

Minutes
2009 USA Track & Field Annual Meeting
Indianapolis, Indiana

Men's Long Distance Running
Executive Committee

December 2, 2009

Attendees: Executive Committee Members: Glenn Latimer (Chair), Dan Browne (Vice Chair), Brian Mastel (Acting Secretary), Max King, David Martin, Carey Pinkowski, Tomy Sitton, Allan Steinfeld. *Officers Absent:* Mark Winitz (Secretary; head cold), Phil Greenwald (Treasurer).

Guests: Jim Estes, Fred Finke (LDR Division Chair), Will Graustein, Jim Peterson, Scott Simmons (Champs Subcommittee), Bill Roe, Virginia Brophy Achman (Women's LDR Chair).

1. **Call to Order:** Men's LDR Chair Glenn Latimer convened the meeting at 6:04 p.m.
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Introductions:** The Chair briefly talked about the makeup of the committee and highlighted athletes on the committee.
4. **Agenda Amendments/Additions:** The Chair asked for any amendments or additions to the agenda. None were offered.
5. **Approve Minutes:** The Chair asked for any amendments to the Executive Committee minutes from the 2008 USAF Annual Meeting. The minutes were approved without any amendments.
6. **Housekeeping:** The Chair explained the Annual Meeting expense reimbursement process for Executive Committee members.
7. **Continuing on the Path - Our Primary Mission:** The Chair reported that the Committee continues to push hard towards our primary mission: To improve quality among U.S. men's long distance runners at the national and international levels. The performance depth charts for our athletes are getting better each year. Other countries are starting to notice and talk about U.S. distance running. Great Britain, in particular, is trying to copy the things that we've done in this area.
8. **USATF Organizational Restructuring Update - Where are we Now?** Fred Finke briefly reported that more transparency will be forthcoming from the national office in a number of areas such as the USATF budget, governance manual, and high performance plan. The Chair reported that some sport committees feel that some of their autonomy is being taken away in the proposed amendments to the USATF Bylaws. The USATF Board of Directors and Law

and Legislation Committee have been working on these issues. Delegates will vote on the Law and Legislation package during the Closing Session of the Annual Meeting. Fred clarified that he feels the package, as a whole, is “a good piece of work, but it just needs some tweaking.”

9. **Men’s LDR Committee Operational Procedures:** The Chair reported that Mark Winitz is examining the committee’s current operational procedures, which are dated and inconsistent. He will compile a report with recommended amendments for the Executive Committee and the Chair will distribute it to the committee when it is completed.

10. **USA Teams - 2009 Review:**

IAAF World Half Marathon Championships (Birmingham, England): The Chair reported that he felt that the men’s team missed a medal by a few seconds because of poor planning by the USATF national office regarding team travel and untimely arrival for optimum performance. He recommended to the national office that money should be spent to get athletes to competitions earlier. Jim Estes reported that funding for earlier team travel is in the 2010 budget.

Chiba International Ekiden: The Chair reported that this is the most difficult team to fill with top athletes. The time of year (November) is challenging. Athletes who have been competing on the track are in a rest period. Other athletes are running fall marathons. In addition, the same challenges for recruiting apply to women for this mixed gender relay race.

11. **Future Major Events:**

2010 Americas Cross Country Championships – March 6 in Tobago
 2010 IAAF World Cross Country Championships — March 28 in Bydgoszcz, Poland
 2010 IAAF World Half Marathon Championship – October 16 in Nanning, China

12. **2012 Olympic Marathon Trials Selection - Update** Glenn Latimer

The Chair reported that New York, Boston, and Houston are interested in bidding for the 2012 U.S. Olympic Marathon Trials. Each organizing committee will give a presentation at this Annual Meeting to a group led by Fred Finke (LDR Division Chair), Virginia Brophy Achman (Women’s LDR Chair), Glenn Latimer (Men’s LDR Chair), and two athletes (Magdalena Lewy Boulet and Eduardo Torres). The Chair reported that USOC restrictions and requirements make sponsorship and branding for the Trials very difficult. Bidders are projecting an outlay between \$500K and \$1 million to host the Trials. Chicago is unable to submit a bid for this reason.

The subject of separate Men’s and Women’s Trials versus a combined Trials was briefly discussed. The Men’s LDR Chair favors separate men’s and women’s events. He said that he will push for this approach, with the blessing of Men’s LDR, unless he hears compelling reasons against it. The Chair also strongly favors a Men’s Trials in the late fall (October-January) to allow for adequate preparation time for the Olympic Games. He feels that a criterium-type course in a big media market (as was the case in New York for the 2008 Trials) works well. He said that prize money needs to be good for athletes. The selection

process will continue through early spring, 2010 during which feedback will be gathered. Then a recommendation will be made to USATF national office staff. Goal is to have selection made by early 2010.

