

USATFCO Annual Meeting
September 8, 2019
meeting minutes

Meeting called to order at 2:05pm and quorum was established, the meeting agenda adopted and approval of minutes from previous meeting completed.

Officers Reports:

Treasurer Tom Southall – Idle monies in the USATFCO account have been transferred to savings in order to accrue interest. Meet entries and facilities costs have been slightly down over the last indoor and outdoor season. We are grateful to C.H.S.C.A. for allowing us to use their Quickbooks license free of charge to keep our finance records. The financial reports will be posted on the website as stated in our bylaws.

President Elaine Keel – We were appraised of the situation that occurred over the summer where we were advised by the National Office of a possible loss of association accreditation. We were able to avoid the suspension however it would be prudent for us to be more proactive in the future. This means that all officers must be sure to renew memberships and other certifications like SafeSport as soon as possible.

The National Office offered 10 associations' additional support and services in certain areas of local administration. USATFCO has its accreditation and showed that we no longer need those supports so we will no longer be one of the 10 state associations using that assistance.

The Annual Meeting is coming up December 5-8. This year we will be moving to Reno, NV. Remember this year the workshops have been moved to Thursday and no longer held on Wednesdays. So delegates will no longer need to be there 1 day early.

Mens T&F – We have been building a relationship with CSU Pueblo however for a short term in the future we will not have access to their facilities as they are improving them in order to be able to possibly host the Colorado High School State Championships for 1A-3A and their NCAA Divisional Championships in the future. We are also focusing on building our numbers of eligible athletes in this division.

Race Walk – We will be hosting a race walk clinic in order to gain renewed interest in the discipline. The clinic will possibly take place next spring most likely in the month of May. There is an instructor from PA who has hosted many successful clinics in the past and is offering to do one for USATFCO.

Mens/Womens LDR - The 10K championship has been completed and prize monies distributed. We also had our Mile Championship as well. Their annual meeting was held prior to the start of today's meeting and they are well on their way to preparing for next year's 7 race circuit.

Masters LDR – Working with local race directors and embedding our championships into those races have been working very well. There are 3 races left in the series for 2019 and all will be part of larger races.

Masters T&F – There were approximately 115 athletes in attendance at the Championship meet held annually at Colorado State in August of 2019. The indoor meet championship will be held in February of 2020 at UCCS's indoor facility. Next years Rocky Mountain Masters Games Championship will be the 40th Anniversary. (Vice Presidents' notes – We should definitely celebrate this achievement with a 40th Anniversary T shirt design and possibly hats. Maybe include the shirt in the entrance fees and have the hats be paid for by those who wish to order them. At minimum it would be nice to have a medals designed for 1st-3rd place winners that commemorate the 40th. We had a talk about recognition **see later notes** this is one special form along with the shirts of recognition that can go a long way.)

We also talked about the possibility of moving the Championship that usually takes place in late August or September to earlier in the summer as most associations have theirs prior to national masters championships and this could improve our draw of athletes. The issue we face is that we have limited facilities in the state that have the proper throwing venues attached. We also take advantage of the officials we have available for this meet. We will continue to discuss the possibility but as of this date we expect to continue with the site and date on schedule.

Youth T&F – We have seen a slight increase in numbers especially among the high school ranks. It had been over 5 years since we had been able to use facilities in the CCSD and thanks to Tom Southall and others we were able to go back to the Legacy facility which worked well for our outdoor JO and a second meet. Hopefully this partnership can continue for the future. XC season will begin at the end of September. We have a slate of 4 regular season meets and a championship. The indoor season will begin the first weekend in January. We are hoping to get as many Saturday dates as possible from the Air Force Academy which will increase our participation numbers and avoid the Sunday conflicts.

Discussion was made on the possibility of moving some events around during the meet like the 60m and 400m. This discussion will be tabled for the indoor season conference call. Last if any coach has a question about F.A.T. during a meet they are directed to go to the meet director or designated official not the timers themselves.

Officials – Our officials once again make the offer to come out and perform certification for a group wishing to become officials. (Vice Presidents note- consider reaching out to Aurora Public Schools as I have witnessed first hand the problems they have with their volunteer officials during their middle school and high school season. They are woefully underprepared and maybe the USATFCO could gain 10-20 new officials by offering a clinic at their district stadium and adjoining high school. Their officials would benefit by learning proper officiating and ultimately which is the most important the athletes they serve will have a better experience in competition. This is something that could be done with other districts if successful.)

We have approximately 90 officials in the state, 9 of which have been selected to work at major national championships this year. We would like to consider purchasing or at least joining the

associations grant in order to get software and hardware to go to electronic recording for the field events. The cost would be approximately \$2500 for tablets and the FieldLynx software.

There was an inquiry about the Rocky Mountain State Games and USATFCO officials participation. We do make a call for all officials available to help unfortunately for some time the event has not been well run and our officials have been reluctant to participate. Hopefully with one of our own officers serving on their board we will be able to get feedback to their organization and improve relations and the event for the future which may in turn attract more USATFCO officials.

