

**USA Track and Field New England Annual Meeting  
Marriott-Newton Hotel  
September 20, 2007**

**Athlete of the Month Program**

Vice-President John Oleski presented the 2007 Athletes of the Month. They were:

<i>September</i>	Eric Blake*
<i>October</i>	Seana Carmean
<i>November</i>	Ayalew Taye
<i>December</i>	David Sinclair
<i>January</i>	Mark Amirault**
<i>February</i>	Grace Watson
<i>March</i>	James Morton***
<i>April</i>	Janelle Kraus
<i>May</i>	Larry Olsen*
<i>June</i>	Paul Low****
<i>July</i>	Abbey Karin Joseph Kruey*
<i>August</i>	Brian Rowles*

\* present to accept award

\*\* father present to accept award

\*\*\* teammate Carroll Blake accepted for James

\*\*\*\*Paul Kirsch accepted for Paul

**Annual Meeting**

President, Ken Robichaud: Ken opened the meeting at 7:28 PM and determined that there was a quorum after inquiring of the Secretary.

Ken made brief opening remarks, noting that the New England Association received a silver level Association Award for 2006 at the Association Workshop.

Managing Director Report: Steve Vaitones made an oral report. He noted that in 2006-7, 70% of members signed up online, eliminating much manual office labor. He noted the good relations that the association has with other associations, coaches' groups and the New England Runner.

Steve told of the association's involvement in planning for the Women's Olympic Trials Marathon, which will take place in Boston in April, 2008. The course which will run in

Boston and Cambridge and will run along the Charles River will be a good spectator course.

The Grand Prix Series selection meeting will be on November 12, 2007. Time and place will be announced later.

Steve has worked with the LDR Committee and its chair Courtney Bird on rules issues.

The Indoor Masters Championships were in Boston in 2007. We will organize them again at the Reggie Lewis track in 2008. In 2009, they will be held elsewhere.

Our own New England Masters Outdoor Championships at Springfield in July, remain popular with the athletes.

The Junior Olympics were held in June at Fitchburg State College. The facility is first class, new and in a central location.

Our track and field programs are fortunate to have two first class facilities for our championships. Our outdoor championships are held at MIT. Our indoor championships are held at Harvard University.

The 2008 Indoor Nationals will be at the Reggie Lewis facility in February. The USATF national staff is very happy with the facility. It has long term plans to use it.

On the national level, Steve is involved in several committees including rules and race walking.

We started background checking last year. Our Vice-President Harry Brooks is the screening agent.

Our dues increased in 2007 with no complaints.

Steve noted that our website is the most active of all the associations. He thanked Justin Kuo and credited him for a great job in maintaining it.

Steve noted that we lost Marja Bakker just 3 weeks after last year's annual meeting. She was an indispensable volunteer. As she faced her death, she stated her wish to have a fund in her memory for youth athletics. The Marja Bakker Youth Fund now has over \$20,000. Spending is overseen by several BAA staff members, our youth chair and Steve.

Treasurer's Report: Gary Snyder, our acting treasurer was not present. Steve noted that we need a full-time treasurer. The reports are incomplete. Steve distributed profit and loss sheets. He noted that we ran a surplus. We have \$200,000 in funds on hand. We earn \$6-10,000 per year from the master's indoor meet. This year it wasn't as high

because of higher costs. The interest from the \$200,000 investment was not included on the profit and loss sheets.

### **Reports**

*(Some were passed out. Others will be posted on the association website)*

**Background Checks:** Harry Brooks spoke briefly on the program after handing out sheets. The program began in December, 2006. The national office noted that procedures will certainly change in the first few years. Some of the questions we've had have not received answers because they present situations not covered by the current procedures. Currently, we are doing head coaches and assistant coaches dealing with youth.

**Long Distance Running (LDR):** Vice-President Jim Garcia spoke about the Grand Prix series. He noted that the timing of the races don't always work out the way some would like, but that is because of the nature of the selection process. Races are encouraged to bid. The rank and file USATF New England members on hand at the meeting select the races after presentations. He noted that the Groton race was back on the list after an absence and that the Harvard and the Westford races were on for the first time.

