



**USATF South Carolina Annual Meeting  
Lexington County Library, Lexington SC  
September 22, 2019 at 3:00pm**

The meeting was called to order by Association President Brian Jordan at 3:00pm. A quorum was determined to require six representative clubs. The following clubs were represented: Columbia Running Club, City Myrtle Beach, Caminata TC, Greenville TC, Utopia Running Club, Mount Pleasant TC, Florence TC, Myrtle Beach TC, Storm TC, Lexington TC and Quick Striders TC. President Jordan requested that everyone sign in.

**1. Approval of 2018 Annual Meeting Minutes**

President Jordan introduced consideration of the 2018 Annual Meeting minutes. After a brief discussion, a motion was made to approve the 2018 Minutes as presented. Motion Ian Whatley, 2nd TaMara Sloan. Motion unanimously approved.

**2. Treasurer/Finance Committee Report - President Jordan, Finance Committee**

President Jordan announced that Wayne Lacy, the USATF-SC Treasurer, was not able to attend this meeting but indicated that the Finance Committee is available to present the report and answer questions. The report was prepared and approved by the Committee based on documents provided by the Treasurer. Association Secretary, Susan Heiser, indicated that the Treasurer is not and has never been the Finance Committee Chair. The Committee acts independent and along with the Treasurer to approve large expenditures and oversee finances. The report showed how much money USATF-SC earned last year, includes a proposed budget for 2020, and a Fee proposal that National had asked USATF-SC to review. The Treasurer's figures are included as they have been every year along with a report from the Finance Committee. In fiscal year 2018 USATF-SC ended with \$ 88,399 in the bank. 2019 fiscal year ended with \$125,057 in the bank, with a net income for the year of \$ 36,667. President Jordan indicated that all the Treasurer's financial information was attached to the report including the profit & loss statement, reconciliation, and proposed budget for 2020.

A motion was made to table the Treasurer report until the Treasurer can be available to present the report himself along with the audit. The Fees were moved to new business. Motion Linda Ellis, 2nd Valerie Jacobs, Motion approved.

A request was made that the budget be considered by a conference call instead of an in person meeting. President Jordan agreed that that can be considered.

**3. Athletes Advisory Report - Ian Whatley, Chair**

Ian Whatley presented his report and stated that Tyrell Richards will be one of the South Carolina association athletes representing us at the National Convention. The other will be Amber Campbell if she is available.

**4. Communications Report - TaMara Sloan, Chair**

TaMara Sloan presented her report, stating that over 50 email blast were sent out in the past year, two Newsletters were published and the committee is trying to post more to the USATF South Carolina Facebook page. She further stated that the Remind app is also used to get

important information out during events. The Committee will be preparing a newsletter in the next month and another one by the end of the year. She clarified that two newsletters per year are required for Accreditation.

President Jordan also clarified that the Association has met all of their Accreditation requirements for 2018 and are in good standing for 2019.

#### **5. Coaches Education Report - Ian Whatley for Coach Andrew Allden**

Ian Whatley presented the report stating that the year was very successful. The L-1 Coaches Education class held at USC in December 2018 had 52 participants with 8 scholarships given to USATF-SC Coaches. There will be another L-1 at USC this December and scholarships are being requested for approval. There will be an L-2 in Florida this December. Two L-2 scholarships were granted last year and this year the committee is requesting approval of at least three L-2 scholarships and at least five L-1 scholarships. To receive a scholarship, members must apply by the deadline, then the committee reviews the applications. We aim to make sure that awards are given to people who will be useful in the USATF system and not exclusively high school or college coaches. Club membership and USATF participation are also considered. Applications come out in October and will be posted on the USATF-SC website. There will be an email blast with a link to the applications. The L-2 will be a reimbursement which requires the applicant to pay fees upfront then submit for reimbursement after they have attended the event. The L-1 fees are paid directly to USATF. Coach Allden is proposing that the L-2 scholarship cover tuition, room and board but not travel. The L-1 scholarship would cover only tuition. All of the details for the L-2 course in Florida are on the USATF site. Go to coaches education and it will explain the details of what is being offered.