Paraolympians – This years 5280 Meet had almost 100 athletes and 15 of them were veterans of the Armed Services. (Vice Presidents note – I just wanted to thank Tom for his service to the veterans. I was able to meet with a few of them that were working with Tom learning the throwing events early this spring and it was a pleasure to meet them.)

In 2020 and 2021 the Adaptive Sports USA Junior National Championship will be held here in Denver. The track and field portion will be held at Denver South High School July 12th-17th. The request has been made to offer some extra training so officials will be credentialed in officiating Para events. This may include some training sessions and lodging for some officials.

Athletes Advisory – The request has been made for a few USATFCO officials to come down to the Pueblo YMCA to present information to the Silver Sneakers program. These are active adults aged 50 and over. We could possibly gain more masters athletes as well as new officials so we will get with Kenneth and coordinate a date to go down and present them with information about USATFCO and the fitness benefits joining could bring them. Kenny, Quinn, Tim (Vice Presidents note sorry Tim taking minutes got my brain mixed up and I think I called you Jerry Donley during the meeting at one point.) and possibly a representative from officials will go down when the date is chosen.

Budgets for 2020:

Masters LDR, Officials, Paralympians, Mens/Womens LDR, Masters T&F have submitted their 2020 budgets. Mens and Womens T&F are encouraged to submit their budgets ASAP.

Reno, NV Annual Meeting:

Registration is open so if you are planning on attending please make sure you register as early as possible. You can not reserve a room at the meeting hotel until you have your registration for the meeting completed. You are requested to attend the meetings you are directly responsible for representing first prior to going to other meetings. Please refer to the associations document on travel to make sure your bookings fall within the parameters for budgetary purposes. If you are not able to attend please designate a delegate to represent the association now so Elaine can forward those names to the National Office well ahead of time. Last, please send all reimbursement documents to Tom using the Legacy Account email. Send everything all at one time please and do so by Jan 1, 2020.

Wyoming adoption:

The Wyoming association is no longer accredited and the surrounding states have been asked to allow athletes to become members of their associations. Wyoming athletes if approved would be adopted into the CO association as full members. A discussion was had with many areas well represented throughout the room. (Vice Presidents note – The point was raised that there might be someone who thought a WY athlete taking the place of a CO in the JO Championship would be unfair. The major opinion in the room was that track and field is one of the few remaining sports that thought partly team oriented is heavily individual. Every individual has to lace up their spikes and compete and win or lose that is competition in its purest form. If you lose a spot doesn't matter where the person is from CO or WY you lost fairly. At one point I think I said if those that cant understand that this is ultimately about the young athletes who want to compete but cant because of a situation beyond their control and cant understand that if you lose you lose can kick rocks. Yes that may have been a little harshly put and for that I apologize. These athletes would be full fledged CO athletes not WY athletes who are just from WY so if they win and bump a CO resident its of no consequence because they earned it. Again my apologies if my kick rocks statement was a little harsh to you. Lastly, earlier in the meeting I forgot to follow the proper motioning and voting procedures as dictated by Roberts Rules. My apologies as I was serving as secretary taking our meeting notes so I was a little distracted.)

A vote was held and the results were as follows. The approximately 40-90 athletes that may join our association will be granted membership by a vote of 9 in favor and 3 not in favor. The motion carries.

Athlete Recognition Banquet:

Elaine along with Andy Martin re-proposed the idea of us doing an athlete banquet. We have talked about this in the past however we have not been able to get together a committee of individuals who are willing to get this major event off the ground.

Andy made a proposal informing us about other USATF State associations that he has organized this type of event for and the type of cost involved. It was noted by some that cost is one of the major drawbacks as well as the time to devote after doing so many other things for the benefit of the association. We don't want to have an event where we spend money but the return and the amount of attendees is too low.

It was decided that we would allow Andy and Elaine to put together a brief outline of the associated cost and other information and disseminate that to us as soon as possible so we can further discuss things at the next meeting or conference call.

In the meantime it was suggested by the vice president that was also look for possible committee volunteers and that we think of other ways to begin a recognition program for USATF CO that might be less intrusive on peoples time and cost less as right now we have no system of recognition in place. We do strongly feel that recognition of our volunteers, officials and athletes is extremely important and if a

banquet is not the way to go at the moment its possibly something to shoot for in the future. In the meantime however we will be looking to increase our recognition practices.

Other Business:

Randy will email the board shortly with 2 recommendations for possible changes to our bylaws. The first is in reference to wording around how we establish a quorum and the second is in relation to having at minimum 2 people be a part of financial dealings within the organization.

If you would like to nominate an athlete for Female Sportswoman of the year you can do so by letting Tom Southall know. Mrs. Christel Donley and Anna Hall were names that were brought up. Another possible name would be Arria Minor who is also going to be going to the University of Georgia along with Anna Hall. Minor had a stellar high school career at Denver East.

Association Grant proposal is due at the end of the month. LDR has made a proposal for electronic record keeping and the officials will also piggy back on this grant. The due date for the grant proposal is 9/30/19

Run, Jump, Throw is something the national office would still like us to do. Elaine will begin talks again with District 11 in CO Springs and other stakeholders. If you would like to be a part of this please let her know.