



LDR Meeting
Zoom Virtual Meeting
Monday, November 1, 2021
7PM

- I. **Attendees preregistered for call.** Terry Mullane, Dave Friedman, Ed Neighbour, Jessica Clarke, Joe Compagni, Mike Walters, Gary Rosenberg, Burt Ray Simpson, Chris Rinaldi, Chuck Schneekloth, Fran Harwell, Gene Gugliotta, Kathy Hale, Laura Delea, Mark Williams, Mike Barry, Bob Skorupski, Scott Linnell, Shannon McKenna, Chachi Sabatino, 201-787-5127 did not respond.
- II. **Minutes from previous LDR meeting April 13, 2021.**
 - The April 13 2021 Meeting Minutes which were available on the website: <https://newjersey.usatf.org/about/meetings> Motion was made seconded and the minutes were approved.
- III. **2021 Championship Races to Date Discussion:**
 - **Big Bang Mile**, 6-26-21, all divisions
 - This was a kickoff to the abbreviated USATF NJ Grand Prix.
 - Course was good. Site had ample parking and there was indoor restroom facilities available to the participants in addition to port-o-johns.
 - Chris Rinaldi noted Individual and team participation was good and the race was well organized.
 - **Asbury Park George Sheehan Classic 5k**, 8-14-21, Masters Men and Women
 - Event was two loop course.
 - Good participation level 1,031 finishers.
 - Chris Rinaldi noted Individual and team participation was good and the race was well organized.
 - Ed Neighbour noted the course could have used some additional volunteers on the course. There was an older runner that had an issue about a quarter mile before the boardwalk turn. The police officer on the course u ahead was notified.
 - **Lager Run 5k**, 8-29-21 Open Men
 - Continues to be a popular event attended by all USATF NJ divisions no matter what category championship. 885 finishers.
 - **By Hook or By Crook 12k**, 9-19-21, All Divisions+ National Masters Championship,
 - This was a USATF National as well as a NJ Association Championship. The event was highest number of USATF registrations for a Masters LDR Championship at 316 entries.
 - There is a need to educate Association clubs on differences for team competition for National Masters vs. Association Masters Teams. NJ M40 and M50 have 5 required vs only 3 for National

- American Masters records were set at the 12K. **Nora Cary**, who ran 51:09, broke the Women's 65-69 record. and earned the highest age grade score at 97.53%. **Ken Youngers** clocked 45:05 to lower the Men's 65-69 earning the highest men's age grade of 91.62%. **Lisa Veneziano** broke **Joan Samuelson's** 55-59 Women's record by 14 seconds; her 46:13 earned an age grade of 95.92%.
- **Team Championships** (average time of first 3 finishers on each team)
 - Women**
 - 40 and up *The Shore Athletic Club* 46:16 per runner
 - 50+ *Shore Athletic Club* 51:48
 - 60+ *Impala Racing Team* 52:13
 - 70+ *Impala Racing Team* 1:10:34.
 - Men**
 - 40 and up *Greater Philadelphia Track Club* 40:14 per runner
 - 50+ *Freedom-Garmin Runners* 42:40
 - 60+ *Shore Athletic Club* 47:44
 - 70+ *Atlanta Track Club* 59:44
 - 80+ *Clifton Roadrunners* 1:23:11
- Hotels were difficult to find due to a concert festival in Asbury park the same weekend.
- Dave Friedman noted we did receive good feedback from National (Max Siegel) concerning the race.
- Two different registration systems for the event utilizing National system did have some confusion. The event did focus more on USATF runners for registering in 2021. Looking to expand going forward.
- Race committee is looking at improving the race which will serve as a National Masters Championship for two more years.
- Chris Rinaldi noted appreciation for the donors, particularly Care One which was a major sponsor providing Masters Prize Money.
- **Little Silver 5k, 10-3-21, Open Women**
 - Race day of registration had to be done online. This may have been a COVID precaution
 - Post race was not held this year. Will return in 2022.
 - 574 Participant finishers.
- **East Brunswick 12k, 10-24-21, Coed Team**
 - Community center had early voting so restricted to indoor restroom use with mask. Event did provide masks to runners if needed.
 - Registration closed on Tuesday before event. This did impact clubs fielding teams. Only four clubs placed.
 - Course was well marked.
 - The awards per division did not go three deep and in five year divisions for masters as USATF-NJ encourages.
 - This was a Coed championship, separate from the Club Team Grand Prix and there're were only four clubs that participated.
- **Halloween Half Marathon, 10-31-21, All Divisions**
 - This event was in lieu of the Superhero Half Marathon.
 - There were a lot of non USATF runners at the event.
 - Port-o-johns 12 on site there was still a line waiting at the start of the event.

