

Ozark Association

USA Track & Field

2004 Year-End Report

GENERAL: In 2004, Ozark Association USATF continued to work on expanding its activities in Open (adult) and Masters competition, at the same time maintaining its usual 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, followed by the Annual Meeting (full adult membership) in September. We sent 15 delegates and alternates to the National Annual Meeting, covering all of the Sports Committees and other committees where we had an interest.

MEMBERSHIP: We had 1155 total members in 2004, including 229 adult athletes and/or officials. Both numbers are slightly above last year. Approximately 40% of our members joined on-line, paying by credit card. For many, this method is more convenient than completing the 3-part card application and paying by mail as we have done for many years. The old method will continue to be available, and is preferred within the Association. Ozark USATF Membership fees are now \$12 for youth and \$20 for adults. Proof of age (birth certificate, etc.) is requested for all athletes and required for all 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 membership matters, contact Gussie Crawford at (314) 434-3397.

YOUTH: A number of local club invitational meets were held this year, and were well attended. Our Ozark Association Junior Olympic Track & Field Championship attendance was down from the previous year. Winners of our meet advanced to the Regional Championship and several went on to the national meet. Attendance at our Ozark Junior Olympic Cross-Country Championship was down again this year, as was our representation at the national meet. A tentative schedule has been established for 2005 club track & field invitationals, and for the AAU and USATF Association Championships. For further information on youth athletics matters, contact Laura Borman at (636) 337-1467 or lborm@festus.k12.mo.us.

The Ozark USATF Youth Athletics Committee works closely in conjunction with the (Youth) Athletics Committee of Ozark AAU. Membership in the AAU Youth Athletics Committee consists exclusively of the designated club representatives of clubs currently registered as AAU Athletics (Track & Field) clubs. Most youth clubs (and most youth athletes) are registered in both USATF and AAU. We had good participation in our AAU Association Track & Field Championship, from which many of our youth advanced to

Regional and National Championships. We also had good participation in our AAU Cross-Country Championship, with a fair number advancing to national competition. AAU membership fees for 2005 (ends August 31, 2005) is \$12 for youth and \$14 for coaches, volunteers, etc. AAU Association officers, designated club representatives and coaches are required to be AAU members.

OPEN AND MASTERS TRACK & FIELD: The Association Open and Masters Championship was again held in conjunction with the North Region Track & Field Championships and the Midwest Masters Track & Field Championship. The same combination of meets is planned for 2005. For further information contact Ed Rowold at (314) 469-0577 (home) or erowold@i1.net.

OPEN AND MASTERS LONG DISTANCE RUNNING: While there was a great amount of LDR activity within our area, little of it was directly related to the Association. The St. Louis Track Club hosted the Women's Marathon Olympic Trials this year, as well as their own St. Louis Marathon. The Ozark Grand Prix program was continued this year, with slightly increased participation over last year. For further information contact Ed Rowold at (314) 469-0577 (home) or erowold@i1.net.

Cross-Country is now part of LDR for both men and women, and our Executive Committee is working to expand our activities in this area as well. Participation in our Open and Masters Cross-Country Championship was disappointing again this year. The Executive Committee will be working to improve that participation as well.

RACE WALKING: Our 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).

OFFICIALS: We had 217 certified officials at the end of this Olympiad (expired November, 2004). We are in the process of recertifying as many as possible of those officials, plus as many new officials as possible to replace those lost through attrition. If you would like to become a certified official, contact Ginger Mulanax at (314) 838-9486 (evenings). For other information concerning officials, contact Jim Duncan at (636) 462-4631.

CHILD PROTECTION INITIATIVE: USATF has been trying for a number of years to devise a plan to protect our youth athletes from sexual and other abuse by coaches and other adults associated with our programs. Until a national plan is put into effect, Ozark will participate in a plan already in use by several other Associations. This plan will be implemented through the clubs, and is intended to apply to coaches and all other adults in our jurisdiction who may have one-on-one contact with children not their own. These persons will be screened for child abuse and certain other felony convictions. The results will be simply go/no go ratings. Further details will be forwarded to clubs in the near future.