USATF YOUTH DIVISION EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
DETROIT, MICHIGAN
MARCH 21, 2009

The board meeting began at 8:30 and opened with a prayer by Norine Richardson.

Roll Call:
Lionel Leach, Executive Chair
Bob Flint, Executive Vice Chair
Dorothy Dawson, Vice Chair of Administration
Linda Ellis, Secretary
Norine Richardson, Legal Advisor
Kenneth Ferguson, Law and Legislation
Linda Phelps, Immediate Past Youth Chair
Mary Elizabeth Aude, West Zone Rep
Inez Finch, South Zone Rep
Harold "Lefty" Martin, Midwest Zone Rep
Tonja Stevens, Northeast Zone Rep
Bruce Long, Regional Coordinators Rep
Karen Krsak, Associations Rep
Kim Haines, Board of Directors Rep
Tricia Floyd, National Office Rep
Marilyn Turner, National Office Rep

Sam Germany was excused because he is recovering from minor surgery. Henry McCallum was excused to put on his Master's Track Meet.

Lionel introduced and welcomed the new board members, Linda Ellis, Kim Haines, and Karen Krsak.

Bruce Long stated rule #86 has an error in the wording. It should be changed from "shall" to "may" as it relates to taking 8 or less athletes from a prelim to a final. Norine stated to send a corrected copy to the associations, Glenn Fortune, Kenny Emerick, and John Blackburn. Kenny has been notified via email.

Corrections for the December 3, 2008 Youth Executive Meeting: Inez, Dorothy, Sam, Linda P., and Tonja should be added to the roll call. Motion made by Bob F. and second by Karen to approve minutes. Minutes were unanimously approved.

Corrections for January 29, 2009 conference call minutes: Spelling correction to Shirley "Crow" should read "Crowe". Change the spelling of Karen's last name to Krsak also correct spelling of Ron Mascarenas' name. Add Lefty Martin to the conference call . Motion made with corrections to accept minutes by Bob F. and second by Karen. Minutes were unanimously approved.

Corrections for February 12, 2009 conference call minutes: Correct the spelling of Karen Krsak, Clif McKenzie has one "f" and Kim Haines instead of "Haynes". Add Tonja Stevens as members present. A motion was made by Bob F. and second by Karen to approve the minutes with corrections. Minutes were unanimously approved.

Chairman's Report:
Lionel: The last meeting for the "old" Board of Directors took place in Boston during the Millrose Games. Due to the financial struggles Hershey has pulled back on their sponsorship. Other national sponsors are AT&T and Nissan are winding down also. They came on board specifically for the Olympic games. A meeting with American airlines will take place sometime in April. They are working on putting together a sponsorship package for our youth program.

The First Youth Council meeting took place in Boston before the Board of Directors meeting. The purpose is to prevent scheduling conflicts and to maintain good communications with other member organizations. A handout with the meeting minutes was handed out. The details will follow later on the agenda.

Lionel stated there are youth banners hanging at the televised indoor meets. He gave a special thank you to Andy, Tricia and Marilyn for their hard work in getting it done. The wording had to be adjusted to eliminate "Junior Olympics" it is in conflict with the USOC.

Lionel and Doug Logan spoke in Boston regarding Project 30. Basically regarding three items:

1. International team selection
2. Location selection of youth championships
3. Youth division falling under high performance

National Office Report:
Tricia: The workshop is next weekend and Dee Dee Trotter will speak at the banquet. The Mark Springer Grant will include the Junior Nationals so the new cutoff date is April 15th. Tricia also stated that she has access to the Fast Forward magazine if the youth division needs to include information.

Board of Directors Report:
Kim: There is a smaller board with 15 members. Stephanie Hightower was elected as the Chair. Doug Logan went through the Project 30 report item by item. Darlene Hickman is the secretary on the new board. She does not have a vote she is basically there to record the minutes. The voting board remains at 15 members. Kim Haines informed the youth division that you are not allowed to "protect your turf" but he will keep us informed and take information back as needed to the board.

Zonal Rep Reports:
Mary Aude/West Zone: The zone meet went very well, it was well attended with over 700 athletes. There were no problems.

Inez Finch/South Zone: south zone report was passed out to the board.

Tonja Stevens/Northeast Zone: They had 509 athletes participate in the meet. The meet was held at the armory and opened up to all zones. The first youth chair award was given to a male and female team who scored the highest points. A $1500 travel grant was awarded to each group. Athletes traveled from as far west as Texas and from South Carolina to compete.

Lefty Martin/Midwest Zone: The meet has not worked out. The participation was poor. There were less than 100 athletes. There was no fee for the facility. The meet has rotated from the west to central to the eastern part of the zone. Next year it will be in the Missouri Valley.

