



## **USATF-NJ GENERAL MEETING**

LOCATION: Garwood Family Center YMCA  
500 East Street, Garwood, NJ  
DATE: March 9, 2016  
TIME: 7:00 PM

**I. Attendees:** Ed Neighbour, MCS; Reno Stirrat, Shore AC; Bob Skorupski, Shore AC; Ben Teixeira, Clifton RR; Dave Friedman, Shore AC; Michael Watson, Rams Track Club; Jane Parks, Rose City RR; Claire Tafelski, Garmin Runners; Jennifer Simpson, Garmin Runners; Debby Hall, Garmin Runners; Greg Hatzisavvas, Westfield Flyers; Wayne Baker, Shore AC/Westfield Flyers; Cindy Cooke; Terry Mullane, USATF NJ Managing Director; Rob Decarlo, Garmin Runners; Debbie Brathwaite, North Jersey Masters; Rob Roemer, North Jersey Masters; Cindy Roemer, North Jersey Masters; Tony Lomdardi, Sparta HS Coach; Dominique Hamel; Antje Hennings, North Jersey Masters; Gail Warshaw, North Jersey Masters; Andrew Coyle, North Jersey Masters; Mike Machuca, North Jersey Masters; Bernard Epps; Chris Faraone, Columbia HS Coach; Donny Bellamey, Comets Track Club; Chris Kunkel, North Jersey Masters; Norm Chester, Bruce Fabrikant

**II. President's Message:** Edward Neighbour

The New Jersey Association continues to grow in 2016. We are approaching 7,000 members and we are currently on track to hit that target in 2016. As an Association we had over 20 Association Championships and 2015 was the first year we had a 50km MUT Championship.

We had 18 Association delegates at the December 2015 USATF Annual meeting in Houston. We were the sole recipient of the Gold Level Award at the Association Workshop held just prior to the Annual meeting.

2016 will finally see a change to our website as we switchover to the USATF National Platform. After some false starts we will be moving to the new website in the coming month. We will have a new look and a fresh start.

This evening we will hold elections. As an Association we need Trustees who are active contributors to the Board of Trustees. For those interested in the positions, this position will not just be a line for your resume. You will be called upon to be an active representative for the Association and working to grow and improve our Association and the programs and events we offer to our members. For the outgoing Trustees, I appreciate your service and commitment to our Association.

**III. Minutes September 16, 2015 General Meeting**

The minutes were approved with the following grammatical correction in item IV to remove the apostrophe from the word "it's".

#### **IV. Administrative Report: Terry Mullane**

##### Social Media

- Facebook & Twitter are in full swing. Facebook is up to 890 Friends with 663 Likes.

##### Membership Report

- As of 3/9/2016, the total membership is 3567 including 1554 Youth Members.
- Event Sanctions: 186 Events are sanctioned as of 3/09/2016, 101 are Grand Prix Events
- Clubs: For 2016, 103 Clubs are currently members of USATF New Jersey, with 30 waiting to be cleared for the SafeSport Program.

##### 2016 USATF NJ Association News & Notes

- Two Youth Developmental Meets are scheduled.
- Hershey Run, Jump, & Throw Clinics are planned throughout the State.
- Youth JO Association Outdoor Track & Field Championship-6/25 & 6/26, site TBD.
- Open & Masters Outdoor Track & Field Championship-TBD
- Region 2 JO Cross Country Championship will be held in NJ, 11/16/16, site TBD.
- The Office continues to promote the Grand Prix to new and returning sanctioned and certified road races. The office is also distributing our new logos to all GP Races.
- Terry is working with the Old New Jersey Runners Facebook Page and Dean Shonts to promote a Reunion Social on 6/11/16 in Belmar, NJ. This page has become a great success!
- The Office is interviewing for a Summer Intern.

#### **IV. Financial Report: Reno Stirrat**

- The USATF-NJ Trustees approved the 2016 budget at the end of January. The budget has been posted on the website.
- The USATF NJ Association's income for 2016 is tracking at a similar pace when compared to 2015.
  - Income for the Association at the beginning of 2016 is up slightly over 2015 level
    - Membership and sanction revenue is tracking higher this year.
    - Revenue for event entries is down but that will fluctuate based on the differing schedules for events the Association hosts year to year.
    - Expenses are running higher this year over the same period last year due to the following:
      - ❖ The athlete stipends for 2015 have been paid out.
      - ❖ The Banquet Awards for LDR Prize money from our New Balance Sponsorship had the checks cut at the time of the banquet rather than after the banquet so they were issued earlier this year.
      - ❖ Office expenses including payroll and professional fees are tracking at similar levels to 2015.
      - ❖ Since our T&F indoor meet was at the beginning of January, some of the expenses for that event were paid out earlier this year than in 2015.

## **V. Election of Treasurer for Unexpired Term**

Reno Stirrat has been assisting the Board as the temporary Treasurer for the remaining year of an unexpired term. This position, along with the Executive Committee positions not included in this year's election, will be up for election in 2017. There were no nominations from the floor. Reno Stirrat was elected by acclamation to fill the unexpired term of Treasurer.

