

2009 USATF Convention - Consolidated Report - by Art Klein 1-19-2010

Eighteen delegates were chosen to represent the Pacific Association based on the membership count of over 6000 for the period ending October 31st. The delegates included Irene Herman, Al Hernandez, Fred Baer, Joy Upshaw Margerum, Tom Bernhard, Lloyd Stephenson, Dave Shrock, Joanne Camargo, John Murray, Susan Armenta, Charlie Sheppard, George Kleeman, Dick Connors, Shirley Connors, Maria Castillo and Pope Powell. Art and Becky Klein served as both delegates and as delegation chairs. All Sport Groups, as well as the interests of coaches and athletes, were represented.

In the Opening Session President Hightower introduced the Board of Directors. This was followed by the keynote address delivered by Olympian Bruce Jenner. Afterward, the delegates hurried to their respective meetings ensuring participation in all matters concerning track and field. Based on the individual reports received from the delegates major items of interest are highlighted below.

Masters LDR Committee

- Approved a rewrite of their Operating Procedures. Besides many updates, it was decided that Officers should now have four year terms. The definition of "master" was also clarified as those forty years old and above. The age boundary had been changed to 35 for USATF masters in 2005, and LDR was going to have to adopt it in 2011. This year David Katz convinced the IAAF to return to their definition of 40 yr. old masters for "non-stadia" events, and we were then able to follow. (Both IAAF and USATF still have masters track and field at 35. In this country this includes race walking, but masters track events over 10k are LDR.)
- Jim Peterson gave a substance abuse report: 1) No US positives in Berlin, 2) New WADA list of banned substances and 3) New "Whereabouts" rules
- Stephenson, as member of the Executive Committee, was appointed by the MaLDR Chair to the Rules Committee and will help directly write the Rules of Competition in the future. Nominations for officers voted by acclamation – no changes.
- There are no MaLDR Championships in the PA 2010 .The bid for the 2010 XC Club Championships (Bay Area, Aggies) was rejected in favor of a more lucrative east coast bid. Chair, Glenn Latimer, announced that NYC, Boston, and Houston were the 2012 Oly Marathon Trials bidders.
- PA members won awards:
Male Athletes of the Year: 50-54 Brian Pilcher, 55-59 Tom Bernhard
Female Athlete of the Year: 70-74 Barbara Miller
- AADP (Association Athlete Development Program) standards: 30:30 10k – men; 35:15 10k women, upper age limit – 29

Rules Committee

- This was not a Rules year, so dealt only with tabled items and IAAF conformity. 86 amendments to the Rules of Competition were reviewed. Most were compliance items with changes adopted by the IAAF at their Berlin meeting in August. A number of significant changes adopted: a no false start rule for open competition and the Intermediate and Young Men and Young Women divisions, the addition of a sub bantam division (starting with the 2011 national championships), allowing alternate formats for events as long as not more liberal than current rules, a change in tie breaking rules such that ties for first place may exist particularly in vertical jumps, allowing chalk or suitable substance on discus, the requirement of use of ultrasonic wind gauge for world records, the simplification of wind requirements for combined events, the requirement of fully automatic timing for records in the 800m plus some changes for distances in 60 and 80 plus hurdles for men and implement weights for 75 plus men.

IAAF Technical Official Committee

- Covered recertification of National Technical Officials, the upcoming testing of Level 2 Race Walk Judges and remarks on the ITO testing in Paris in October.

Officials Committee

- Covered an update from each of the subcommittees as well as the awards. Charlie Sheppard was a finalist for the John Davis Award for his work with wheelchair athletes and Shirley Connors was a finalist for the Horace Crow Award for Field Officials. Dick Connors was inducted into the Officials Hall of Fame as the fifth Pacific Association official to be so honored. Past inductees include Horace Crow, Leo Costanzo, Lorrie Maynard and George Kleeman. Sue Polanski was elected to fill out the term for Treasurer. Stephenson also conducted a clinic on "Developing an Eye for Safety as one of 8 officials' clinics.
- It was noted that PA had the largest number of currently certified officials in the nation. One third of these officials are women and that 89 of 307 officials are non- Caucasian. Ms. Grimes feels USATF officials are making some progress in Affirmative Development, but some associations are doing better job than others.

