

# USATF - New England Annual Meeting

Brandeis University, Gosman Athletic Center, Napoli Room

Sunday, September 24, 2017

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**The meeting was called to order at 4:03 p.m.**

Secretary Maggie Fox confirmed there was a quorum present.

## **President's Opening Remarks** Chris Pasko

Chris presented an overview of the meeting agenda followed by a review of 2017 activities. There was a dynamic board which accomplished a lot in the past year. Chris spoke of his 5 goals for his first 100 days as president and all items were accomplished. We have a new website which uses the same platform as the USATF national website. Sarah May, our new marketing hire, was introduced and a recap of her social media platform improvements was presented. New sponsorships with MunkPack and Marathon Sports were mentioned. USATF-NE secured a sponsor for the National Masters 5 km Cross Country Championship - Trigger Pin, a foam roller company.

We have a much improved budgeting process that helps to identify association priorities and inform board members of various committee activities. There were two Level I coaching education schools in 2017, and we are investigating a bid to host a Level II school in 2019. The USATF-NE office at 2001 Beacon Street in Brighton, MA was renovated, and, as part of the update, collections of programs and periodicals were sorted and indexed to create an organized library which members are welcome to use. Chris gave an official thank-you to Steve Vaitones for his hard work as he approaches his 26th year as managing director at USATF-NE. There was a brief discussion of action items for 2018, which included reaching 10,000 association members. That will involve some data collection and analysis of our current membership.

## **Treasurer's Report** Stephen Peckiconis

See full Treasurer's financial report. We had a net drop in assets of \$28,000 since August 2016.

Association spent \$19,000 on the office renovation and \$6,000 on the new website. We also have a new part-time employee. Prize money payouts were increased in several sports. (We continue to run a profit on our hosted events.) The association hosted the Junior Olympic Region I Track and Field Championships, filling in for another association which could not secure a site. That meet which ran at a loss. The net deficit for the preceding 12 months after the above extraordinary items was around \$30,000 with a projected net loss of \$28,000 next year. Our number of race sanctions has plateaued and thus likely won't have growth in income from that source. We had a total net loss of \$62,000 this year but the stock portfolio increased by \$38,000 to offset that loss.. We had a 14% return on that portfolio over the last 12 months, and sold some stock to keep within our investment guidelines. The Treasurer recommended USATF institute a system for automatic membership renewal.

## **Managing Directors' Report** Steve Vaitones

See Report. Steve made a statement to encourage volunteering, "The more people to work on a project, the easier it will be". Expansion of USATF-NE hosted events will be limited by the number of people stepping up to help put on events. Club-hosted events have declined in the past several years. Facility access continues to be an issue, and sites may not be open to rentals. Personal connections and nurturing existing relationships can help with facility. One goal for 2018 is to improve event promotion and management in both sport and geographic areas that are under-served in the association.

**Grant Committee Report** Mike Travers

This year, we changed from a rolling application process to a system with three fixed deadlines per year: April 15, September 15, and December 15. In 2017, approximately \$9,000 in grant monies was distributed, with a desire to increase that amount in the future. Mike encouraged member organizations to apply for grants. Some highlights this year were awarding Brockton Track Club \$1,500 in person with local media coverage, supporting the Twilight Throwers in hosting the USATF Masters Throws Championship at Holy Cross. Generally, grant distributions are the \$1,500-\$2,000 range. Grants are not awarded to fund entire events, but to supplement and help start new events or programs. Members can receive grants once every three years

**Guest Introduction**

USATF Associations Committee Vice-Chair Don Lawrence was introduced; he traveled from New York to attend the meeting and is attending other association annual meetings in the East Zone as well. Don offered a complimentary overnight at the new hotel he manages in Hudson NY, The Wick. The room night was won by Rachel Schilkowsky.

**By-law Changes and Discussion** Chris Pasko

In 2016, 30 proposed by-law changes were brought to the association annual meeting. The items tabled in 2016 were returned for consideration. New proposals for 2017 were also submitted by individual members that have been approved for voting by the Law & Legislation Committee, and there are proposals submitted by our Law & Legislation Committee. Items need a 2/3 vote to pass.

- Motion by Jan Holmquist to open discussion on proposals tabled at the 2016 annual meeting.
- Motion Seconded by Laurie Boemker
- **Motion Passed by consensus**

Tabled items were proposed by-law changes for Articles 6.A.1, 10.C.4, 10.D, 10.H, 11.A.1, and 16.E. Discussion ensued. Ron Boemker asked for clarification about item 6A.1 that the item only applies to general membership members. Ron also spoke about 10D and was informed that Maine and Connecticut don't compare to us and that the board had a broad intent to have leeway when looking at it. Bill Clark asked about 11.A and if there is a mandate from the sports chair to form working committees. It is encouraged and a sports committee composition is in the Bylaws.

- Motion by Suzanne Pasko to end debate and bring 2016 tabled items to a vote.
- Motion Seconded by Shaun Dever
- **Motion Passed with 53 yes votes**

Discussion ensued on proposed by-law 16C requiring account information/passwords be known by at least two officers including the Treasurer and President.

