Minutes
2016 USATF Annual Meeting
Orlando, FL
Women's Long Distance Running General Session #1

December 2nd, 2016, 8am-9:50am Eastern

Attendees (for one or more sessions), Executive Committee: Kim Keenan-Kirkpatrick (Chair), Kathy Nary (Vice-Chair- International Competition), Mickey Piscitelli (Vice-Chair- Awards and National Championships), Camille Herron (Secretary/Athlete), Lesley Higgins (Athlete), Nina Kuscsik (Law & Legislation), Darren De Reuck (National Championships Chair), LeeAnn Meyer (National Championships Committee), Julie McKinney (Developmental Chair), Nancy Hobbs (MUT Chair), Bill McKee (Rules Committee), Amy Yoder-Begley (Member), Katie McGregor (Athlete)

I. Call to Order/Welcome: Women’s LDR Chair, Ms. Kim Keenan-Kirkpatrick, convened the meeting after 8:00am.

II. Introduction of Attendees: At the request of Ms. Keenan-Kirkpatrick, she had everyone in attendance introduce themselves and their role with USATF.

III. Approval of 2016 General Session Minutes: Women's LDR Secretary, Ms. Camille Herron, made the 2015 General Session Minutes available online in the document library for review. Ms. Mickey Piscitelli made a motion and Ms. Kathy Nary seconded to approve the minutes. The minutes were unanimously approved.

IV. WLDR Awards: Ms. Piscitelli (WLDR Vice-Chair for Awards) talked about the two awards our committee gives: the Runner of the Year Award and the Marja Bakker Contributor of the Year. Ms. Aliphine Tuliamuk - Runner of the Year. Objectively given to the top point scorer of the USA Running Circuit. Greg Meyer - Marja Bakker Contributor of the Year. Mr. Meyer is the longtime elite athlete coordinator for the Fifth Third River Bank Run 25K. Ms. Tuliamuk and Mr. Meyer won’t be able to attend the awards breakfast. Both were elated to receive their awards.

V. Coaches Advisory: Liaison, Ms. Mary Shea, spoke on behalf of the Coaches Advisory Committee. She noted they want to keep coaches participating and qualifying for certification and be current with information and their certification. For Level 1 certification, it will expire in 3-4 years’ time, if you haven’t gone up to the Level 2 certification. Coaches should check the Coaches Education website for more information: http://www.usatf.org/Resources-for---/Coaches/Coaching-Education.aspx

There was discussion about the “Learn by Doing Clinics” to stay current with coaching techniques. They are looking for different venues to expand our base—how do we get more people involved?
As noted by Ray Lapinski (CT), we want to use our connections to college coaches. There was discussion of how to keep the 6-20 place XC/track collegiate athlete finishers engaged and continue to be involved in the sport.

VI. **Olympic Trials**: For the 2016 Olympic Marathon Trials, we selected our six best athletes, despite some bumps in the road. At the 2016 Olympics, we had three women and two men finish the top 10. It was discussed that we need more safeguards to protect and support the athletes. There would be more open discussion about the 2016 Olympic Marathon Trials at the Joint Sessions.

VII. **USATF Event Coordinators Introductions**: There was introductions of our Event Coordinators who were present at this Session, including Adam Schmenk (Managing Director of Entertainment Properties and Events), Zack Raubuck (Event Coordinator), and Lindsay Toussant (Events Coordinator). Matt Weingardt is also our Events Manager.

VIII. **2016 Championship Review**: Mr. Darren de Reuck (WLDR National Championships Chair) gave an overview of the Championships in 2016. He proceeded to go through the list of Championships and winners. Results for the USATF Running Circuit can be found at the following link:


IX. **2017 Upcoming Championship Bids**: Darren proceeded to mention all of the accepted bids for 2017 so far, which can be found in the following link:

http://www.usatf.org/groups/EventDirectors/bids/openBids.asp

X. **Redoing Bid Application**: Kim discussed redoing the bid application and updating it appropriately.

For the future, there will be a computer-based bid process. A bid platform is in the works.

It was discussed what rules and duties of our liaisons could be included as part of the bid packets.

XI. **World Marathon Team Selection**: Our 2017 World Championship marathon team selection procedures are already available online, which includes a window of Jan. 1st 2016-April 24th 2017; only performances run on IAAF certified courses are eligible for consideration; and, if an athlete finished in the top 10 at an IAAF Gold Label marathon they are eligible.


For the 2018 World Half Marathon Championship, we hope to have the selection procedures in place soon and posted online.

XII. **Election Candidates**: Kim discussed having more advance notice of when we know people are running for a position. She suggested there should be a 30-day window in our ~Committee procedures or in the Rules and Regulations to apply to run for Chair. This would allow those running to campaign appropriately, know who they are campaigning against, and allow us to vet the candidates.

Ray Lapinski asked if there’s a way for us to know in advance who’s eligible to vote for LDR Chair/other LDR positions? Barb Palma, Officials/Member Services, was present and said she could
help us get a list of eligible LDR voters for the later Joint Session. There was discussion on how in the past, those acting as a proxy for someone else would submit a letter from their Association to the Secretary, who could then go to Member Services by “late Friday to have any corrections made in voting.

We expect to have two candidates running for the Board of Director position—Don Lein and Fred Finke.

Mike Scott and Teddy Mitchell each gave a speech on their candidacy for the LDR Division Chair position, followed by questions from the membership.

The election will be Sat. morning in Salom 1.

XIII. **2020 Olympic Marathon Trials:** Kim discussed what our committee discussed in Executive Session. Our women’s committee generally tries to be consistent with the men’s committee, including when the window will open and location (preferably both men and women at the same location). We also try to be consistent with the IAAF, including the time window and time standard (marathon times can’t exceed those set by the IAAF).

We’re looking at tightening the half marathon standard. We only want the very best athletes to qualify through a half time. Ideally, the men’s and women’s half standards would be equivalent (use Mercier calculator). Molly Huddle was used as an example—we’d want someone of her caliber to be able to qualify through a half time and recover in time for the Trials. If she was forced to run a marathon, it would interrupt her schedule and possibly hinder recovery. We want to limit the qualifying time window for the half marathon. Our preference is to move the standard to 1:13 for the women, which equates to 1:03 for the men.

Kim mentioned that we welcome other ideas and comments. Member, John Elliott, discussed stats from the 2016 Olympic Marathon Trials qualifying lists. Should we continue to have a half marathon standard? As Kim mentioned, we want a tighter half standard so our very best elites like Molly Huddle or Galen Rupp can qualify and be able to recover in time, without having to run a marathon prior and interrupt their season/recovery.

There was a motion by Kim to recess, and it was seconded by Vice-Chair Ms. Kathy Nary. The meeting recessed at 9:31am until the Joint Men’s and Women’s LDR Session at 10am.