

USA TRACK & FIELD
MEN'S LONG DISTANCE RUNNING COMMITTEE

Executive Committee Minutes

Houston, Texas

Thursday, December 3, 2015 3:00 p.m. – 4:50 p.m.

Attendees: Executive Committee Members: Edwardo Torres (Chair), Tomy Sitton (Acting Secretary), Phil Greenwald (Treasurer)

Guests: Bill Roe (LDR Division Chair), Bob Latham (MLDR Championships Subcommittee Chair), Nedra Alexander, Tom Bernhard, Blake Bolden, Paul Carlin, John Elliott, Jim Estes (USATF Director of Events and Retail Operations), Greg Evans, Cathie Guisard, Tracy Hutcherson, Neale Johantgen (USATF Events Coordinator), Teddy Mitchell, Gene Newman (Chair, USATF Road Running Technical Council), Jane Parks, Matt Weingardt (USATF Events Manager)

The meeting was called to order by MLDR Committee Chair Edwardo Torres who performed a roll call. He then introduced the members of the MLDR Executive Committee who were present, USATF staff members present, and others.

Minutes: Tomy Sitton (Acting Secretary for MLDR Secretary Mark Winitz who was unable to attend) requested that the Executive Committee approve the MLDR Executive Committee's minutes from the 2014 Annual Meeting. They were unanimously approved as submitted.

2015 USATF Bylaws and Regulations Amendment Proposals: Tomy Sitton (who was also acting as the MLDR representative on the USATF Law & Legislation Committee for MLDR rep Mark Winitz) mentioned that there were a few amendment proposals to the USATF Bylaws that were relevant to LDR and that they would be discussed by the L& L Committee. He did not go into details at this time.

Housekeeping: The Chair mentioned that he would send reimbursement forms to MLDR Executive Committee members who needed to be reimbursed for Annual Meeting travel expenses and were not covered by their USATF Associations or other means.

Men's LDR Primary Mission and Goals: The Chair stated the mission and goals of the MLDR Executive Committee: (a) to focus on high level performance and make Olympians, (2) to focus on the USA Road Running Circuit (national LDR championship series) to help support our elite and emerging elite athletes competitively and financially.

He mentioned that the bar had been raised on the men's Olympic Marathon Trials qualifying standard and that, to date, there were 171 men who had met the standard either by the half marathon or the marathon.

Note: The IAAF subsequently lowered Olympic Games qualifying standards in early December and USATF subsequently followed suit by lowering the U.S. Olympic Marathon Trials qualifying standards, allowing additional athletes to gain entry.

A long discussion incurred, led by Chair Torres about finding a format/way to ensure that athletes' Olympic Marathon Trials qualifying performances are not missed, or overlooked. The possibility of calling on athletes to "self report" when they met a standard was discussed. No specific procedure to do this was decided upon.

USA International Teams (roads and cross country) – 2015 Review: A report was given about the 2015 Pan American Games, Men's Marathon in Toronto, Canada. It was extremely warm, and the course was a cycling course that was very demanding.

Teddy Mitchell discussed the successes of the World Jr. Championships and the transportation hardships for the athletes getting to the meet destination.

Bill Roe reported on the 2015 U.S. Cross Country Championships in Boulder, CO and the athletes' successes there.

2016 U.S. Olympic Marathon Trials Update (Feb. 13, 2016, Los Angeles, CA): Gene Newman gave a brief update about the Olympic Trials course. He described the course, which is composed of a smaller loop at the very beginning and then a larger loop that the athletes will run a number of times.

Chair Torres mentioned that the JW Marriott will serve as race headquarters. A second hotel is located six miles away as an overflow hotel. Edwardo told the committee that there were 171 men that attained the qualifying standard for the Olympic Trials Marathon.

Jim Estes (USATF Director of Events and Retail Operations) mentioned the increased sponsorship with USA Track and Field. He mentioned that increased sponsorship for the 2016 Marathon Trials has resulted in a prize purse increase of \$100,000 (\$50,000-men, \$50,000-women) over the 2012 Olympic Marathon Trials in Houston. A total combined prize purse of \$600,000 is offered in Los Angeles.

Chair Torres described the representatives from the Men's LDR Committee who will serve at the 2016 U.S. Olympic Marathon Trials and their roles.

The Chair also described the Jury of Appeals and their responsibilities at the Olympic Marathon Trials in Los Angeles. He also explained the 2016 Olympic Marathon Trials advertising and logos regulations for uniforms which are available via USATF's athlete information [web page](#) for the Olympic Marathon Trials. Logos must fall under certain measurements. Bob Latham will serve as the head Referee at the Olympic Trials Marathon.

2015 USA Road Running Circuit/Championships Review and 2016 Preview: Bob Latham gave a review of the 2015 Running Circuit, highlighting the fact that a prize purse of \$301,650

was awarded for the nine races combined. Mr. Latham explained that the 2016 USA Road Running Circuit/Championship schedule was not complete at the time of the meeting.

2015 USATF Rules Amendment Proposals Phil Greenwald reported that there were no noteworthy rules amendment proposals that needed to be brought up to the Men's LDR Executive Committee.

2015 Men's LDR Committee Awards: Chair Torres announced the 2015 award winners selected by MLDR:

Robert E. DeCelle, Jr. Memorial Award (Male Long Distance Runner of the Year)
Jared Ward

H. Browning Ross Long Distance Running Merit Award (National Level) Contributor)
Steve Mather and Carolyn Mather

Scott Hamilton Award (Association Level Contributor)
Don Kardong (Inland Northwest Association)

Allan Steinfeld Award (Contributor of the Year Within a Road Race Organization)
John Tope (Bix7, Freihofer's women's race, Cleveland Marathon, and others)

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded. Chair Edwardo Torres adjourned the meeting.