

Associations Executive C Minutes
Friday, 28 August 2009
Marriott Downtown, Des Moines, IA

Meeting opened at 12:05

Attending: Karen Krsak, Clif McKenzie, Richard Messenger, Pam Fales, Jackie Callendar, Ruth White, Harry Simonis, Katherine Branch, Scott Erwin, Steve Vaitones, Alan Roth.

Observers: There were many observers, including those who spoke at one point or another - Bill Roe, Don Lawrence, Ron Pate, Linda Melzer, Ed Koch, David Snyder, Val Foss, Dorothy Dawson, Eric Braschwitz, Sonya Harrell., Herb Nicholls, Darlene Hickman, and Dexter McCloud. Others may submit their names for the minutes if they wish to have their attendance recorded.

Staff: Andy Martin, Lamont Jones, Mike McNeese.

Opening: There was a brief discussion of who is on the executive committee. Karen felt subcommittee chairs were not, but the operating procedures allow them, subsequently allowing for up to 27 people. This will be examined.

Minutes: No action was taken on minutes, which are on-line from the Annual Meeting for the last several years.

Finance: Treasurer Richard Messenger noted that \$458.29 has been spent so far this year. This meeting and the annual meeting will account for most of the \$18,000 administrative budget. The AEC meeting in Indy will be December 2 at noon.

Coaches Education: Terry Crawford (new director of coaching) and Dave Shrock (Coaches Ed) will be here. Clif McKenzie reported on the long-term trials of getting Coaches Ed to work for youth coaches. A youth coaching program is being formulated under Matt Lydum. Boo continues to move on as CE staff.

Officials: Insurance and membership are easy, the test is difficult. It takes an average of 30 hours to process the new test, and 2-3 hours to grade it. This will be discussed with the Officials chair.

RRTC: Our course certifiers and measurers are aging. Karen has had contact with Gene Newman, RRTC chair. Steve Vaitones has also been in discussion with Gene. Steve will handle this area. RRTC needs to plan some "measuring clinics." Steve will include that with his discussion on how to get more measurers started and how to improve communications between RRTC and Associations.

National Office: Andy's updates were as follows:

- **In general:** Last nine months has been crazy, trying to get used to a new chair!

- **Staff:** Hired Tricia Floyd as grassroots manager in December.
- **Membership:** great news!
 - 94,300 for 2009 so far, up from 84,200 at this time last year
 - 3,000 officials membership have been added
 - there are about 8,000 non-renewals at this point
 - bottom line is we have picked up approximately 15,100 more from somewhere
 - additional 2,000 anticipated, but we need 6,000 more to hit the magic marketing number of 100,000. An effort to attract last year's non-renewals, with a 16-month offer, launches next week.
- **Associations manual.** There is a concerted effort to update and revamp the manual. There are several unfinished chapters. Andy parceled those out to staff, and the plan is to have them done by the Annual Meeting.
- **Accreditation.** Currently there are six Associations suspended, mostly due to bylaws issues. Four of them have now provided updates in that area. Eleven Associations are provisionally accredited.
- **Background checks.** We have moved from a decentralized to a centralized process. The set-up and legwork were extensive, and there have been many little issues. Only 3-4 individuals out of 3500 who have gone through the program have been nabbed this year.
- **Brochures.** Two new membership brochures have been designed and printed this year, a generic one and one specifically geared toward youth. A specific masters brochure is being designed now. Electronic versions of the brochures are in the future.
- **New partnership.** We have recently developed a partnership with *Trail Runner* magazine.
- **Masters LDR.** Phidippides award information was recently released to 30,000 members. Members gain points for events on certified courses, based on participation on certified courses in sanctioned LDR events. Hasty Awards is co-sponsoring. Karen plugged Hasty Awards shamelessly throughout the weekend...
- **Batch entries for club memberships.** To begin maybe in a week! HURRAY! Also in the club area is the ability to update addresses for members. The club contact will also be able to add new club administrators for their club.
- **More technology.** On-line sanctions and on-line club memberships are on the way.

Sanction fees: There have been several conference calls since May between Steve, Andy, and Marlene. Carmen crunched a lot of numbers this summer, and helped identify the issues. Their survey is nearing completion. The goal is to have more or less uniform fees (within a range). Andy was inspired to get moving on this issue by an Association which levied new higher fees to essentially "stick it to LDR events." A protection is in the Sports Act against that which enables us to have this authority.

Regulation 7 Athlete Transfers: Some Associations are having issues, others are not. Andy had a handout. Scott will handle it from here. A lively discussion. As an executive committee, it was moved and seconded to support this change to a uniform system of representation decisions. Unanimously passed.

Accreditation standards: We moved and seconded to Organizational Services and the Board to remove the background checks from the required list, since this has now become a national office task. UNANIMOUS.

