



OZARK ASSOCIATION USA Track & Field

2006 Year-End Report

GENERAL: In 2006 Ozark Association USATF continued its attempts to expand its activities in Open (adult) and Masters competition, as well as maintaining normal activity in Youth Athletics. Sport Committee meetings were held separately from general membership meetings. The day-to-day business of the Association was conducted in bi-monthly meetings of the Executive Committee. The actions of the Executive Committee and the Sports Committees were reported to the Association Annual Meeting (full adult membership) in September. We sent 14 delegates to the National Annual Meeting (Convention), covering all of the Sports Committees and other committees where we had an interest. Secretary Jim Duncan attended the Associations Committee Administrative Workshop in August.

A new USATF logo was introduced at the Convention. We will have two years to fully implement it.

St. Louis will be the Convention site in 2011.

MEMBERSHIP: We had 1186 total members in 2006 (1202 in 2005), including 341 adult members (18 or older on 12/31/06). The adult figure represents a significant increase over 2005. Membership fees for 2007 are \$15 for youth and \$25 for adults **if purchased from Ozark Membership Chair Gussie Crawford**. If memberships are purchased on line, the youth fee is \$19.95 and the adult fee is \$29.95. Proof of age is requested for all athletes and required for youth athletes. This is a one-time requirement, as the verified date of birth becomes a permanent entry in the national membership database, as long as renewals are properly identified as such. This information is not carried forward if the registration is identified as NEW. For further information on club or individual membership matters or sanctions, contact Gussie Crawford at (314) 434-3397. **PLEASE NOTE:** Clubs renewing their club membership on or after May 1, 2007 will be charged a Late Fee of \$100. Don't delay!

YOUTH: A number of local club invitational meets were held this year, and were well attended. Our Ozark Association Junior Olympic Track & Field Championship participation was down again this year. Winners of our meet advanced to the Regional Championship and several advanced to the National meet. A tentative schedule has been established for 2007 club track and field invitationals and for the AAU and USATF Association Championships. For further information on USATF Youth Athletics matters, contact Michael Beavers at (314) 398-5929 or michaelbeavers@charter.net.

Patricia Hanna has been chosen as a US team coach for the 2007 World Youth Championships. At the Convention, Jim Duncan, Ginger Mulanax and Roma Poole were selected to receive the *National Youth Chair's Award*, "In appreciation of your years of service and outstanding contributions to Youth Track & Field and Cross Country Programs across the United States. Your dedication and support has played a vital role in the development of Youth Athletics."

The Ozark USATF Youth Athletics Committee works closely in conjunction with the (Youth) Athletics Committee of Ozark District AAU. Membership in the AAU Athletics Committee consists exclusively of elected officers and the designated club representatives of clubs currently

registered as AAU Athletics (Track & Field) clubs **and having at least five (5) members**. Most Ozark youth clubs (and most youth athletes) are members of both USATF and AAU. We had good participation in our Ozark AAU District Track & Field Championships, from which many of our youth advanced to Regional and National Championships. Because of the large number of age groups in AAU competition, we have in recent years divided the AAU Championships, with the younger age groups on one weekend and the older age groups on the following weekend. This year for the first time the two sections of the meet were held at different venues. We had fair participation in our AAU Cross-Country Championship, with a small number advancing to national competition. AAU membership fees for 2007 (ends August 31, 2007) are \$12 for youth athletes and \$14 for coaches, volunteers, etc. All AAU officers, designated club representatives, coaches and athletes are required to be AAU members. For further information about AAU Youth Athletics matters, contact Laura Borman at (314) 960-8824 or lborm@festus.K12.mo.us.

OPEN AND MASTERS TRACK & FIELD: The Ozark Association Open and Masters Championships were again held in conjunction with the North Region (Open) Track & Field Championships. The Ozark and North Region Championships will again be combined in 2007, while the Midwest Masters meet will be held elsewhere. Ozark Association has received a grant to develop a series of track & field meets during the outdoor season. We expect to have them begin this summer. For further information, contact Ed Rowold at (314) 469-0577 (evenings) or erowold@i1.net.

OPEN AND MASTERS LONG DISTANCE RUNNING: Numerous LDR meets were held within our area, sponsored by local running clubs. The Ozark Grand Prix was continued for the fourth year; results are still being tabulated. We are tentatively planning to repeat this event in 2007. For further information on LDR, contact Ed Rowold at (314) 469-0577 (evenings) or erowold@i1.net.

Cross-Country is now part of LDR for both men and women. Participation in our Open and Masters Cross-Country Championship was disappointing again this year. Our Adult Sports Council will be working to develop that participation this year.

RACE WALKING: The Race Walkers Club of St. Louis has conducted a very active program of events in their discipline, including several track and road Association Championships. For further information on race walking, contact Ginger Mulanax at (314) 838-9486 (evenings) or gmulanax@sbcglobal.net.

OFFICIALS: At this time, we have about 120 certified officials, most of whom are recertified from the previous Olympiad. If you would like to become a certified official, contact Ginger Mulanax at (314) 838-9486 (evenings) or gmulanax@sbcglobal.net. For other information concerning officials, contact Jim Duncan at (636) 462-4631 or jduncan@socket.net.

CHILD PROTECTION INITIATIVE: USATF has at long last devised a plan to help protect our youth athletes from sexual and other abuse by coaches and other adults associated with our programs. Ozark Association voluntarily put this plan into effect immediately; participation by all Associations is mandatory effective January 1, 2007. This plan is implemented through the clubs, and applies to coaches and all other adults in our jurisdiction who may have one-on-one contact with children not their own, including transportation to and from practices and meets. These persons will be screened for convictions of child abuse and certain other felonies. Approved individuals (who are USATF members) are listed on the USATF web site. **Only those individuals on the approved list will be recognized as coaches by USATF, regardless of the information on their membership cards.**