

Meeting was called to order at 2:07 p.m.

A sign in sheet was passed around. Forty five people were in attendance. (See attached sign in sheet)

Members of the board of trustees in attendance included Rubin Carter, President; Keith Harris, Vice President; Erica Sousek, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President; Suzie Pierce, Secretary; Jim Clark, Treasurer; Colin Morrissey, LDR; Absent were TammyRa Jackson, Youth Chair; and Mike Maryott, Officials Chair.

There was a motion for the approval of 2016 annual meeting minutes as they are listed on the NebraskaUSATF.org website. Motion was approved. 2016 Minutes are accepted.

Rubin Carter then called for new business, the removal of any listed item or the resequencing of any business on the agenda. No changes to the agenda were requested.

#### President Report – Rubin Carter

Rubin Carter, President, presented a report that reflected the past, present and future. He noted the concentrated efforts on many in the attempt to grow the sport in Nebraska, specifically in the areas of masters track and field, officials and the LDR community. He also noted that there is still much to do in these two communities of our association. John McClung was recognized for his award of Eastern Zonal Coach of the Year. His full report is attached to the end of this document.

Jim Clark, Association Treasurer opened his report with his history of receiving the books that represented the association history. He received two boxes full of receipts, check stubs, bank statements and a few reports. Jim found this situation alarming and disconcerting. The earliest records were from 1999. There were skeleton records available for those early years. In 2006, 2007, 2008 the records are complete. From 2009 to 2014 the information is limited, most is missing. In 2015, Keith Harris had everything in the box for financial records. Taking all of this information in an attempt to create budgets, Jim plugged this information into a computer accounting system in the attempts of creating a system that can be perpetuated in the future.

He filed the 2015 tax reports earlier this year. 2016 is in process and should be filed by the end of this month. The 2017-2018 Biannual report has been submitted to the Nebraska Secretary of State and is posted on our website.

Because there is are no receipts for the 2017 Nebraska Youth Junior Olympic track meet income or expenditures the treasurer's report cannot be ratified at this time. Joyce Grisxby voiced a concern that the "receipt" that was sent with their check for working the JO meet is not a receipt and doesn't tie to anything. There was no disagreement from the Treasurer. The final point of concern from the Treasurer was that the funding reports from 2014 showed that there was \$80,000 in accounts for the association. When Jim took over, there was \$72,000 and the current balance is roughly \$60,000, Jim received an envelope from Cindy Santiago at the meeting that held roughly \$4,000. to add to the associations proceeds. With expenditures increasing and the incoming not growing, it will not be long before the association will be in financial dire straits. This is why the concern to know where every dime is being spent is so very important. Following this last point of contention, a motion was made to delay the ratification of the Treasurer's report pending the investigation and discovery for the 2017 Youth Championship meet's expenditures. The motion was seconded.

Discussion was held on the Treasurer's report regarding the filing of the taxes. Keith informed the group that Hays and Associates had told him that because the proceeds of our association were less than \$30,000 that there was no reason to do a full tax report. We simply had to fill out a card that Hays and Associates sends to the IRS. Hays and Associates then created a 990 EZ report that was posted to the association website to satisfy the requirement from the national office that the form was completed. Hays and Associates was paid \$150.00 to file the card and create the 990 EZ report.

Clubs – Wayne Reynolds was not in attendance – no report.

Coaches – Jon McClung presented a report that is available online for perusal. Key notes from the report is that starting in 2018, in order to be listed on the coaches registry, all coaches must have a certified training course under their belt. The developmental training that is available on the website is acceptable. There must be two certified coaches per club. Motion was made to accept the report. The motion was seconded.

There was discussion about all coaches being allowed into the national meets. Last year in Kansas, the meet limited the number of coaches that received

coaching credentials and were allowed into the meet for free. There is belief that this was a LOC decision and did not come from the national office.

\* LDR – Colin Morrissey gave a report of the championships that have been held. The results are listed in the report that was submitted online. Colin noted that no funds were offered for top finishers this year because of the lack of a budget. Without knowing how much was available, he didn't feel comfortable offering funds he may not have had access to in this manner. Scholarships were given out to high school runners. There were three awards given out. Taylor Somers was the female recipient of \$500.00. There was a tie in the male recipients between Seth Hirsch and Milo Greder, each receiving \$250.00

Another item of note was Logan Watley sent an email to Colin stating Logan's club, Lincoln Running Club, will no longer require members to obtain a membership through USATF as they see no value from the membership expense. Colin's own club, Team Nebraska, he was shocked that the Shamrock Shuffle 8k Road Race Championships held in Chicago there was no accountability for USATF memberships. There were only two registered athletes on the team, but the entire team was competing as a team in the USATF championship as a team. Also they had full access to the USATF tent and had results scored. One of Colin's points is that the membership for adults has many different races held by groups that don't require USATF membership in order to compete. For our own local cross country championship, he's trying to get the word out but at this time has zero entries. He is hoping that there will be a push as the event nears.

Discussion was brought up that the LDR chair has not reached out to the club chairs to help advertise the races. There were multiple clubs that offered to help get the word out. Also a question was asked about the scholarship that is given out to high school seniors as to whether if membership decreased to the point that if memberships were no longer being created, would the scholarship go by the wayside. Another point was asked as to whether USATF membership was required of the high school recipient. The answer to that was 'no'.

\* Open/Masters – Trip Reynolds was not in attendance but did submit a report online.

\* Membership/Sanctions – Cindy DeSantiago presented the numbers for the association. As of September 8<sup>th</sup>, there were 1750 registered members in the

association, this is an increase from 1604 from 2016. The majority of our numbers, 1246 to be exact, come from the youth community. Cindy noted that this increase could be to the fact that the national meet was held in Lawrence Kansas this year. The number of officials and open and master athletes continue to decline.