Dorothy stated there needs to be better advertisement by the youth chairs. The information is not getting out.
Lefty stated weekly updates went out to youth chairs and regional coordinators but turnout still poor.

Dorothy recommended that we have our zonal meets lead to a national indoor championship and the participation will probably increase.

Lionel stated the budget and finance committee would like to see the next step move toward a national indoor championship. We need to look at a time frame during 2010. Lionel is requesting some feedback regarding putting on a national indoor championship. The Indoor program is here to stay according to Stephanie Hightower and Doug Logan and it is up to the youth division where we take it.

A Task Committee was formed to look into an indoor championship meet after the zone meets. The committee will consist of the four zone reps, Dorothy Dawson and Linda Phelps. Lionel would like the committee to report back to the board with some information this summer.

2009 Youth Meet Site Visit Report: Youth Athletics- Ypsilanti, MI
Lefty/Track: The track is in good shape, hurdle markings are needed and the steeple chase starts and finishes on the far side of the track. Clerking and hipping areas are good. Clerking area has large area for warm up.

Bruce/Field Events: Many issues that were not met as agreed to. The high jump is not correct, the pole vault is okay except a patch is required on the runway. They are constructing a long jump runway, and the second runway is a portable raised runway which the older athletes will use. The throwing rings do not meet USATF/IAAF standards. The javelin runway needs to be replaced and the date to be completed is June 1st. If the specs are not met then the national records will not count.

Inez/Packet Pick-up: The packet pick-up is in a great location. You can place the results on the window and also see the track and the meet. The Officials hospitality is going to be in a locker room. They need to be careful with food due to the staph germs that linger in locker rooms. The food will actually be served in a lounge area.

Tricia is requesting that some things be put on letterhead to ensure borrowed items from the University of Michigan have been secured.

Bob is requesting that further discussion regarding the site visit be discussed in a closed executive session.

2009 Youth Meets Weekly Conference Calls (JO/YA):
Linda: Weekly conference calls on Thursdays with Greensboro for Junior Olympics and Detroit for Youth Athletics. Greensboro had a minor conflict with putting the bulldog (NC A&T logo) on the USATF logo. The problem has been resolved. They are finishing up the events schedule, they need to know who will travel to Greensboro, Drug screening , signage and opening ceremonies. The Detroit conference calls and site visit will be discussed in the executive session.

Junior Olympic 800m Exhibition:
Lionel: There will be an amputee race and a wheelchair race 8 male and 8 female racers per category. There will be a total of 32 athletes competing. We will promote the event at the high school level. USATF officials will be used. It is being embraced by USATF and NC A&T.

Lionel: The Youth Chair Award that was given during the Northeast Zonal Meet was funded by Lionel's personal funds. The money did not come from the USATF Youth budget. Lionel stated it will now rotate each year. It was started to boost up the numbers in zone meet participation.

Inez stated the South Zone had their meet the day before the announcement came out and was concerned why the Northeast Zone was selected. Also wanted to know where the funding came from. Lionel stated the Northeast zone was selected first because since he personally funded the award he would start with his zone. Lionel also stated in the email further discussion would take place at the executive board meeting in March.

A drawing was held for the other 3 zones to determine the order of future Youth Chair Award Travel Grants. In 2010 it will be the South Zone, 2011 it will be the West Zone and 2012 it will be the Northwest Zone.

2009 World Youth Team and Trials:
Lefty: Everything for the World Youth Trials is online. The qualifying standard and the registration is up and ready. Bruce has ordered the implements. They are different overseas. The cost for the implements was $7000.00. The funding came from the finance committee. They gave $17,000.00. The national office will keep the implements.

Due to the possibility of personnel shortages the executive committee will be asked to step up and help run the trials. Team USA was also given an extension on their entries which must be entered no later than midnight July 1st. We have taken 32-36 athletes in the past we now have funding for 55 athletes.

Dorothy asked Doug about the athletes having a cultural experience while in Italy. The process for an experience to happen is being worked out.

A site visit is scheduled for Italy by the national office. Clif McKenzie has been recommended for the trip. They will put together a power point presentation for the world team staff. Kim Haines recommended the visit because it gives the teams insight on what to expect.

Budget Report:
Dorothy/Lionel: Handouts were distributed to the board regarding the budget. The budgets distributed were for the Regional Coordinators, Youth Athletics and Junior Olympics. Lionel stated he went before the budget and finance committee and requested a budget increase from $20,000 to $22,000. From the $22,000 allocation $17,000 has been spent. There was $5,000.00 spent for reimbursement to individuals for the convention. The Scotland trip was fully funded by the bank of Scotland. Jim Elias stated that the youth division is the only division to stay within their allotted budget. A quarterly check is done to ensure we keep within the budget.

