ASSOCIATIONS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
THURS, 12/05/2013

Karen passed out the Volunteer Registration Form and Ethics Items for Volunteer Checklist and the Volunteer Handbook. The form needs to be completed and returned; all forms turned in were submitted to Desiree.

Richard presented the proposed budget for 2014 for $25k. $11k of the budget is for the Association Visits by the Region Reps.

Background Screenings – Some people have up to 5 background checks in one year and this is costly. Karen asked Willie to discuss with the Board the possibility of using some of these other background screenings if a person already had a current one done.

Accreditation Standards – much of the process will be automated for 2014 and should be much more accurate. The timeline is changing, going from a two-year process to a one-year process. The process will start in January with the subcommittee making a first pass, and then sending the results to the Associations for review so that any identified errors may be fixed. Then the Accreditation subcommittee will do a final review and notify the Associations of any PFIs needed. Any PFIs will be due back in mid July and then the subcommittee will review them at the Workshop. There will be another review in November. Associations will also be told ahead of time if their voting rights are in jeopardy of being suspended, instead of learning that at the Annual Meeting. For 2013, 2 Associations were suspended – Alaska and Wyoming. There will be a meeting at the Convention to determine what is to be done with Wyoming, since they have been dysfunction for years. There are also 8 Associations who will need to provide all organic documents. The National Office will also provide specifics as to what exactly is lacking, if anything, in any of the standards. Also, going forward, the events will be pulled from the calendar system, so it will not be necessary to send this in manually any longer.

Change and Communication team – Karen, Dave Shrock, Monique White and Randy Hopkins. Max will poll this group for any proposed changes. Once all questions are answered, they will determine how the communication will go out. The change will be very specific so the Associations will no longer be surprised when something is changed.

National Office Update – Permanent membership numbers are now in place and the Youth Committee is satisfied with how it will work. The Association identifier was removed since it was not completely accurate. Most Associations are not using physical cards for any reason. This has led to a green option, where you can elect to not receive a card at all. There was an issue with the cards not having an expiration date. This issue will be sent to the Change and Communication team for discussion. Legacy emails (president, secretary, etc.) should be implemented in the Associations so there is continuity. This would be done through the National Office email system. The Club Management section will not allow a coach to use the

address info for all members. The Organizational Members will also be separated from the Clubs so that it is not as confusing.

Process for determining 10-year athletes and issues found – this has been a manual process using a spreadsheet up until now. The list will now be given to us from the High Performance Team and will be pulled from all International teams.

Law & Legislation – The package is on the website in the document area. L&L will put together a template to send to all Associations to ensure the grievance language is properly covered. The NABR panel is also discussing putting their names forward as panel members for the Associations. There is a proposed legislation to allow on-line voting and our position is in favor of it, but there will need to be a caveat in place that requires a secured mechanism. Pacific has been doing it for 8 years and has never had an election dispute. At a meeting of the Pacific Association, they have additional nominations from the floor and then close the nominations. They have a 30 day time frame to vote electronically; for those who cannot vote electronically, they may send in their vote via mail. A committee of 3 validates and counts the ballots.

Workshop – Two workshops are slated for this Annual Meeting – Ethics and LDR championship requirements. The summer workshop received good reviews. Discussion followed on whether or not to move the August Workshop to right before the Annual Meeting, just like the Youth Workshop. Straw vote indicated the executive committee to be in favor of this idea and Karen will bring it to the body at the General Session.

Karen introduced Maria Johnson as our new representative from Sports Science. Maria is a registered nurse and asked us to bring her any issues we may have. Maria will give a more detailed presentation at a later meeting.

Regional Reps – we have rolled out volunteer recognition awards (a deserving volunteer from each of their Associations that will be recognized at the Annual Meeting). There is also a Regional Rep page on the National Website. Currently it's called Regional Newsletters.

Gene Newman – Road Race Technical committee will come out to any Association for free to train people to do course certification. They will also present at next year's Association Workshop in Sacramento.

Coaches Ed – They want to do 50 Level 1 schools in 2014, but only 6 are scheduled so far. A lot of Coaches Registry background screenings will expire this year. The Level 1 instructors will now have to do an apprentice year and will have to pass a new 25 question test to recertify. Level 2 will have a rewrite by Aug, 2014. A minimum 25 question test must be passed with an 80% minimum grade.

General Session – Friday, Dec 6, 2013

Change and Communication Team – newly formed committee that will meet for the first time this convention. This year we had many challenges because of a lack of communication and this new committee hopes to improve all communication so that it is timely.

Organizational Services – there will be a meeting to determine what will be done with Wyoming since none of the bordering Associations wants the territory. The number of Championships required for the Accreditation Standard increased this year, and due to complaints, we will look at it again. However, L&L already approved a reduction from 21 to 20.

Permanent Membership Numbers – members will no longer get a new number every year. The number they get for 2014 will be their number for life. When you renew in subsequent years, you will no longer receive a new card. You can also 'go green' and select not to receive any membership card the first time. You can also print your membership card from the 'myusatf' portal. If a membership lapses, it will still get the same number when it is renewed. USATF is trying to find ways to save money so it can be better used to find ways to increase membership. 65% of the membership has opted to go green. It costs about $2.50 to send out the card. The National Office will now send out a renewal reminder notice. The renewal rate is about 50% and the goal for 2014 is to get the rate to 70%. Also, the membership application now requires an email address for anyone under 50. This will be discussed further due to youth concerns.