- Course was well made and policed. Clocks at all the mile markers were appreciated. They even blocked off the second loop time clocks until the second loop was raced.
- There was some note that the \$80 fee was high. It was noted that events are getting charged more from towns and police departments for use. It was noted that there were several opportunities for lower registration fees for early burd and other registration deadlines over the year.
- The participant list was a little bit of a challenge since the listing could be viewed by category but was not alphabetical
- 826 finishers in Half. There was also a two person relay.
- USATF-NJ participation was probably impacted by the events proximity to the New York Marathon being held the following week.

IV. **2021 Championship Upcoming Races Discussion:**

- **Giralda Farms 10k**, 11-14-21, All Divisions
- **Ashenfelter 8k**, 11-25-21, All Divisions
 - Race concludes 2021 Championships. This is a very popular final race for USATF-NJ runners.
 - There is absolutely no day of registration due to COVID this year.
 - The Gym will not be available for runners to wait in 2021 due to COVID and social distance protocols

V. **2022 Championships**

- Carryover of remaining 2020 Championships into 2022 (To be Confirmed)
 - Spring Classic 15K, (Formerly Swamp Devil), Date TBD, All Divisions.
 - Cherry Blossom 10k 4-3-2022
 - Red Bank 5k, 6-18-2022
 - Midland Mile TBD (Typically in August)
 - Harrington Park 5k, 11-13-2022
- 2022 Championship Biding will open in early November 2021.
 - The LDR Committee looks to balance the Championship schedule with schedule of races as well as a diversity of locations throughout the state of NJ

VI. **New Business**

- Alternative 2021 LDR recognition due to cancellation of Banquet in 2022
 - LDR Committee discussing having some alternate recognition gathering since the Annual Awards Banquet will not occur. The LDR Committee will be looking at possible venues.
- **MUT development of NJ Program**
 - MUT Committee in 2020 had looked at a program prior to pandemic. New committee should look at material developed. Gene Guggliotta, who had previously served on the MUT committee will look to forward material developed by the committee in 2019-2020.
 - Jessica Clarke MUT Division Chair has looked at possible December event teaming up with Christmas in the Pines 4 Miler 12-11-2021 being put on by Batona Trail Races. They have sanctioned events with USATF.
- **Cross Country Championships**
 - 2021 we did not have a championship. The venues we typically utilize were not allowing events in 2021 due to COVID.

- The money that had been provided to clubs winning by USATF National for Association Championship winners in previous years to go toward Club Nationals (2021 in Florida 12-11-21) was brought up as a topic of discussion. In the absence of Association championship in 2021 there was no mechanism for awarding this for 2021.
- There was a discussion of alternative XC course venues other than Natirar and Deer Path Park. Some sites discussed:
 - Kittatinny State Park, Andover, NJ. Noted more of a trail venue than XC.
 - Clark, NJ has a course near the parkway, Oak Ridge Park on a former golf course that should be investigated. It is used by local High Schools.
 - Garret Mountain Passaic County.
 - Mercer County Park. We have held LDR events but not sure if cross country would be available at the park.
 - Washington Crossing Park had been the site of a championship.
 - Thompson Park in Monroe
 - Dream Park, Logan Township in Gloucester County had been site for a 5k in September.
 - Central Park (Greystone) Morris County where Youth XC is happening in 2021.
 - There was a discussion about partnering with a NJ Club such as Morris County Striders or RVRP that have summer XC races for the cross country Championship. This had been looked at in 2021 but the dates conflicted with LDR Championships for rescheduled races that were pushed to later in the year due to COVID restrictions in the spring.
- Mark Williams brought up the USATF-NJ T&F plans being considered for 2022. It was noted that LDR and T&F should work to avoid conflicts in the dates selected.
 - T&F meeting is scheduled for November 17, 2021. Virtual Meeting
 - Looking at T&F meet early April.
 - Association T&F Championship in May/June . It was noted Youth T&F JO is also typically in June.
- Team Grand Prix Declaration submissions
 - Gary Rosenberg brought up the declaration of teams which previously had required a bib number. It was noted that in 2021 the LDR committee went to no day of team declarations and submission of teams via email the day before the event dropping the bib requirement. This has worked well this year. Ed Neighbour discussed the process this year with compuscore and it worked well . Elimination of race day declarations contributed to the ease in transition to email submissions.
 - Gene Gugliotta noted that updating submission requirement language is something that should have the language clarified in the Team Grand Prix rules. LDR Committee will review for clarifications.
 - There was a suggestion that LDR develop suggested guidelines for prize money structure at championships. Registration timelines and fees would also be beneficial.
 - Chris Rinaldi noted appreciation to LDR Committee in development of a LDR Championship schedule and abbreviated Grand Prix in 2021 under difficult circumstances given the COVID-19 pandemic. Race Directors worked hard to safely hold events this year. It is hoped that USATF Clubs will increase their participation in events through the remaining championships and return with strong participation in 2022. Having a diversity of teams participating makes the events and our programs successful.

VII. Adjourn