**Cross Country (XC):** Bill Newsham, the XC chair outlined the program. He noted that the Codfish Bowl is the upcoming Saturday. In 2006, the Mayor's Cup attracted the top US middle distance runner, Alan Webb. The Youth Open Junior Olympic race in Amherst attracted over 450. The BAA women's team won at the Club National Championship race. Bill noted the upcoming XC races – Topsfield on September 30, Wayland on October 7 and Amherst, NH on November 4.

### **Elections**

#### **Sports Chairs:**

The following individuals were nominated for the following positions:

<i>Men's Track and Field</i>	David Callum
<i>Mens' Long Distance Running</i>	Courtney Bird
<i>Women's Long Distance Running</i>	Sue Maslowski
<i>Master's Long Distance Running</i>	Skip Cleaver
<i>Master's Track and Field</i>	Mike Travers
<i>Cross Country</i>	Bill Newsham
<i>Race Walking</i>	Justin Kuo
<i>Mountain, Ultra and Trail</i>	Paul Kirsch
<i>Youth</i>	no nominee

The president called for a motion to close nominations. A motion was made, seconded and passed. The president called for a motion for the secretary to cast one ballot for the individuals nominated for the respective sports chairs. A motion was made, seconded and passed. The slate was elected.

The board will fill vacancies for association office with qualified candidates.

An attempt will be made to find a youth chair. That individual needs to be committed to youth athletics and willing to spend many volunteer hours, particularly on Junior Olympics in our association and regionally.

Athlete Representatives: The following individuals were nominated for the following positions:

Sarah Lawson

Larry Libow

Joshua Seeherman

The president called for a motion to close nominations. A motion was made, seconded and passed. The president called for a motion for the secretary to cast one ballot for the individuals nominated for athlete representative. A motion was made, seconded and passed. The slate was elected.

Reimbursement to Delegates: Before the vote on delegates, the meeting discussed the reimbursement the association would make for delegates traveling to the Annual Meeting in Hawaii. The board had taken an informal poll and recommended that board members receive up to \$1,000 and non-board delegated receive up to \$800 reimbursement for air, room and registration.

A motion was made to make the reimbursement for up to \$1,000 per delegate for board and non-board. The motion was seconded. After discussion, a vote was called. The vote was 27 in favor, 2 opposed and 2 abstaining.

Delegates to the Annual Meeting: The following individuals were nominated to be delegates to the Annual Meeting:

Laurie Boemker

Harry Brooks

Carla Coffey

Dave Dunham

Jim Garcia

Justin Kuo

Pat Lavalle

John Oleski  
Gary Snyder  
Paul Sousa  
Steve Vaitones

We are allotted 15 delegates. The board will fill vacancies with qualified candidates who request to be a delegate.

The president called for a motion to close nominations. A motion was made, seconded and passed. The president called for a motion for the secretary to cast one ballot for the individuals nominated for athlete representative. A motion was made, seconded and passed. The slate of delegates was elected.

President's Awards: Ken Robichaud initiated two new awards. In the future they will be named for individuals. At present they will be known as the President's Awards. One recognizes extraordinary volunteer efforts and the other recognizes contribution to youth athletics.

This year's awards were:

<i>Volunteer:</i>	Ed Daniels
<i>Contributions to Youth Athletics:</i>	Geoff Hennessey of the Quincy Track Club Joe Tranchita of the Waltham Track Club

Ken outlined the immense contributions these individuals have made to our sport. Joe Tranchita was on hand to receive his award.

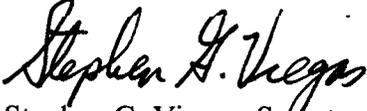
New Business: A member began a discussion of the need for clubs for post-collegiate runners. He expressed a desire to see a track grand prix. The track and field chair gave some history of our efforts in this area. The member also hoped to see the day that one could register for track meets online.

Grant Program: Ken Robichaud outlined the grant program for athletes. He noted that there were flyers on hand to be picked up by interested parties. More information about this will be on the website.

Motion to Adjourn: A motion to adjourn was made, seconded and passed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM

Respectfully,

  
Stephen G. Viegas, Secretary