- Motion by Suzanne Pasko to end the debate and bring proposed by-law 16C to a vote.
- Motion Seconded by Laurie Boemker
- **Motion Passed with 53 yes votes**

Chris Pasko presented a proposed change to Article 8 creating term limits for the treasurer position. There was concern from some attendees that future nominees/candidates for Treasurer may not have qualifications for the position. The reply was the treasurer term limit was contingent on a new candidate having sufficient experience; otherwise the treasurer could run again.

- Motion by Suzanne Pasko to end debate and bring Article 8 proposal to a vote.
- Motion Seconded by Jason Ayr
- **Motion Passed with 41 yes votes, 9 no votes, and 1 abstention**

Discussion on proposed by-law change to 6A.5, voting process for the Youth Chair, ensued. Chris Pasko explained seventeen board positions are voted in and two are appointed (Officials Chair and Coaching Education Chair). Youth was a unique constituency and voters are limited to age 18 and over. There was discussion about wanting clarification on who from each youth club has a vote and concern was voiced about what to do if there is dissension within a club?

The item was amended as follows: Voting for youth athletics committee chair shall be by club and limited to clubs active in youth athletics disciplines (“Youth Club”). A Youth Club shall be defined as a USATF club having a youth program and at least one coach meeting the USATF Youth background check and SafeSport requirement. Youth Clubs with 1-9 USATF youth members shall have one vote. Youth Clubs with 10-24 USATF youth members shall have two votes. Youth Clubs with 25-49 USATF youth members shall have three votes. Youth Clubs with 50-99 USATF youth members shall have four votes. Youth Clubs with 100 or more USATF youth members shall have five votes.

- Motion to end the debate.
  - Motion Seconded by Shaun Dever
  - **Motion Passed with 48 yes votes, 3 no votes**
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- Motion by Suzanne Pasko to bring changed to Article 6A.5 as amended to a vote.
  - Motion Seconded by Jason Ayr
  - **Motion Passed with 39 yes votes, 9 no votes, and 2 abstentions**

As by-law changes ultimately need to be approved by National, the existing procedure for voting for Youth Chair will be used for today’s vote.

### **New Business**

Rachel Schilkowsky asked how the 2018 Grand-Prix championship series will be determined. Her concern was Grand Prix races were scheduled too close together in 2017. She felt it was unmanageable and that she "ran herself into the ground and was too injured to complete the series". Jennifer Mortimer answered by explaining how the selection process has evolved over the last three years. The 2017 series used an online vote of preferred events by members, followed by a meeting of club representatives which finalized the series schedule. Moving forward, there will be limits on how many consecutive years a race may host a championship at a specific distance.

Jennifer went on to explain how solicitation of bids is the most challenging part. A suggestion was made from the floor to make the solicitation of bids an action item for the Marketing Coordinator. Amanda Wright gave an explanation of the bid process, and the need to balance the interests of participants including competition, participation, calendar, and geographic balance as well as conflicts with our other championship events. She noted the LDR is addressing these issues and believes the process is improving because of the LDR Chairs and committee, and invited Rachel to serve on the LDR committee.

Dr. Rebecca Breslow introduced herself. She works at Brigham and Women's Hospital and has a clinical interest in our sport. She is on the USATF Sports Medicine Committee and wants to connect with members and events of the association.

Rachel Schilkowsky spoke about prize category issues at Lone Gull. She explained how there was a category for age 70-79 with only one men's team and no women's team scoring. There was a similar situation in New Bedford. Chris stated the topic of division awards would be added to next month's board meeting agenda.

Chris encouraged members to email him with questions, comments, and concerns.

### **Elections**

Sport chair and athlete representative positions on the board were up for election in 2017.

Individuals were nominated made for the following sport chairs:

Scott Mindel, Men's LDR Chair, Jenn Mortimer for Women's LDR Chair, Gordon McFarland for Master's LDR Chair, Jeff Rockwood for Open T&F Chair, Mike Travers for Master's T&F Chair, Michael McGrane for Cross Country Chair, Paul Kirsch for MUT Chair, Justin Kuo for Race Walking Chair, and Alex Ivanov for Youth Athletics Chair.

No further nominations were received, nominations were closed.

- Motion by Ron Boemker to vote for the entire slate by voice vote
- Motion Seconded by Jason Ayr
- **Motion Passed unanimously**

### **Athlete Rep Nominations**

Nominations were opened for the three Athlete Representative positions.

Nominated were Alexander Engel from Boston-North Track Club, Rich Hartnett from MassVelocity, Alexandra Mindel from Battle Road Track Club, and Sarah Thornton from Twilight Throwers.

Ballots were distributed and collected.

Results were: Sarah Thornton 56, Alex Engel 48, Sasha Mindel 43, Rich Hartnett 15

### **USATF Annual Meeting Delegates**

USATF NE is eligible to have 17 voting delegates at the USATF Annual Meeting in Columbus, Ohio, November 29 through December 3. A ballot was distributed with names of individuals interested in serving as delegates.