Association, WLDR, Officials and RRTC, Club Council

- Association meetings were held based on zones. PA is in the West Zone. Zone representative, Harry Simonis lead the discussion on changes on membership transfers, radius on association limitations for membership, introduced a resurgence of Wyoming Association and financial responsibility of the associations. We are to post our 990 form on line so all members to see. We can redact the tax id information, but must have this post. The accreditation committee is evaluating 19 points and the website is being graded. All background check is being done by the NGB with the exception of the Pacific. The next workshop in 2010 will be in Buffalo New York.
- Membership benefits were presented by Andy Martin and where on the USATF website association forms and sanctions can be downloaded. (85-88% complete on the online sanction process.) Soon, USATF will be doing all the sanction applications and will email a copy to the local organization to review before approving. Insurance for clubs and events was detailed by Jim Elias. Now, after his resignation it is unknown who will be replacing his position on insurance and risk management.
- The WLDR had a report for Dr. Dave Martin regarding the Castor S, So African issue. I was able to receive a limited copy of his small book/paper on Transgender and Competition, who he co-wrote with Jill Pilgrim and Will Binder.
- At the Officials Hall of Fame meeting guidelines were solicited regarding deceased officials and nominees from the prior year that were not selected. Gordon Bocock is the Awards Chair and Herman is on the Region 5 awards team.
- At the Road Running Technical Council David Katz and Herman presented the sanctioned and wrap around policy package to the RRTC again that both are in effect as stipulated and that they will be covered for road measuring and certifying during sanctioned and non-sanction events for general liability. The council unanimously voted in favor of being a certified official. The council set guidelines and training to bring in new officials and to assist in increasing USATF membership. RRTC measurer will bypass the local associations and be certified by the National Officials Committee Certification Chair, Jim Flanik.
- Baer and Herman made a presentation on the National Club Championship being hosted by the PA on July 9 - 10 at San Francisco State University (called "Battle by the Bay"). Bob Rush discussed the historic Crystal Springs XC course and offered to shuttle athletes there for a cool down run and preview.

Major USATF 2010 Competitions (partial list):

- USATF indoor nationals move to Albuquerque , Feb. 27-28.
(Other meets on the Visa Championship indoor series are:
Millrose Games, Madison Square Garden , New York , Jan. 29
Reebok Boston Indoor Games, Reggie Lewis Center , Feb. 6)
- USATF outdoor nationals will be at Drake
There will be two USA meets on the new (14-meet) IAAF Diamond League circuit:
(Reebok Grand Prix, New York , June 12
Prefontaine Classic, Eugene, July 3)
There will be a USA vs. Jamaica dual meet – a 1-hour sprint meet TV show.

Major International 2010 Championships (partial list):

13th IAAF World Indoor Championships, Doha , Qatar , March 12-14

38th IAAF World Cross Country Championships, Bydgoszcz , Poland , March 28

24th IAAF World Race Walking Cup , Chihuahua , Mexico , May 15-16

Note: The IAAF Continental Cup will replace the World Cup (which started in 1977 as a predecessor to the World Championships) and be held in Split , Croatia , Sept. 4-5.

(The old term was confused with the soccer World Cup held the same year.)

There will be 4 teams: Americas , Africa , Europe , Asia-Pacific, with two entrants from each team in lane events through the 1,500 and 3 entrants for the longer races; no more than one entrant per country (except in relays).

- Change in qualifying period for (2011) T&F World Championships – will begin Oct. 1, 2010, with exception of relays, 10K, marathon, walks, combined events, which will remain at Jan. 1 (2010).
- Future T&F World Championship meets will have no more than three rounds in any event (but there may be a preliminary round in events, such as the 100 meters, for those athletes who do not have a qualifying/entry mark (such as the single entries for some IAAF member countries). Evening sessions of the World championships will be limited to 2 _ to 3 hours (maximum).

Important junior / youth dates:

Qualification for Youth Olympic Games, Houston, April 3-4 (for athletes born in 1993 or 1994)

First Youth Olympic Games, Singapore, SIN, Sept. 17-23 (athletic events).

13th IAAF World Junior Championships, Moncton, Canada, July 19-25.

2012 Olympic T&F Trials - Eugene

Schedule/days still being developed but will likely be held over the two weekends, with dead period during the week – during which the Junior Nationals will likely take place.

For the 2012 Olympic Marathon Trials: New York, Boston, and Houston have submitted bids.