#### **6. Long Distance Running (LDR) Report - Susan Heiser for Joyce Welch, Chair**

Secretary Heiser presented the LDR report stating that the LDR Association championships will be held on November 16th in Lexington South Carolina. Details are posted on the South Carolina webpage. For this event, the Association is partnering with Lexington County and their Run Hard Lexington half marathon.

#### **7. Membership Report - President Jordan for Sheri Lacy, Chair**

President Jordan presented the report stating that the Association currently has an active membership of 1,805, including 1,279 Youth members, 210 Open members, and 316 Masters members. Of the membership, 1,498 identify as athletes, 185 as coaches, 113 as officials, and 183 are parents and other members. As of September there are 53 active clubs and 17 clubs that are no longer active. 62 sanctions have been approved for this year.

#### **8. Mountain Ultra & Trail (MUT) Report - Jennifer James, Chair**

Jennifer James presented her report stating that the South Carolina MUT Championship will be held on October 5 at Lake Conestee Park in Greenville as part of the Get Out Greenville Festival. She indicated that the Association will be partnering with Square One Events and Greenville County Parks and Rec to include our championship as part of the Swamp Rabbit Urban Ultra 30K and 50K. The MUT Committee is still looking for officials for this event. Officials applications are on the table at the front of the room and will be forwarded by the officials certification chair to all South Carolina certified officials.

#### **9. Officials Certification Report - Norman Venyah, Chair**

Norman Venyah presented his report stating that there are a couple things to stress for association officials. First, to make sure all officials are receiving the National Officials newsletter. The newsletter contains important information and key dates coming up for Officials to apply to work National Championships for next year. The deadline for this is October 18th at midnight. He suggested that interested officials look through the national newsletter for the

information on how to apply. Secondly, if you are an official that is 40 years or younger there is an opportunity to apply for the young officials grant to work some of the big championships, like Hershey's and a National Masters. This is a good experience to see how National Championship meets work and to prepare to work more National competitions. If you are under 40 it is worth applying. The information to apply is also in the latest National officials newsletter and on the USATF website.

Venyah went on to say that Patricia Frye, the officials chair, couldn't be here today and asked him to share some information about a questionnaire that she and Cindy Slayton from Georgia are working on. They are looking at ways to recruit more implement inspectors and provide training. If you are an implement inspector please contact Pat to participate in the questionnaire.

Venyah then presented Officials Awards to Sylvia Vandross, Ian Whatley and George Illingworth. These three were chosen for their hard work at the JO Association and Region 4 meets as well as the work they do outside the Association. Outstanding Service Certificates were awarded.

There was a question and discussion about providing benefits or incentives to encourage participation in the young adult officials program. This is a National program for officials who are under 18 years of age.

Venyah also answered some questions about officials recertification for the 2021-2024 Olympiad. This process will begin in 2021 and there will be new tests prepared. The process will be the same as 2017, and as outlined in the officials newsletter and includes a retest, sending your resume, application, evidence of SafeSport, background check and current membership. Background checks are good for two years and SafeSport must be renewed every Olympiad. He stated that Coaches wanting to become officials can apply now and if you have current SafeSport and background checks, you would just need to take the officials test. For the next Olympiad a new SafeSport certification will be required with an annual renewal.

#### **10. Racewalk Report - Susan Heiser, Chair**

Susan Heiser presented her report stating that last October South Carolina hosted the National One-hour Racewalk Championships at Furman University. It was very well attended. There were 40 entrants from all over the United States, this was the largest participation in this event in the past 10 years. Financially, the Association broke even on the event. South Carolina had a good showing with Jessica Heiser-Whatley winning the women's national champion title. A new World and US National Record was set by 90 year old Jack Starr from Pennsylvania. The Association track championship was held in conjunction with the Ram Classic at Columbia International University (CIU) in March. There was also a race and clinic at the Mount Pleasant Track Club developmental meet. She indicated that the Committee would like to partner with more youth developmental meets to provide racewalk opportunities to our young athletes. Coaches or athletes who are interested in racewalking or anyone interested in hosting a clinic please contact the racewalk committee.