- Motion by Nicole Hamilton to approve nomination of those named on ballot.
- Motion Seconded and **Passed unanimously**
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Jennifer Mortimer, Sarah Thornton, Alex Ivanov, Jeff Rockwood, and Bryan Cahoon were nominated and added to the ballot. Ballots were collected and due to the detail of counting ballots with a large number of candidates, results would be announced following the meeting. Tally listed in addendum to meeting minutes.

### Closing Remarks Chris Pasko

The association accomplished a lot this year and checked off most of our goals. He is looking forward to being more strategic and focusing on the growth initiatives in 2018. Tom Derderian suggested we also consider how we can adapt to changes in our sport.

- Motion by Mike Travers to adjourn.
- Motion Seconded by Jason Ayr
- **Motion Passed unanimously**

Meeting adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

Submitted by Maggie Fox, USATF-NE Association Secretary

Addendum: Elected as delegates for the USATF Annual Meeting, in order of votes received: Laurie Boemker, Chris Pasko, Steve Vaitones, Justin Kuo, Stephen Peckiconis, Mike Travers, Stephen Viegas, Scott Mindel, Maggie Fox, John Oleski, Katie Adams, Sarah May, Bob Gidari, Jennifer Mortimer, Tom Derderian, Kathy Nary, Michael McGrane.

Alternates in order of votes received: Sarah Thornton, Alex Ivanov, Jeff Rockwood, Bryan Cahoon.

ATTENDEES – Name, club number, club

Tom Church 0 Unattached  
 Bryan Cahoon 0 Unattached/Official  
 Mike Travers 0 Unattached  
 Sarah May 0 Unattached/Employee  
 Katherine Adams 0 Unattached  
 Rebecca Breslow 0 Unattached  
 Sarah Thornton 0 Unattached  
 William Clark 0 Unattached  
 Amanda Wright 0 Unattached  
 Michael McGrane 1 Boston Athletic Association  
 Gordon MacFarland 6 Cambridge Sports Union  
 Stephen Peckiconi 6 Cambridge Sports Union  
 Jon Waldron 6 Cambridge Sports Union  
 Laurie Boemker 15 RI Track & Field Officials Guild  
 Ron Boemker 15 RI Track & Field Officials Guild  
 Cynthia Hastings 16 Greater Boston Track Club  
 Margaret Fox 16 Greater Boston Track Club  
 Shaun Dever 16 Greater Boston Track Club  
 Tom Derderian 16 Greater Boston Track Club  
 Rob Landry 20 Greater Springfield Harriers, Inc  
 Iwona Boruch 20 Greater Springfield Harriers, Inc  
 Peter Stasz 20 Greater Springfield Harriers, Inc  
 Paul Schell 37 North Medford Club  
 Jack Wozek 55 Waltham Track Club  
 Joe Tranchita 55 Waltham Track Club  
 Sean Thomas 55 Waltham Track Club  
 Steve Viegas 65 New England 65 Plus Runners Club  
 John Barbour 68 Greater Lowell Road Runners  
 David Teszler 87 Heartbreak Hill Striders  
 Nicole Hamilton 111 HFC Striders  
 Steve Vaitones 131 Somerville Road Runners/Employee  
 Justin Kuo 137 New England Walkers  
 Suzanne Pasko 173 Wellesley Youth Track and Field Club  
 Chris Pasko 173 Wellesley Youth Track and Field Club  
 Dona Nicholas 176 Parkway Running Club  
 Jan Holmquist 192 Whirlaway Racing Team  
 Justin Platt 194 Granite State Flash  
 Sean Nyhan 202 CRA/Town Track Club  
 Alex Ivanov 230 Nitehawks Sports Club  
 Stephanie Schneid 230 Nitehawks Sports Club  
 Alexander Engel 256 Boston-North Track Club  
 Jeff Rockwood 256 Boston-North Track Club  
 Josette Pierre-Lo 256 Boston-North Track Club  
 John Oleski 273 Mass Velocity Track Club  
 Richard Galgano 273 Mass Velocity Track Club  
 Bob Cedrone 294 Twilight Throwers  
 Kikki Fitzgerald 294 Twilight Throwers  
 Jim Burgoyne 294 Twilight Throwers  
 Elizabeth Reynold 355 Boston United Track & XC Club  
 Jason Ayr 366 Western Mass Distance Project  
 John Schilkowsky 376 NE Distance  
 Obsie Birru 376 NE Distance

Rachel Schilkowsk 376 NE Distance  
Aaron Dinzeo 376 NE Distance  
Brian Crimmins 376 NE Distance  
Dylan Hassett 376 NE Distance  
Henry Sterling 376 NE Distance  
Paul Kirsch 385 acidotic RACING  
Jennifer Mortimer 396 Millennium Running  
Dawn Ivanov Guest/Nitehawks Sports Club  
Don Lawrence Guest/USATF AEC Regional Rep