Open Men's Track and Field

- The main discussion centered on the selection of team staffing and the new procedures. Under the new procedures, team staffing for the major teams, i.e., Olympic Games, world outdoor and indoor championships and Pan American Games, will be selected from a pool of candidates. Basically, this is no difference than before. Also, idea that a coach who is selected as the Head Olympic Coach could come back again was turned down by the Men's Committee.
- It was decided to go back to an "A" and "B" standard as qualifiers for the Olympic Trials. This year, the qualifying starts on October 1, 2010.

Coaches Advisory Committee

- Committee asked for a \$15,000 budget for the upcoming year. Most of the money will go to coaches for advanced learning. The learning will be from Country to Country, with the best of the best sharing their training and ideas.
- The no-fault start will not be used in the combined events and in masters and youth, except for the high school-age athletes. The IIF would like to see the height of the women's hurdles moved up to 36" so that it is more of a technical event.
- If you are a member of USA Track and Field, you are also a member of the NACAC Coaches Association and will soon be receiving their Newsletters and Tech Bulletin.
- At the end of the World Track Championships, a World Track Clinic was held with coaches from all around the world in attendance. The clinic's was set up so that they could learn from one another. Dr. Joel Vigel was very impressed with their work on what they called, "lactate dynamics."
- It was decided that more coaches should have a voice in the Committee. Nominations were held and a new Board was selected. The new representatives are: Junior College, High School, Club, and Youth. The new Board will now have 18 members.

- Air Force Coach Ralph Lindeman was elected chair, replacing Terry Crawford.

Sport Performance Division (formerly the High Performance Committee)

- Internal audit on-going to determine how we compare against other world athletes. As we considered a "25-medal nation", what will it take to get to our goal of 30 medals? Proposed is to increase the funding for our top athletes and add two more events to the Grand Prix. Also considered is giving coaches stipends and rewards for those who produce Olympic medalists. The first funding goes to the post-graduate two to three years out, with an "A" or "B" standard, or who should great promise.

Joint Men's and Women's Development Committee

- Committee has gone down in numbers from 60 to 25 individuals who work on improving the developing athletes. The USATF Board dropped from 32 down to 15 members.

Men's Track and Field General Session

- New Rules Changes: There can be no standard higher than the Olympics, a standard for the U.S. trials. For the world and Olympics, no one with the A standard will be in the first round qualifying for the World which will start in October.

Coaches Education Committee:

- Agreed to begin to develop a Level 2 with youth coaching emphasis to be offered at Sacramento's Lions Gate Hotel 1-5 August immediately following the JO's at Sac State.
- Agreed to begin research into creating a blended traditional delivery and on-line Level 1 school. The proposal would be to complete on-line units in sports sciences, culminating with a one day face to face summation lecture period and learn-by-do sessions.
- Elected to reformulate the Level 3 curriculum, to include mentorship requirements.

Masters Track & Field:

- Grants for Masters Groups discussed. Also discussed: 1) Providing implements to all National Meets & other meets if needed and 2) Possible Medical/training Staff for WMA meets abroad.
- Bidding of 2011 Indoor Meet -Albuquerque or Bloomington, Indiana. Awarded to Albuquerque, New Mexico 2011 (vote was 26-25). Agreed on Bloomington for 2012.
- Robert Thomas was appointed to Vice Chair by Head Chair, Gary Snyder. Janet Smith stepped down.
- Promotional Masters Film "Forever Fast", presented by John Oleski, of New England. Other recruiting tool for promoting sport to Masters still in the making.
- Masters Committee did not accept Records from Senior Games--EVEN after USATF office accepted them. New policies to be implemented.

OFFICIALS' TRAINING COMMITTEE:

- Clinics – convention and Nationals: Shirley Connors was involved with putting on seven officials clinics. Shrock organized the Coaching Education clinic sessions and Level 1 instructor's summit.
- Initial Training: Moving along -producing umpires, some field events materials for new officials & soon to be online.
- Advancement Training: Working on uniformity of rules for advancement of an official across the country. Sent out a survey to all certification chairman, working with Executive Committee on compiling information received from all associations related to survey.
- Discussion about UK Exchange program and applications for exchange; Discussion on whether to expand exchange to other countries.
- Working with National High School Association in putting out a Newsletter for high school coaches on basic rules, duties for track and field & how to put on a meet.

