

## Annual Meeting 2023

I attended all Association meetings, workshops, and some remaining Masters Meetings we did not have representation at, if I was available.

Association meetings began at 1pm on Wednesday the 29<sup>th</sup> as opposed to the regular meetings starting Thursday.

1. In the Association meetings, Dave Schrock discussed this year is an Olympic year and the National office as well as the local associations need to use the extra media coverage to our advantage to get people excited about track and field. There are other sports that are taking kids & adults away from our sport. Pickleball is very popular, and cities are building courts for that. Soccer and football are huge and big money is being spent building facilities for them.
2. Go to city planning meetings
  - a. Know local representatives
  - b. Suggest building “short” tracks (200m opposed to 300m) it works for inner city and is cheaper to build
3. There was a presentation on “Thinking outside the box for money”:
  - a. Look for national, state and private grants
  - b. Request donations for “Giving Tuesday”
  - c. Grocery store designations to USATF
  - d. Advertising at local high schools such as a banner on the field
  - e. Find local ways to advertise for free, such as community or local newspapers/newsletters
  - f. Donations from Lions club
4. The national office does have a grant program for officials and youth clubs
5. Build relationships with City, county and school boards.
  - a. Use ex athletes of schools to advocate using their fields for practices or meets
  - b. Private schools have a smaller amount of people to approve using tracks, etc, than public schools
6. Lots of discussion on how to save money at meets
  - a. For security, try National Guard
  - b. Partner with PAL (Police Athletic League)
  - c. Use USATF insurance leverage facilities, \$15 to add a name
7. Ways to spread the word about USATF & meets
  - a. Tell local radio stations about big meets, State & Regionals
8. Finding facilities for practices or meets
  - a. Create multi year contracts with facilities to lock in a place to hold meets and hopefully secure a better rate
  - b. Do you have club coaches that coach at a school with a track?
  - c. Do you have coaches with an established relationship at a school ?
  - d. Long Island has partnered with schools and do not pay for facilities. They to a meet with “special ed” kids that’s all about Inclusion and mental health

- e. Have a para meet in conjunction with our meets
9. Lots talk on how to grow membership
    - a. Have board meetings available via zoom and in person
    - b. Create information pamphlets for target groups (elementary, HS, middle high)
    - c. Host all comer meets
    - d. Hold special clinics such a Run Jump Throw, field event
    - e. Hold an informal meet for kids to come out an give T & F a try for fun
    - f. Spread the word that “track” is a foundational sport and will benefit kids in soccer, football, etc

### **Accreditation**

Colorado is fully accredited

We came in 5<sup>th</sup> overall for 2023 Association Awards which takes into factor increases in members, clubs and sanctions

### **Misc News**

- Lots of discussion about the Amendment changes for Sunday’s voting
- Safesport, who is your Safesport administrator?
- Attended the President’s breakfast and was recognized for the Task Force I mention later in my report. Also, get to hear questions and concerns Associations have for the National Office
- National office is focusing on 3 tasks forces this year
  - Getting more Officials
  - Protecting and supporting NCAA Athletes
  - How do we get youth interested in our sport keep them in it

### **Bylaws**

Remember to keep your Bylaws up to date and available on website. I talked with Dan & Randy and they are working on necessary updates and changes

### **Presidential Task Force**

Last year I joined one of three task forces started by Vin Lananna. I was on facilities with 3 other association Presidents. Our objective was to provide associations with opportunities and support to develop short- & long-term solutions for facilities. Throughout the year we have had several meetings amongst ourselves and with Vin. We also presented it to Max & Renea at the National Office. We created a survey that was sent out to the associations regarding facilities. At the Annual Meeting we did a presentation on Thursday to Associations with our findings. It was very informative to learn what other associations do to secure practice and meet facilities. We got some great insight and ideas that will be helpful across the board. We will sit on a committee to be a liaison between local associations and the national office. The national office has, for the most part, agreed to a dedicated person at the national office that will assist us.

## **Elections**

National Association committee transitions. Many open elected positions will be available in 2024.

They discussed how local association elections should be run and gave out guidelines on things like posting information in proper timeframe to the members.

I had a "Happy Hour" with most of the Colorado attendees. Did some socializing and discussed the Officials achievements, some meeting items of interest and the vote on Sunday.

It was a very successful meeting. I enjoyed networking with other Associations. I always learn a lot and come away with ideas that Colorado can implement.