There are 34 registered clubs or organizations in the association, 25 are mainly youth clubs. There are nine LDR clubs.

Currently there are 41 sanctioned events on the calendar for 2017, compared to a total of 42 sanctioned events last year.

The national office created an incentive program in an attempt to have more events sanctioned and sanctioned properly.

\* Officials –Mark Kostek presented the Officials report in the absence of Mike Maryott. Mark let us know that there has been a point of emphasis on getting more officials certified, however, it should be noted that there usually is a reduction of the numbers after an Olympiad ends. Mike and Mark meet about once a month to discuss officiating in USATF. One topic is the clinics for becoming a certified official. They recognize that one deterrent to the certifying process seems to be the Safesport program. There has been discussions between Mike and Mark about potentially using collegiate computer labs or other such facilities to get the Safesport criteria done at one time. There is a clinic scheduled at UNL for mid November. (exact date not given).

There is also talk of initiatives being put forth to recruit younger officials. There will be stipends available to engage to officiate more on the national levels. This initiative starts at the IAAF level and works its way down to local levels.

\* Race Walk – Erica Sousek reports that the association race walk races (all levels) will be held on September 23<sup>rd</sup> at Lincoln Northeast High School. The clinic that was held during the Lincoln Youth Track Club meet was attended by a few people, however there were others that were not able to attend due to event conflicts. One point Erica wanted to make was that there were no race walk competitors this year at the state meet because kids feel like they are being bullied by other athletes while the race is being contested. People need to understand that NAIA schools offer scholarships to race walk participants, so she hopes that clubs will encourage athletes to compete in the event as well as prevent the bullying aspects.

\* Webmaster/Records/Communications –Darwin Gushard that the website layout will not be moved to the USATF style at this time, but will remain as it has been, until he hears that the change is mandatory.

Records - Darwin has gone through all of the track meet results for the season and has identified all new pending Association records to be recognized. For the most part, he believes he has everything gathered.

We were also reminded that the Association has the ability to send targeted emails to its members. You simply need to send him the content of the email you want distributed and the community in which you want it directed.

Mr. Gushard also commented that as a form of communication, the association should consider putting advertisements in the Nebraska State Track meet publication as well as other community papers to get the word out about association activities. These ideas were considered agreeable by the attendees.

\* Youth – Nesi Ballew presented youth report in TammyRa's absence. The Junior Olympic meet, hosted by the entire association was held in June. There were 15-25 teams that worked the meet for pay, 2 teams without pay and 2 Husker officials working as well.

The Cross country schedule is online.

The annual Youth meeting will be held on October 8<sup>th</sup>. Time and location are yet to still be determined, however, it will be an afternoon meeting. TammyRa mentioned in her meeting notes that she may have to pay rent in a facility if she cannot find a free location. It was reported that 33 medals were brought home from nationals in Lawrence Kansas:

1 gold,  
8 silver  
3 bronze,  
2 fourth place,  
4 fifth place  
6 sixth place,  
5 seventh place  
4 eighth place

Upcoming meets include national Youth Outdoor meet in Rochester, NY, Region 8 Regional meet will be held in Aberdeen South Dakota, and the Junior Olympic meet will be held in Greensboro North Carolina.

There was conversation regarding which meets were actually 'required' or what the natural progression of the meets through the season as far as progressing to regional and national meets. A committee will be established to determine the criteria for hosts.

### Old Business

\* 2017 Accreditation – Suzie Pierce reported that we passed through in flying colors for the 2016 Annual meeting. There was a few findings on our website that needed to be amended for accreditation for 2017. These were resolved and submitted to the review committee for approval. At this time, we have not heard back regarding any accreditation issues.

Rubin briefly talked about the criteria needing to be established to be considered to Hosting Association Championship (who/where/requirements) using the youth Junior Olympic track meet to establish the criteria of other association meets. There was thoughts that this topic should be moved to the youth committee meeting.

Not appearing on the agenda but being presented, Keith Harris introduced the youth scholarship packet that he put together. He stated that \$500 to a senior athlete from each club based on the criteria in the packet. It was pointed out by several members that this topic was not on the agenda. Nor were they ever aware that the Board of Trustees met to approve the scholarship criteria. Mark Kostek pointed out very firmly that the NCAA is very particular about scholarships and that the association needs to be aware of the potential for athletes returning the funds. Keith also mentioned that we as an association should not be redundant with the LDR scholarship as well as the Association scholarship. It was pointed out that the processes could allow two scholarship amounts to actually be given to one athlete.

### New Business

\* 2018 Budgets – Jim Clark mentioned that because the Treasurer's report could not be approved, the budgets cannot be allocated until the pending investigation/discovery is completed on the youth Junior Olympic track meet financials.

\* Bylaws update from 2016/2017 adoptions were voted upon:

Article 7 failed to pass with a 2/3rds majority vote.

Articles 9, 9B2 and Article 10 were combined into one vote in a friendly amendment brought about by discussion regarding the balance of power if one or two of the articles don't pass on their own. With the friendly amendment motioned and approved, the Articles passes by a 2/3rds majority vote.

Article 10B passed with a 2/3rds majority vote.

\* Selection of 2017 USATF Annual meeting delegates have been identified and assigned to their respective assignments. A full compliment of 13 delegates allowed to us will be in attendance. A change to the bylaws will need to be required as the annual meeting registration opens in August and is tied to hotel room rentals. The September meeting date falls too late in the process to make sure the association has rooms available.

This is the end of business. There was a motion to adjourn. Motion was seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzie Pierce

Secretary