Heiser then noted that the 2019 SE Region, South Carolina, North Carolina and Georgia associations one hour racewalk Championship will be held in December in partnership with CIU. The goal is to increase participation in racewalk throughout South Carolina. The numbers participating in racewalking are always low so the racewalk chairs in Georgia and North Carolina try to coordinate and combine our championships to increase numbers and share cost. This helps us all meet our national requirements for accreditation, which requires that we host a certain number of championship events including racewalks. Racewalking is hurt by the

fact that it is not an event that is competed in high school. New York has a high number of female athletes participating in the racewalk at New Balance Nationals because it is contested in the high schools. Committee member TaMara Sloan indicated that at the 2019 New Balance Outdoors there were 19 female competitors 17 were from New York one was from Maine, and one was from South Carolina. Heiser continued to say that the best way to increase racewalk participation would be to include it as a high school event. Greenville County offered it at their County Championships at a few select meets. North Carolina is trying to add racewalk to their High school events as is the state of Georgia. So, there is some interest with a few groups of people trying to get racewalk in the high schools but it's difficult convincing the Coaches. It is easier to coach than people generally believe. It has a particular technique but the endurance factor is the same as other long distance events. USATF-SC racewalkers have produced a number of racewalk coaching and technique videos that are free on YouTube. Go to [tinyURL.com/walk2020](http://tinyURL.com/walk2020).

#### **11. Youth Report - Steve Mullaney, Chair**

Steve Mullaney presented his report stating that the Youth committee is currently looking for new committee members. There are openings that need to be filled and we would like to get some nominations or applications for the two openings we have. Anyone who is interested should contact Steve Mullaney at [youth@southcarolina.usatf.org](mailto:youth@southcarolina.usatf.org). The goal is to get the two positions filled in October so they can help with the Junior Olympic cross country meet. The meet will be in Aiken this year. A blast was sent out and it is posted on our website. It will be at a new facility, Generations park, on November 9th.

Mullaney continued with his report saying that the year was pretty successful for their two primary events, cross country and outdoor track and field. The 2018 cross country meet was in Darlington and attendance was a little low for both meets primarily because of where nationals were contested. USATF National says that the Youth numbers have gone down this year across the country. Typically they have 10,000 to 12,000 at National JO's, but this year they had roughly 6,000. In contrast there were 15,000 at the AAU meet this year. There's a variety of factors affecting this, particularly the fact that nationals was held in Sacramento CA. It was noted that a lot of South Carolina athletes do both, AAU and USATF. Some parents like AAU because of the single year age groups for awards. Mullaney and others discussed the survey from National office regarding the issue of single age groups. It went to coaches and is only applicable to Youth indoor and outdoor. There was discussion regarding the proposal to split the age groups. Some thought it would be good to have single age groups for the younger athletes. Coach Valerie Jacobs pointed out that it's important to the athletes that they go to a National championship. They don't care if it's AAU or USATF and the parents will choose to take their children to AAU meets because of the single age groups. Generally we have a greater number of athletes qualifying for AAU than USATF. Mullaney continued, it is important that every member who is a coach complete the survey. Coach Kennedy cautioned that we look carefully at the proposal. He recalled the days when only the top three from each region were forwarded to nationals. Now the top five qualify. Mullaney noted that the survey will be used for the proposal that will be voted on at the national annual meeting.

Mullaney continued presenting the financial portion of his report, indicating that in 2018, South Carolina had 313 athletes participate in the association cross-country meet. That is down from 374 who competed in 2017. Because the South Carolina high school league has shifted their cross country championships to later in November, we will be offering waivers to those athletes who will be competing for their high school team. The waiver will be posted on the USATF-SC website. The 2018 cross country meet was a financial success, with a net profit of \$2,232. This is over double what we made in 2017. For our 2019 track and field meet we had a net profit of \$10,247. Additionally, South Carolina hosted the Region 4 meet which contributed over \$15,000 net profit to USATF South Carolina. One of the reasons we were more financially