## **VI. Elections Trustees**

The Trustee positions are for three year terms. The term starts immediately following the meeting in accordance with bylaws. Ed Neighbour gave the responsibilities for being an officer. Claire expanded on the responsibilities stating that the position has fiduciary responsibilities and requires a time commitment to attend meetings. Claire Tafelski and Bob Skorupski assisted with the election process. The following positions were up for election:

- High School Coach Trustee
  - Nominees: Chris Faraone is a Head Coach at Columbia HS and was previously a coach at Union HS. He is an active runner and has done some college recruiting. There were no other nominations. Chris was elected by acclamation.
- Athlete Trustee #1
  - Nominees: Debbie Braithwaite is a member of North Jersey Masters (NJM). She is on the NJM board as Second Vice President and has been the NJM Captain for the Women since 2011. She is an active LDR participant and attends the LDR meetings on a regular basis. There were no other nominations. Debbie was elected by acclamation.
- Athlete Trustee #2
  - Nominees: Claire Tafelski currently holds this position on the Board of Trustees and is eligible for re-election. Claire is the Women's Chair for the Track and Field committee. Claire ran track for Rutgers and continues to participate at Track and Field meets. There were no other nominations. Claire was elected by acclamation.
- At-Large Trustee #1
  - Nominees:
    - Roger Price currently holds this position on the Board of Trustees and is eligible for re-election. Roger runs for Raritan Valley. He is an active LDR member and on the Cross-Country Committee.
    - Tony Lombardi is the Head Coach at Sparta High School. He is currently a Level Two Endurance Coach. He is currently working on obtaining Level Three status.

A vote was held. Tony Lombardi was elected to the At-Large Trustee #1 position.

## **VII. Sport Committee Reports**

### **• LDR Committee Report: Edward Neighbour**

- The 2016 Championships were announced at the beginning of 2016. The LDR Committee mixed up the schedule a little with some races such as the Cherry Blossom 10k a former Championship in past years returning in 2016. New races, the New Milford 5k and the Midland Mile in Montclair, were added to the Championship roster. The Little Silver 5k was to have been a Women's 5k Championship in 2015 but was cancelled due to a State of Emergency. It will be the Women's 5k Championship on October 2, 2016. We are looking at a new venue for the 5k Cross Country Championship.
- The Championship selection was met positively by most clubs with the exception of one Club that has decided to set their own schedule and not compete.
- The LDR Travel Stipend program had a record number of applications and participants in 2015. The number of Clubs competing at the National level has increased significantly over the past few years.
- The 2016 Travel Stipend requirements have been revised for 2016 with the goal of aligning the Stipend program with the Track & Field Stipend. Supporting and competing in the Association's championship events is a prerequisite. The Individual qualifying standard 82% PLP remains the same but the qualifying standard must be within the boundaries of the Association.
- The LDR meeting was held on January 12<sup>th</sup> just prior to the Association Awards Banquet. There were two Club Grand Prix Rule changes adopted.
  - The Club point structure in the divisions will award each finishing team in a division a point. The top of the point structure has not changed.
  - The Clubs will now have their lowest point value Championship dropped for the end of year scoring. This is a return of the old rule that had been changed several years ago.
  - Several other proposals were tabled and will be considered at the Fall LDR meeting. If approved they would be for 2017 and not the current year.
- Our First Championship of 2016 will be March 20<sup>th</sup> at the Miles for Music 20k in Highland Park, NJ.

There were questions from floor and discussion on the scheduling of the races throughout the year and the potential for a wild card in each category. It was recommended that these issues be raised for discussion at the next LDR meeting.

### **• Track & Field Committee: Report Dave Friedman**

- The Indoor Masters and Open Championship was held on January 10<sup>th</sup> at the Toms River facility.
- The tentative date for outdoor meet is May 22 at Neptune High School. The girls track team has volunteered to help with the meet. The location will be finalized in the next few weeks.
- The next Track & Field meeting will be on April 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Dave discussed the value of attending the National meeting.

### **• Race walk Committee Report: Dave Friedman**

- New Jersey has more race walk events than any other state in country.
- The New Jersey Association won the Race Walk Outstanding Association Award for the second year at the National Meeting in December, 2015.

- The Pan Am World Cup Trials were held at Whiting, NJ in 2015.
- The New Jersey race walk schedule is listed on the Association website.
- Dave mentioned that he was an Official for the race walk events at the Melrose Games.

- **Officials report: Bruce Fabrikant**

- There are currently 162 Officials most of whom are entry or association level.
- An LDR Officials clinic was held in September at Rutgers.
- A Track and Field Clinic will be held on March 20 in Fairlawn NJ from 1pm – 4:30pm. Attending the clinic as first step to becoming an official. There is a need for more officials especially at the Master or National level. Bruce noted that females and younger officials are under-represented. The minimum age is 14 for officials. The Officials Clinic will be held on Sunday so as not to conflict with High School meets to encourage young officials.
- An Officials meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 23. Information about both the Clinic and the meeting are posted on Association website.
- Bruce explained the process for becoming an Official. Contact Bruce for more information.
- Dave Friedman said that he recently officiated at the disabled athlete meet and found it to be a very rewarding experience.

- **Youth Committee Report: Terry Mullane**

- There have been conflicts with scheduling AAU and USATF meets. The Youth Committee will follow up at the next Annual Meeting regarding moving forward with Zonal Meets. Only Mid Atlantic and NY are required to attend qualifiers before going to Nationals.
- Registration is now closed for the National Meet in Hershey, PA.
- The Developmental Meets are running long and adjustments in the schedule may be needed for future events.
- The Association meet is still in the process of finding a location for the Youth JO Association Outdoor Track & Field Championship. Newark School Stadium and Plainfield High School are both possible locations. The dates are June 25th and 26<sup>th</sup> with no preliminaries required.
- The Youth Committee is encouraging attendance at the Run, Jump, Throw Clinics
- The Youth Committee is working on a stipend program for athletes who go to Nationals and receive All-American Status. A template following the Track and Field Stipend will be used.

**VII. New Business:** There was no new business.

**VIII. The Meeting was adjourned at 9:00.**

Respectfully submitted by Jane H Parks, for Secretary Madeline Bost who was unable to attend due to illness.