On-line Sanctions – has been well received from the Event Directors. There are no major changes planned, but the National Office is in the constant mode of looking for improvements. A communication will be sent to Associations explaining how to list their championships correctly on the calendar so they can be pulled from that database for the Accreditation Standard for number of championships held.

Club Memberships On-line – one of the biggest issues with clubs is the entering of the coaches addressing info for all athletes. This will no longer be allowed. Also, all adults working with the children in the club need to be a member and background screened.

2014 membership goal is to get to 160,000 members, which would be the largest membership increase ever. We will be targeting new members, especially the long distance running community, by creating better benefits and sustaining programs at the Association level.

L&L – Lionel talked about the proposed L&L changes regarding the Youth Championship meets. The original legislation has been pulled and a new document submitted after both parties came together and worked out an agreement to avoid a floor fight on Sunday. The Electronic Voting issue has been tabled until next year. Scott will also be available if anyone has question regarding Association by-laws.

Chair Awards – Scott Erwin, Dave Shrock and Patti Petesch were presented with the Chair Awards for 2013.

Workshop – the two sessions for this meeting are Drafting an Ethics Plan and How to Meet the Championship Requirements. The August Workshop will be Aug 15-17 in Sacramento. However, we are proposing incorporating the Workshop into the day before the Annual Meeting starting in 2015. This would offer a cost and time savings to all.

Board of Directors Update – Willie reminded us that it is his last year being on the Board and he is looking to find people interested in filling his position. This position represents Masters as well as Associations. Masters and Associations will submit 3 names and the Board will then vote on the person to sit on the Board. However, if you hold any position in your Association, and are elected to the National Board of Directors, you must resign the Association position.

Coaches Ed – Many Associations are concerned with Level 1 schools being conducted in their Associations without their being aware of them. There will now be a form to complete if you want to put on your own Level 1 schools or if you want the National committee to conduct it. Starting in 2014, all Level 1 coaches will need to be recertified by purchasing an on-line eBook and taking a test. At this time, if you are a Level 2 coach, you would not need to recertify at for Level 1.

Associations General Session 2

Horace Crowe winner for 2013 is (Sharon Preece, West Texas).

RRTC – They are actively seeking new course measurers as they are an aging group. RRTC.net will give you access to the course manual. There is a list of state certifiers, as well as a list of the resources required. However, you really need a mentor to get started, and they are willing to put on a workshop for free for your Association. There is no set charge for what a course certifier would earn; ballpark is $400 for a 5k course. A marathon is $2,000. Generally speaking, $100 per mile.

Grants – The Board has approved the additional $5,000 for grants for 2014, taking us back to the full $20,000.

L&L – requirement that each Association have a dispute coordinator has passed. Electronic voting has been tabled. Reg 10 was modified and passed. A few other minor amendments were passed and a couple more tabled.

Coaches Ed – Planning on 50 Level 1 schools for 2014. After Aug, 2014, Level 1 coaches will have 5 years to take the test; otherwise they will be retired. Level 2 format will be changed slightly and you will have to pass all the sections. Level 3 must be completed in 6 years. There will also be an essay portion to complete. Scholarships are available to attend the training sessions. Question was raised if Associations can put on a Level 2 school themselves. It would be a viable solution, but you would have to come up with the numbers to justify the cost, which is at least 40. You also need 4 or 5 instructors. mlydum@gmail.com is the contact person. Level 2 is about 3.5 days, but there is discussion on allowing some work done ahead of time to shorten the length of the school. Dave Shrock coachshrock@gmail.com and Matt Lydum are the contact people for Level 2. The National High School Federation also has an on-line course that is a good introductory program. In some states it is a required course. USATF members get a discount.

Jack Wickens, (runjackw@gmail.com) Vice Chair of USATF Foundation discussed that they have created a video game called Run With Us. It is designed for a teacher to start the game, watch an elite athlete, and the kids get up and do the exercise they just saw. Ashton Eaton, Lolo Jones, Brian Clay, Joanna Hayes, to name a few. 15 athletes. Hundreds of thousands of kids are learning our events through the simulated game. They expect there will be 500,000 kids playing this game every day. We need to promote this to the schools in our areas. There will also be a home version in the future. It is available to every teacher in the country for free. www.runwithus.org where you will be switched to gonoodle, where the runwithus game is the favorite. The game is compliant with all the standards and is approved by the Dept of Ed, as well as other organizations. USATF is also raising funds all over the country to fund actual athlete visits. They are also doing live events with the elite athletes in attendance. The attendees at the meeting were in agreement that the Association should be at least notified when one of these events is being held in their Association.

Wyoming Association – the bordering Associations met to discuss what can be done to help get Wyoming back up and running. The bottom line is that the Wyoming athletes are welcome to participate in the bordering Associations. Wyoming did have 13 sanctioned races and has about 165 members. They will continue to baby step Wyoming along and keep progressing toward getting more done. If we figure out how to help Wyoming, perhaps we can figure out how to help Alaska.

Championship standards – we need to really look at revising this standard to use other championship events to reach the 21 championships rather than just the specific events listed. Also, neighboring Associations can co-host events to put on a viable championship. We need to change for the better for everybody.

Operating Procedures – A motion was made and seconded to accept the revisions to our Operating Procedures, which was unanimously approved.

Submitted by,
Linda Bommicino, Secretary