the Associations Resource Center.

Association Accreditation – Karen was disappointed to see how many Associations are in trouble or provisional. As a committee we need to be proactive to help these Associations. Andy pointed out that the majority are in trouble because they did not update their by-laws, as was required in Reg 15. Andy expects most of them to get this fixed in the next couple of months. The Accreditation Committee will not fully accredit an Association if they do not meet all of the required categories.

Karen mentioned that Ohio has purchased an embosser so their ids for background screened volunteers cannot be forged in any way. The Youth Division, starting in 2010, will only allow people with a valid id in to meets for free. If anyone else is interested in an embosser, feel free to contact the Ohio Youth chair.

Kevin Lucas said that his association is looking for a larger share of the sanction fee. They feel their association produces a large number of sanctions so they should get a discount of sorts. Steve stated that we are spreading the risk around the entire country, so one association should not get a discount over another. Bill Roe pointed out that Jim Elias has done an excellent job of getting the best fee possible for the entire country. It was felt that the only portion that could be changed would be the association fee. Andy reported that there has been a spike in the local fees in many associations in the past year and he feels that this is something that our committee should investigate in the future. This is causing some issues; for example, some events are going elsewhere to get their sanctions. Steve feels there is almost no reason why any Association should be charging the same fee as the National. We are losing business, constituents and good will. Andy would like to see a focus group formed to look at this issue so that we can put some parameters on sanction fees.

Next meeting is May 31, 2009.

Meeting adjourned at 9:02 pm.

Submitted by
Linda Bommicino, Secretary