Inez asked about the membership increase and per Andy Martin the additional money would go toward the Mark Springer grant. Lionel stated the youth portion of the fees is $50,000. The Mark Springer grant was increased by $30,000. We also used a portion to go toward the Youth Chair Workshop because Check Free pulled out. $10,000 was used for the Cross Country Championships to pay for timing chips and housing. We received an $8,000.00 discount.

Lionel stated based on the 501c(3) the $50,000 can only be used to benefit the athletes directly, it cannot be used by the board. Inez asked when is the budget presented and voted on. Lionel stated he puts together a budget with allocations and sends out copies to the board. This is usually done just before the convention.

2009 Youth Workshop:
Inez: Northwest Design will give bags and jackets. We will not have as many give-a-ways. We have approximately 53 people signed up. Dorothy stated Fine Design will provide hats to go with the jackets. Last year 60 people attended the workshop. Lionel stated he will help cut costs by doing the printing himself. Inez stated she needs help with getting some sponsors for the workshop. Lionel stated that he has a Dell laptop to raffle off at the youth workshop.

2011 Bid Documents:
Tricia: The 2011 bid documents will be ready in May. Andy and Tricia will be attending a symposium in Denver, CO to try and increase the bids. Bob suggested we get information out to the associations. When local sports commissions attempt to reach out to associations they usually don't get a good response. Lefty stated it becomes a problem when the sports commissions want to put on a championship meet and the track they want to use doesn't meet our specifications.

2009 Junior Olympic Forms:
Tricia: Tricia will send out another email letting associations know that forms are online and the USATF calendar will be updated. Associations need to send in their dates to have them added on to the national calendar.

2009 Drug Testing:
Tricia/Lionel: Drug testing is costing almost $40,000. High performance will use $15,000, the world youth will use $9,000 the J.O. will use $4700 and XC will use $4700 the remainder will be used for shipping. Athletes are subject to random drug testing and any USATF championships. The age groups are intermediate boys and girls as well as young men and women.

Webcasting:
Lionel: Dan Phelps from Play On Sports wants to work with USATF. They broke away from Turner Broadcasting and provide digital media. A power point was presented to Doug Logan and he was impressed. He would like to implement the webcast. Lionel presented the power point to the board. It would cost $5000 to do our three championship meets (YA, JO, XC). You can sell ad space to sponsors. Based on the fees that Lionel agreed to for advertising, Tricia felt they were too low. Tricia has a background in advertising and is willing to work Lionel on the project. Inez asked the question if a profit is made where will it go? Lionel stated the Youth Division can keep 80% and 20% goes back to USATF. 30 second ad spots can be sold. Viewers can pay for live or on demand. Initially the plan is to pay per view and then go to free. We keep the webcast view fee of $4.95 and we split the ad fees with Play On Sports. If the concept works with Youth Division it will be used to promote the Master's program.

World Games:
Mary/Karen: It is a set-up where there is a $359.00/athlete fee. It will take place July 16-21 in Cleveland, OH. It will include all sports and athletes will travel from around the world to compete. It is a cultural festival. It will be put on by the Greater Cleveland Sports Organization. Lionel is hesitant to support this because if it doesn't go over well it can make our USATF youth program look bad. Lionel feels we need more information. Lefty questioned if is nonprofit or for profit. All of the participating schools are private.

2010 World Youth Olympics:
Lionel/Bob Hersh (call in): The IAAF finally reached a decision regarding the World Youth Olympics. The meet will be done by country. Our team must be selected and names turned in by May 31st 2010. There will probably be a dual meet against Canada in late April or early May. The IAAF is giving USA $30,000 to either host a meet against Canada or use it toward travel to Singapore for the games. Bob Hersh feels we should use it for the meet because the team can probably get a grant from the IAAF to assist with travel. The purpose of the meet with Canada is to help each country select their teams. No country will take spots from the other. The Youth Division is working out the details of where to pull the pool of athletes from to compete in the dual meet.

Background Checks:
Lionel/Tricia: T.C. Logic will handle background checks for USATF. It will be required annually expiring on December 31 of each year. Brenda Martin will be our national representative. Karen requested information be sent to associations informing them when the program will go national. Karen wanted to know what the screening agents should do with their paperwork once the program goes national? Lionel suggested he and Karen get together and send a letter to Andy requesting more information. Norine asked if everyone on the board should be screened? Lionel responded with yes.

Inez recommended that the board initiate criteria to get into the National Championships as a coach you must be background screened.

Bob and Norine suggested that we give coaches until 2010 to get their screening. It allows the associations time to get the word out to the coaches of the change.

Inez made a motion that coaches must be background screened in 2009 to get into the championships without paying gate fees. Dorothy second the motion. The vote was 4-yes and 4-no. The motion was denied.

