

Report Vice Chair Certification 2009

I am pleased to report that the first year of the Olympiad was success as far as certifying officials. We recertified 3559 officials or 40% of what we closed out the old Olympiad at, actually a pretty dismal number. What happened to the other 60%? On the up side we recruited 1664 new officials the most ever for the first year of an Olympiad. The combined total was what was projected for this year. Currently we have 5223 officials and to reach 10,000 we would need to recruit 1593 officials per year or 4777 for the three year total. We have 5312 officials that we have not recertified from the last Olympiad. We will have to put a real effort into finding out what happened to the other 60% (5312) that did not recertify this year. If we just recertified the missing ones we would reach our goal without recruiting another new one.

I think all of the certification chairs have pretty well picked up on using the new system. The proof will be this year as this is the first time we are requiring membership going into the second year, thereby wiping out everyone as currently certified and starting out new, not like before when we built on a base for that Olympiad. This Olympiad recertifying went the smoothest yet as once I received all the data cards usually went out within a month. We spent over \$12,000 on new officials pins this year a rather large expense due to the new logo change hopefully this expense will not be repeated in years to come.

The testing aspect of recertifying drew the most complaints this year and not the requirement of becoming a USATF member. The test were actually cut in half but the upper level tests required more time both on the officials part but also on the certification chair grading them, as essay questions take a lot longer to answer and correct. There has to be a middle of the road solution as we cannot do without the tests but yet must make them effective and a learning tool also. In this respect we have two years to come up with an answer and to that end are going to appoint a committee of cert chairs to look into this and see what solution they come up with. At the same time we will look at the skills section and see if any changes can be made.

There are some changes to the computer program we use I am going to implement this year but nothing major as this will be my last year as Certification chair and I do not want to start something I cannot follow thru to completion. I have served two four year terms and because of term limits cannot run again.

I will spend most of my efforts this year working with the certification chairs on recruiting and trying to bring back into the fold those that have not recertified. The biggest gripe I have with officials is they **DO NOT** keep all the data current in their profile and it's as simple as letting their certification chair know of any changes to their address phone, e-mail etc. The certification chairs have been doing a great job and I thank each and every one of them for all the time they have spent volunteering unless you have done it you have no idea how much time they spend.

Jim Flanik

Vice Chair Certification