We moved and seconded to Organizational Services and the Board that the number of championships hosted move from an optional standard to a required standard, and be specified as:

- 1 Men's and women's track & field
- 2 Men's and women's long distance running
- 3 Masters track & field, including masters race walking
- 4 Masters long distance running
- 5 Open and masters cross country running
- 6 Open race walking
- 7 Youth track & field, including youth race walking
- 8 Youth cross country

UNANIMOUS.

We moved and seconded to Organizational Services and the Board to amend members based on population for 100,000 from 20 members to 16 members. This discussion was very lively, centering on how many Associations should fail a standard and whether we should lower any standards. UNANIMOUS.

Bill Roe will send these three motions to Darlene Hickman and Walter High.

Associations Committee Operating Procedures: Karen and Scott have discussed the current document, but most others do not have it, and it was last amended in 2002. The current Procedures will be sent to the entire committee for review prior to the annual meeting. Twenty percent athletes are also included, and this was pointed out to Dexter McCloud, AAC secretary, as well as the membership of the executive committee from athletes.

Member benefits: Andy said that staff held a meeting in the office and have refined the process for approval of benefits, and the process will move forward. Gill and VS Athletics have been added, and Sam's Club is interested, plus an insurance benefit. Katherine Branch will submit the current list of unapproved partners back to Andy, and new submittals will be handled by Marketing and Grassroots, with assistance from Business Affairs.

Club report: A complete recap of the national track & field club championships was provided by Bill and Andy. All three meets at Icahn Stadium (2005, 2007, and 2009) have been the biggest three in our nine-year history. The Nike Central Park TC did an outstanding job. Several meet records were set. Greater Boston TC won the women's competition, while Shore AC of New Jersey won the men and combined scoring.

The 2009 cross country event is in Lexington, KY. The 2010 events for track & field and cross country are in process; bids are in the hands of the joint cross country bid subcommittee, and could be awarded several years out. The site for track & field is to be on the west coast, with two proposals currently being considered at Santa Monica City College and San Francisco State University. These determinations will be made prior to the Annual Meeting. The rotation is west 2010, east 2011, central 2012, east 2013, and repeat.

Subcommittees: The Associations Championships Committee was deemed to be unnecessary and will be dissolved. Several other subcommittees will be looked at.

Communications: Our webmaster is now not available. Helping Associations with web sites was the primary reason to have the group, which also really needed to be a group instead of just a webmaster. New members will be solicited.

Foreign athletes in races: Pam Fales had issues with foreign athletes coming to New Jersey races with the default on the web site proclaiming them USA citizens. Steve spoke to his experiences with foreign "traveling bands" coming around to small races and taking most of the prize money, outside of the doping control and work visa system. Bill spoke about the ongoing attempt by LDR to have a licensing system, which comes to the fore again. Andy will at least take the lead on removing the default USA from our web site. Business Affairs will work with LDR to look at the licensing issues.

Olympic Paralympic Youth Sport Office in the White House: Steve noted the creation of this post in the Obama White House. It is directly Chicago 2016 related. It will be interesting to see whether the group survives if the bid fails on October 2 in Copenhagen at the IOC vote.

990EZ and related forms: Harry Simonis is concerned relative to how difficult the form is to fill out. Bill suggested Andy get Jim Elias and Gina Miller to formulate a handout on the topic. Andy will follow through.

Association zone newsletters: Ruth has created a north zone newsletter. Karen asked the other zones to consider the idea of a newsletter. Andy offered the Associations' page to house the materials electronically.

Accreditation process and zone reps: It was discussed yesterday at the accreditation meeting how the zone reps can help with the action plans. Current plans for improvement are mostly details about excuses. The plans also come in and go into a folder, which get looked at only twice a year, when the reports should also go to the zone reps as well. The zone reps will work together with Andy to further this.

Annual meeting topics: For the AEC and General sessions both, get your agenda items to Karen or Linda Bommicino.

Bylaws Changes: There are a lot of suggestions out there. Streamlining and clarifying that all liabilities and responsibilities flow from the Board, but the Board wants to be at the 30,000 foot level and not dealing in committee areas, unless there are extreme issues.

Southern Cal issue: The office recently had a whistleblower call, as there is an event promoter proffering the "USATF sanctioned" moniker to event owners, and not getting a sanction. The question was asked about our actions in cases like this. Legal will work with Andy to form an action plan.

RRCA: Two items in the recent RRCA "Clubs" publication should be looked at by USATF: one is their promotion of what they do for LDR coaches as coaches "certification" and how critical that makes our getting certification nomenclature to the fore of our programs. The second is how they used the publication to disseminate RRCA's goals to their general membership.

The meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.