

AEC Conference Call

October 25, 2009

Attendees:

Karen Krsak	Jackie Callendar	Ron Mascarenas	Alan Roth
Willie Banks	Pam Fales	Richard Messenger	Harry Simonis
Linda Bommicino	Ed Koch	Pat Pretty	Steve Vaitones
Katherine Branch	Andy Martin	Bill Roe	Ruth White

Conference call began at 8:03 pm ET.

The primary purpose of this call was to go through Karen's laundry list for the convention to determine if any of the items could be moved from the general sessions to the Zone meetings. The Zone meetings will all be held at the same time, prior to any of the general Associations Committee meetings. The Zone Reps will have a conference call to discuss what topics they will cover in their zone meetings, so we can remove those topics from the general sessions.

Membership and Sanctions Workshops – Andy will have workshops on Friday - one for membership from 10 – noon, then Sanctions from 12:30 – 2:15, and a Risk Management session (similar to the one at the Workshop) from 2:30 to 5:20. Andy will invite event directors and coordinators from across the country to come in for this one purpose. They will not have to register for the Annual Meeting since they are coming for just this one event.

Opening session of the convention has been moved to Thursday morning. The general consensus was that the Wednesday evening opening session was preferred. Since many of the Board members are new to the Convention, it should be recommended that they go to first timers orientation. Ed will mention this to Darlene.

Bill suggested that some of the items on Karen's list could be consolidated. Although there are two items for by-laws, one is dealing with Association by-laws. Karen would like to have standardized by-laws, where the only differences would be requirements on the State or local levels. Karen also wants Scott to go over what went on at the L&L meeting.

Although there are many rumors afloat about the by-law changes, they have not been officially released yet. Bill told us there is a proposal to move about 70% of the by-laws into the regulations, so that the two will be companion documents. Steve requested that someone give a presentation on the differences between the by-laws and operating regulations. Everyone should have the same basic level of knowledge. Bill stated that Articles of Incorporation are the first step in forming a group, and they are where State laws are complied with. The by-laws are supposed to be the document that operates at the same level as your Board, the '30,000 foot level'. By-laws should contain the overriding things that control the organization and should be very hard to change. They define the Board and what governance is and they define the amending process. USATF has had things in our by-laws that should never have been there, like agendas and committee descriptions. Those things are day-to-day operations and, therefore, belong in the Operating Regulations. Steve suggested a short, 15 minute '101' session to discuss how an organization runs – bylaws, operating regs, etc. Bill will see if David G is available to talk on this subject.

Willie stated the new suggested by-law changes suggest five committees would be established - Budget & Finance, Operations, Business Development, Personnel & Compensation and Competition. The Board could establish more committee if they need to. The committees shall consist of Board members and non Board members with expertise in the committees subject area. It does not say anything regarding voting privileges, but Willie assumes that all members would be allowed a vote. The Board had a meeting and discussed by-laws, but the document was not cleaned up, so they had to have another meeting to further discuss it. They discussed what they would do for reimbursement of expenses for volunteers and staff since it was a problem with the last Board. They also discussed what they would do and how they would operate at the National Meeting. There will be a meet and greet on Thursday, and they will talk to the different constituent groups about the changes that are going on. Some of the Board members are from outside our family, but they are adopted now, and they are doing a terrific job, and we will get a chance to meet them and see how they are interested in doing good things for track and field. They are starting to fill in some of the blank areas in the strategic plan to make it more specific. Several people thanked Willie for his openness and representation. Willie appreciated the confidence we placed in him and told us this is a lot of fun and hard work, but it's not easy because there are some strong personalities and it takes a lot of negotiation to get through the meetings.

Bill suggested that reports that will be given at the general session that we do not have to preview at the AEC meeting, should be removed from the AEC meeting.

Ed asked Karen to include time to tell people which Associations needed to get their credentials in order. Andy said this is not a big issue any longer, but the National Office will send out a positive reinforcement communication stating which Associations are in full compliance, and they will send individual notes to the Associations who are delinquent.

Karen mentioned that the chairs of RRTC and Officials committees have asked for time to speak at one of our meetings. Ed suggested we could discuss or have a survey to get opinions on National Meeting site selections for future years.

The next meeting is Dec. 2, 2009, at the Convention!

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Submitted by
Linda Bommicino, Secretary