Left made a motion that coaches must be background screened in 2010 to get into the championships without paying the gate fees. Mary second the motion. The vote was 7-yes and 1-no, the motion passed.

Project 30:
Lionel: There were no further questions regarding Project 30. The Youth Division understands it will not be touched without being informed first.

Youth Runner:
Lionel: Youth Runner is a magazine that wants to be more involved with USATF youth. They have a link on our USATF web page. They want to promote our youth at no cost.

Level 2 Program:
Karen: If you have a level I, 2, or 3 coaching certification you are **not** certified because the program is not accredited. Clif McKenzie, is chairing the committee to work on the accreditation of the level 2 and level 3 schools. Harry Weaver and Pat Pretty are also on the committee. Doug Logan made it clear he will have a level 2 school for youth coaches when they can participate. This will happen after the program gets accredited.

Change In USOC:
Lionel: The Chair of the USOC resigned. There is an interim Director that comes from the area of swimming. Not sure of the person's name. It was the previous Director who requested the USATF board be downsized and then the Director resigned which made some people upset.

Hammer Proposal:
Lionel: Hal Conley was very upset with the results of the hammer. Lionel had a conversation with him regarding the qualifying standards. Conley wants the event to take place in 2009 instead of 2010. Lionel requested information regarding injuries in youth from throwing the hammer. The results that were presented by the 3 physicians were alarming. In all independent cases, it is not recommended for the youth division (11-12yr olds) to compete in the hammer throw.

Bob made the motion not to add the hammer and to take it off of the table. The motion was second by Dorothy. The motion passed unanimously by the board.

Youth Guide:
Tricia: The youth guide will be ready by April. Tricia contacted the appropriate people for updates and changes. Tricia wants to make sure there are no rule changes before she finalizes the guide. This year Tricia wants to avoid having any "TBA" placed under association or regional championship dates. She will contact the zone reps to ensure the dates are correct.

Inez requested to have the zone reps moved up to be more in line with the executive board so if someone writes to the board they will include the zone reps. Bob also suggested the regional coordinators be moved to the front of the youth guide to make it easier to find their information.

USATF Youth Council Meeting:
Lionel: The Youth Council will meet once a year at the convention. The first meeting took place in Boston because everyone would be there and the Council did not want to wait a year to have their first meeting. This group is not setting policy, they have no operating procedures, and they will not be included in the Youth Division. They have come together to look at calendars, officials and using IAAF rules across the board. The council addressed the Coaches Education piece and Becky Oakes who is on the Council is working to put together a developmental program for track and field. The Council also wants to include the YMCA, CYO, and Dept of Parks and Recreation. The bodies that make up this council represent over 2 million athletes. Inez stated all of the participants are not member organizations. Lionel said the coming together of this Council is a good thing because it brings organizations together who don't normally communicate. At the end of the Council meeting Robin Beamon was elected as the Chair. Robin is on the Council representing AAU.

New Business:

Youth Budget:
Inez: Inez wanted to know when is the budget presented to the Youth Executive Board and voted on? Lionel he allocates the budget and sends copies to the board just before the convention each year.

Youth Sponsorship:
Inez: Wanted to know more about the budget as it relates to the Youth Workshop because there is always a shortfall. Lionel stated that question would be answered during the Executive session.

Zonal Meet Criteria:
Inez: Inez requested there be written criteria established before the zone meets take place so all 4 zones are working from the same standard. When the program first started each zone received $2500 for putting on the meet. Lionel went back to the finance committee and requested $3500 and received $3000. There was a question regarding the $3000 provided for putting on the meet. There needs to be some clarity. Lionel stated it is on a reimbursement bases up to $3000. You cannot put out $1000 and get back $3000. The misunderstanding came in because some felt it was granted for putting on the meet regardless of the dollar amount spent. The zonal reps will come together and present their criteria to the board.

Criteria For Getting Into National Meets Free:
Inez: The board voted and starting in 2010, coaches must be background checked in order to get into the meet free of charge.

Bylaw Change:
Lefty: Lefty requested clarification on board member's terms changing from 2 years to 4 years. Ken Ferguson, the By-law chair states the stagger needs to be placed on a graph to see what works so the majority of the board is not rotating out at the same time. Inez stated there is a committee which consists of Inez, Linda P., Ken F., and Kenny E. The committee will get together and work on the terms.

Inez thanked the board for sending Dorothy to be with her during the passing of her mother.

Dorothy and Lefty thanked the board for sending them to California to represent the board at the Southern Association Banquet. Dorothy mentioned that the Association purchased the book by Ms. Williams for their athletes.

Bob made a motion to purchase 55 books as a gift for the World Youth Team of athletes. It was second by Mary.
The motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 4:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda E. Ellis
USATF, Youth Division Secretary