successful this year is because the committee implemented a Request For Proposals (RFP) process which requires competitive bids for our championships. This allowed the association to select the most beneficial package for our athletes and membership. We have people bidding on location, timing, T-shirt vendors and other vendors. So this year, even though participation was down with 650 athletes, we made a larger profit than we did last year with 1099 athletes. With the RFP process bidders are covering additional expenses in order to rank higher in a bit process. For example we didn't pay for carts, timing, ice, tent, chairs, police, or EMT services, as we have in the past. This is a great savings to our association. We also got 100% of the gate proceedings. We were fortunate to have five different bids for our track and field meet this summer. We are currently putting out the RFPs for the 2020 cross country meet. We are looking to announce the location of next year's cross-country meet on November 9 at our Association cross country championships. We are wanting to consider RFPs for events one year in advance. Parents particularly like this because it gives them ample time to plan their vacations and other activities around our events. For example, we will be in Spartanburg for the 2020 JO track and field meet June 26 - 28, 2020 at Spartanburg High School.

The youth report was corrected to show cross country meet on November 9 not on the 19th as shown in the report.

It was noted that open and masters participation in a cross country Championship is very low. Coach Anthony Washington suggested that we combine our Open and Masters Championships with the region meet and suggested that Georgia is interested in doing this as well.

## **12. Volunteer Report - Michael Flourney, Chair**

President Jordan introduced Michael Flourney, stating that this is a new committee required to implement the National SafeSport requirements. Coach Flourney explained that the National safesport volunteer waiver process requires documentation of volunteers working our meets either as restricted waiver volunteers or three-step compliant volunteers. Roughly 100 volunteers work our association meet and about 50 worked the Region 4 meet. Explanations for the different categories of volunteers is outlined in the report. Three-step SafeSport compliance requires that you have USATF membership, a current background check and current SafeSport training certificate. Only the three-step compliant volunteers, like coaches and officials, are allowed to have unrestricted interactions with the athletes. The waiver volunteers must work under the supervision of a three-step compliant volunteer, Coach or Official. Several coaches noted that they sometimes see volunteers work an event so that they can coach their athletes. Officials Certification chair, Venyah, stressed that volunteers working an event should not be coaching athletes competing in the event they are working. The lead officials for each event are responsible for making sure that no coaching advice is given by the event volunteers. If you see this happening, bring it to the attention of the lead official for the event.

Vanessa Brown asked if the volunteers were paid. Youth Chair, Mullaney responded that the waiver volunteers are not paid but the handful of 3-Step Volunteers who worked the championships did receive a stipend approximately 2/3rd of that given to Officials. Last year the official stipend was raised to \$75 per day for our championship events and this year we gave the 3-step volunteers a stipend of \$50 per day for their time and expertise. We had five 3-Step volunteers work our association meet and eight who worked the Region 4 meet. These volunteers worked in lead roles of responsibility such as coordinators for hospitality, packet pick-up, awards etc. Last year National requested that all volunteers working championship meets be three-step compliant. Many associations had trouble meeting this requirement so this year National worked with the US Center of SafeSport to allow restricted waiver volunteers to work events no more than three times a year. The waiver volunteers are also required to work

under a three-step compliant supervisor. This is why it is important for our association to have sufficient 3-Step volunteers working our championship events. So, last December, we put together a program to encourage members to become 3-step compliant. This program involves providing a stipend to help cover the costs of obtaining 3-Step compliance. The costs to them are: 1) the \$30 yearly membership, 2) \$16 bi-annual background checks, and 3) free 90+ minute SafeSport training.

Due to time constraints, President Jordan moved agenda items six and seven to the end of the agenda and proceeded with agenda item eight.

### **13. Proposed USATF-SC Bylaw Amendments**

President Jordan stated that the proposed bylaw amendments were posted on the association website and a blast was sent over 30 days before this meeting. Comments were received and the draft bylaws were revised based on those comments. The proposal in the packets shows the original proposal as well as the suggested modifications.