Youth Committee:

- Discussion and voting for/about Bantams and sub-Bantams. Pros and cons for having competitions [Nationals] for sub-Bantams and what events should be included. Lead ups to voting for future sites for JO's and cross-country events. Presentation on how to recognize "good" supplements from banded substances. Details: The Bantam division has been split into Sub-Bantam and Bantam Division. The Sub-Bantam division will consist of ages 8 and under and the Bantam division has been designated as ages 9 and 10 only. Only Sub-Bantams 7 or older will be eligible to compete in the regional and national competitions beginning in 2011 season forward.
- Sub-Bantam inclusion into Junior Olympic National Meet: The Athlete must be 7 years old by the first day of the Junior Olympic National competition in order to compete in track meet. This does not go into effect until 2011 season and will not be included in the 2010 Junior Olympic competition.
- USATF adopts IAAF False Start Rule - USATF adopted the IAAF false Start rule for Intermediate, Young Women and Young Men's division. Effective as of the 2010 season there shall be no false starts in those divisions. The Sub-Bantam to Youth divisions will still be allowed two false starts, the first false start being charged to the field.
- The Bids for the national championships were heard and the meets awarded. 2011 cross country Myrtle Beach SC. 2011 JO to Wichita KS. and the national youth championship awarded to Myrtle Beach SC. Sheppard requested that field events Shot, Disc and Javelin be included in the JO at Sacramento for 2010 Inclusion of shot approved. Qualifying procedures in work.

Athletics For the Disabled:

- Kathy Sellers from the USOC reported that 3% of the US population was considered disabled. This is the group that the USOC is looking to get involved in sports. A meet or games to be considered inclusive must have at least 3 events offered to the disabled. The committee agreed to get involved in creating a coaching program to train existing high school and grade school coaches on training the disabled.
- The Disabled coaches that are very interested in sharing their educational video on teaching coaches how to train both physically disabled athletes as well as the intellectually challenged athletes Shrock, Sheppard and Murray are going to proceed on a Disabled Athlete Coaching grant for 2011.

Race Walk Committee

- Discussion on the possibility of receiving one of the \$50,000 grants from USATF for race walking development. Many believed that the funds should be allotted for the youth. Vince Peters, Race Walk Chair, presented the development proposal.
- Site selection committee was comprised of 4 members from various associations. Art Klein was asked to be a member of the committee. The bids for selection were for the 50km, 15km, 20km (road), 10km and the 5km (road) championships. There was also discussion to alternate the 20km championships from the east coast to the west coast.
- Proposal submitted by Armenta and Jolene Moore for senior women's training camp (top 8 along with invited guests.) Camp would include sport science services, nutrition evaluation and planning, 2-a-day-training sessions, sport psychology services and strength & conditioning programs. The response was positive and as a result, an account has been set up through the North American Racewalk Institute to deposit donations for the camp. A matching gift of \$5000 was fronted towards the fund.
- Staff Selection committee was comprised of 4 members from various associations. Becky Klein and Armenta were asked to be members of the committee. Selections included Team Lead and Team Manager for the Jr. Dual meet versus Canada and a Head Coach, Team Manager and Junior Coach for the World Cup race in Chihuahua, Mexico to take place in May.
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Athletes Advisory Committee:

- Discussion was about the possibility of starting an athlete collective that would be a separate entity of USA Track & Field. The athletes would benefit from a retirement fund along with other benefits and services. This concept is still in work.

Other Items of Interest:

- Two different meetings covered the same basic subject with a different emphasis. The Associations Committee entitled their session: "Conducting a Safe Event" minimizing mishaps, injuries and lawsuits. The United States Track Meet Directors Association Committee entitled their session: "Liability Concerns for Track Meet Directors". Shelby Sharpe, a veteran official and an attorney from Texas, was the featured speaker at the meet directors meeting. Sharpe emphasized risk management and taking preparatory steps before a track meet starts to run a safe meet. At the Associations meeting, Mike Price pointed out that track meets should be prepared for injuries and conduct meet in such a manner to cut down on risks. Both men emphasized good preparation of the facilities and equipment was a key and that a thorough inspection of the facilities for safety hazards before the competition was important.

Awards received by our members of note:

- Irene Herman – President's Award
- Richard Connors – Inducted into the Officials Hall of Fame
- German Fernandez – Men's Cross country Runner of the Year
- Magdalena Lewy-Boulet – Women's LDR Runner of the Year
- Jack Leydig – Men's LDR Scott Hamilton Award

All PA delegates pulled together to review the changes to law and legislation, supporting the new Board of Directors and assisting in implementing changes due to the re-structuring of USATF. Our association made a fine presence and did a lot of networking to bring information back to our association to further the goals and objectives of our own strategic plan.