13. Cross Country:

2009 U.S. Championships / World Team Trials, Maryland

The Chair reported that performance by Juniors at the meet demonstrates that LDR's mission is starting to work. German Fernandez, Christopher Derrick and Luke Puskedra turned in great performances.

14. 2009 Men's LDR Committee Awards: The Chair announced the award winners:

Scott Hamilton Award (Association Level Contributor)

Jack Leydig, Pacific Association

H. Browning Ross Award (National Level Contributor):

Jack Daniels, Coach

Robert E. DeCelle Award (Outstanding Male Athlete):

Meb Keflezighi

Allan Steinfeld Award (Contributor within a Road Race Organization):

Carey Pinkowski, Chicago Marathon

Allan Steinfeld presented this award to Carey during the meeting since Carey was unable to attend the awards breakfast.

The Chair took the opportunity to mention that LDR Division leaders met with USATF staff and told them they are opposed to any policy that encourages major marathons to require USATF membership as a prerequisite for general participants in their races (which was the policy of a previous administration in the national office during the 1980s and 1990s). LDR leaders believe that these marathons are supporting USATF LDR in significant other ways, such as contributing to USA Distance Project centers, hosting Olympic Marathon Trials and LDR Championships, and providing training stipends to Olympics-bound athletes.

15. USATF Rules Amendment Proposals: With Phil Greenwald (MLDR Rules Committee rep) attending another meeting, the Chair explained that the rules amendments package contains one proposed amendment (Item 74) to USATF Rule 241 regarding refreshment stations in road races that is not in conformance with IAAF rules. (See the MLDR General Session minutes of 2009-12-4 and 2009-12-5 for details).

16. Finance/Budget

Phil Greenwald's (Secretary) report deferred to General Sessions, (See the MLDR General Session minutes of 2009-12-4 and 2009-12-5 for details).

17. 2009 Men's LDR Championships and 2010 Champs Schedule: Scott Simmons (Championships Subcommittee Co-Chair) reported that 2009 was MLDR's best year ever in terms of number of MLDR Championships (10) and MLDR Championship prize dollars

(\$351,850 total). He also briefly discussed the 2010 MLDR championship selections and beyond. (See the MLDR General Session minutes of 2009-12-5 for details). The Chair mentioned that the Men's LDR and Women's LDR Chairs will meet with Association Athlete Development Program (AADP) Coordinators on Saturday to discuss standards for the program. The Chair emphasized that he feels the program should be reserved for true developmental athletes who demonstrate emerging elite potential.

18. **USA Distance Project:** Jim Estes (USATF Associate Director, Marketing and LDR Programs) reported that in 2009 \$92,000 in funds for developing athletes went to the following USA Distance Project groups: Mammoth Track Club (California), Team USA Minnesota, Team Indiana Elite, Zap Fitness (North Carolina), Tempo Sports (Colorado), and McMillan Elite (Arizona). Currently, evaluations for funding in 2010 are taking place. A new group is forming in the San Francisco Bay area which includes athletes Shannon Rowbury, Magdalena Lewy Boulet David Torrence, and Bolota Asmerom (all of whom will stay with their own individual coaches rather than working with a single group coach). Jim anticipates continued support from the following groups in 2010 which contribute funds to support Team USA Distance Project centers: New York City Marathon, Houston Marathon, Twin Cities Marathon, Marathonguide.com, and the USATF Foundation.
19. **Joint Men's/Women's Team Opportunities in 2010 and Selection Criteria:** The Chair suggested that Jim Estes, Virginia Brophy Achman and himself meet to address the challenges of selecting teams for the Chiba International Ekiden and IAAF World Half Marathon (see item 10 above). Jim concurred, pointing out that, for Chiba, the team is a combined (men's/women's) team and men and women need to work cohesively. It was agreed that better cooperation and communication between Men's LDR and Women's LDR is needed particularly regarding team member, team leader, and additional team staff selections, course previews, and running leg assignments. Jim and Fred Finke feel that similar cooperation should be implemented for all LDR teams competing at international events. A discussion followed regarding the benefits of pairing a veteran team leader with a rookie staff member at these events, which is current practice by LDR.
20. **Other Business:** The Chair asked the Executive Committee to provide input to him regarding the time/day for future Executive Committee meetings at the USATF Annual Meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Mark Winitz, Secretary

(with kind assistance by Brian Mastel, Acting Secretary during Annual Meeting)