Jordan continued saying that the first set of amendments are in Article 2 Definitions. Three new definitions are proposed; item 4 - Constituency, 5 - Member in Good Standing, and item 6 - USATF 3-Step Compliant. There was much discussion involving item 5 - Member in Good Standing. Samuel Kennedy stated that this is about personalities and stacking the deck. He told a story about getting a notice for delinquencies fees that he had thought he had paid but was so busy with track meets he'd forgotten. He continued that there was a notice from national about someone with a SafeSport violation in South Carolina, this proposal would not allow that person to participate. Linda Ellis then spoke saying that Article 2 item 5, is vague and makes no provision for someone who is making an honest effort to reimburse the association. She gave her opinion that people who owe the association money should be a legal matter not a by-law matter. Kenneth Funnie then spoke, stating as USATF-SC membership chair, he was given no computer, no phone, and no printer to use except his own. He went on to say that anytime anyone had to register, they would go through the system. The only thing that he would do is verify the athletes. So he doesn't know about all of this other stuff, he never got any money. Vanessa Brown clarified that Mr. Funnie was referring to a letter he received from USATF-SC saying he hadn't turned over money and other USATF-SC property. President Jordan asked the membership present if they were saying there should be no accountability or responsibility in our by-laws. There was general agreement that there should be something. Jordan continued, saying that there should be standards and procedures spelled out in the by-laws. Coach Jacobs discussed the process she has to go through to gather Club membership fees. Sometimes they come late and it is beyond their control. Jordan pointed out that Article 6 item H, which is already in the by-laws, deals with the delinquent payment of fees. Donavan Elmore asked if everything will be done by computer or is anyone going to make a phone call. He explained that he had missed the email about renewing his background check and was almost ineligible to work the JO meet because of this. Jordan said that an email should be sufficient and it is the responsibility of the members to make sure they have a current email address listed with USATF.

Motion to vote on item 5 was made by Maurice Campbell, 2nd by Ja Ja Dumas. Majority voted against adding proposed definition 5 - Member in Good Standing.

A motion was by TaMara Sloan to vote on proposed definitions 4 and 6, 2nd by Steve Mullaney. The members present voted unanimously to approve definition 4 - Constituency, and 6 - USATF 3-Step Compliant.

Jordan then continued with proposed Amendments to Article 7 item A3 and a related amendment to Article 9 item A1. These proposals would allow people running for office to declare in advance of the election meeting and publish a 500 word statement on the

association web-site. Kenneth Funnie asked what would happen if a candidate didn't want to put their information on the website. Jordan clarified that this provision would be in conjunction to the current practice of nominations from the floor. The current bylaws state: "Nominations may be made and must be allowed from the floor at this Association's in person election meeting." This is mandated by National and would not change, but it does not limit the association to only nominations from the floor. It would be beneficial to the membership to be able to get information about who is running for office before the election so they can make an informed decision.

The library announced their closing and so a motion was by T'Mars McCallum to table the remainder of the proposed amendments to another date. 2nd by Linda Ellis. The members present voted unanimously to table the remainder of the proposed by-law revisions to a date uncertain.

Secretary Heiser, reminded members who are interested in representing the Association at the National Convention should sign up on the sheet up at the front of room. Also if any USATF-SC Members have passed away, please send that information to the secretary email.

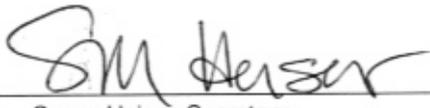
The motion was made by TaMara Sloan to close the meeting, 2nd by Ian Whatley. The meeting was closed at 4:55pm by President Jordan.

In attendance:

leisha Bodrick  
Vanessa Brown  
Francoise Caldwell  
Maurice Campbell  
Kimberly Clinkscale  
JaJa Dumas  
Linda Ellis  
Donovan Elmore, Jr  
Michael Flournoy  
Megan Fulks  
Kenneth Funnie  
Ronald Geohaghan, Sr  
Susan Heiser  
Jessica Heiser-Whatley  
Victoria Heiser-Whatley  
George Illingworth  
Valerie Jacobs  
Jeffery Jacobs  
Judith Johnson  
Brian Jordan  
Samuel Kennedy  
Jennifer James  
T'Mars McCallum  
Steve Mullaney  
Peter O'Boyle  
Anna Owens  
Donald Patrick  
Jackie Robinson  
TaMara Sloan  
Lawrence Terry

Norman Venyah  
Diane Walker  
Anthony Washington  
Ian Whatley  
Stephanie Whatley  
Steve Williams

Meeting notes typed by USATF-SC Secretary Susan Heiser, October 20, 2019

Signature  \_\_\_\_\_  
Susan Heiser, Secretary

Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Brian Jordan, President