

USATF-NJ GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Rutgers - New Brunswick, NJ

March 25, 2015

I. In attendance were: Ed Neighbour, Pam Fales, William Pollinger, David Friedman, Anthony San Filippo, Terry Mullane, Roger Price, Madeline Bost, Carol Harrison, Peter Harrison, Robert Waller, Bruce Fabrikant, Bernard Epps, Jane Parks, Ben Teixeira, Arthur Diz, Jason Lattimore, Kevin Turner,

II. President's Message: Ed Neighbour reported that 2014 was a year of continued growth for the New Jersey Association. "We ended 2014 with a record 6,775 members. In 2015 our membership is currently on pace to continue to grow and increase membership

We had our largest Delegation at the USATF Annual Meeting in Anaheim. The meeting was not without controversy. On the final day at the meeting, 85% of the meeting delegates including the NJ delegation voted in favor of Bob Hersh for IAAF representative, a position that he has held for many years rising to the position of IAAF vice president. The USATF Board of Directors went against the overwhelming vote and selected Stephanie Hightower as the IAAF candidate.

The NJ Association along with several other large Associations issued letters requesting that the Board reconsider their decision. On March 16 the national Board chose to continue to disregard the overwhelming majority of the constituent representatives and continue to back Stephanie Hightower. As President of the NJ Association and a member of USATF, I cannot help but feel that we are not being listened to and worse yet, being actively ignored and cast aside as a nuisance and irrelevant to USA Track and Field.

We have set goals for the New Jersey association in 2015:

The association is working to host a Run- Jump -Throw Event, a hands-on learning program that gets kids excited about physical activity by introducing them to the basics of running, jumping and throwing skills through track and field.

The Safe Sport Program as mandated by the USOC for all Olympic Governing Bodies in 2015 will be a something that the New Jersey Association will focus on getting all required to take the course to be in compliance. Youth Committee members, Coaches on the coaches Registry, youth club coaches and youth club administrators must complete the program by 12-31-15. The course is available online but we have also been sent materials. We will look at ways to help facilitate implementation of the Safe Sport Program at the Association Level.

I would like to recognize the Youth Committee, Youth Clubs and Terry Mullane our Managing director for their hard work in the development and organization of the NJ regional Qualifying Meets that will lead up to our NJ Youth Junior Olympics. I appreciate all the time, effort and hard work you have put to bringing this to fruition.

The Association has ordered some USATF NJ Association branded items to use at our events and increase the visibility of our Association.

We are taking steps to promote the Association and our events through social media on Facebook and twitter.

We are looking at ways to better manage, improve and promote our events. The LDR and Track and Field Spots committees have worked together to cross promote our programs by having the 5,000 and 10,000 meters at our outdoor T&F meet be included in our LDR NBNJ Individual Grand Prix as a 500 point events.

Our Volunteers are what make the New Jersey Association as successful as it has been and I want to thank volunteers for their dedication and support to the NJ Association and our sport.

This evening we will be having Trustee elections for four positions on the Board. I want to thank Ed Koch and Kevin Turner who have served on the Board for two terms. They are term limited for their respective trustee positions but not term limited in the value of their continued contribution to the New Jersey Association. For those about to stand for election and those that are elected this evening I want to thank you and I encourage your commitment to be an engaged representative for the members of this Association so that we can all work together fulfill our mission in development, management and marketing Athletics within the NJ Association in accordance with the mission outlined in our bylaws.”

III. Minutes The minutes of the September 18, 2014 meeting were approved.

IV. Administrative Report – Terry Mullane reported that we have 3,772 members as of 03/25/15, of which 1,598 are Youth members. As of 12/31/14 we had 6,775, of which 4,018 were Youth members. We have sanctioned 220 events as of 3/25/2015. In all of 2014 we sanctioned 487 events. To date we have 104 clubs registered.

V. Financial Report Ed Neighbour gave the financial report in absence of a Treasurer. The association’s revenue track for the beginning of 2015 is similar to 2014. There are changes with the national office as to the transmission of funds which is finally being done electronically directly into our bank account to be followed up with a statement from national. We had signed up for this last September but it has taken until now to be implemented.

VI. Elections Trustees

Terms: The term for Board members shall be three years beginning immediately after the election meeting. Trustees elected to fill vacancies or replace appointed interim Trustees shall take office immediately.

Those nominated and elected were:

College Coach Trustee	– Anthony San Filippo
At-Large Trustee #2	– Pam Fales
Athlete Trustee	– Ben Teixeira
Club Coach Trustee	- Bernard Epps

VII. Sport Committee Reports

LDR Committee Report - Ed Neighbour gave the LDR report.

The LDR Committee had its first meeting of 2015 on Monday February 23rd

In 2015 there are several changes to the NBNJ Individual Grand Prix: We have added a mini category 3 series to our Grand Prix. The 5,000 and 10,000 meters at the Outdoor meet will be 500 point races in the individual Grand Prix. The Category 3 distance has been revised to start at 12K rather than 15K. The committee hopes to encourage this distance and in the future it could be an Association Championship Distance. USATF has had a national 12K championship in Alexandria VA for two years.

The Shades of Death Half marathon will be a Wild Card 700/500 point race in 2015 as a way to try and boost participation for this Association fundraiser. This will also give our LDR runners another opportunity at a category 3 700 point race since we have only had three Category 3 Championships for the past couple of years.

Our Team Grand Prix has had some minor changes for 2015:

After a year, The M60 Team division is reverting back from 4 scoring to three scoring members per team. It was felt that the smaller clubs struggled in 2014 to field complete M60 teams at our Championships

New procedures to better manage the Team validation process will be implemented in 2015. This is an attempt to make the verification process easier to manage and get results verified and posted in a timely manner. The Miles for Music 20k championship this past Sunday was our first test of the new procedures. I am hopeful that we can improve what has been a challenging and long process in getting the team results finalized.

While we have lost Sneaker Factory as a competitive USATF club, Breakneck Track Club has reemerged in the NJ Team running circuit. The Del Novo Harriers have also joined as a new club competing in our LDR Club Grand Prix.

Our Travel Stipend qualifying standards are the same as 2014. This year we will be requiring submission of expense receipts rather than the article.

The LDR Committee is looking toward working with social media to help promote our sport. Twitter and Facebook will be used.

T&F Committee Report - David Friedman gave the Track and Field committee report. Although the indoor meet did not show a profit, the meet went well. Anselm LeBourne set an M55 1,500 meter record at the meet – 4:19.8. The Shore Athletic Club M70 team of John Kuhi, John Saarman, Przemek Nowicki, and Stan Edelson set a 4 by 800 meter record - 14:10.33.

The Outdoor Open and Masters Championship will be held at the facility at Thomas Edison Park, which is adjacent to Middlesex County College in Edison. The Steeplechase events, the Racewalk, and the 5,000 meter run will be held on Friday evening. A discussion followed about the desirability of having the Hammer also on Friday and after some discussion it was agreed that the Hammer should be on Sunday along with the other throwing events.

The National Pan American Racewalk Trials Cup will be held on April 12th in Whiting, with a Racewalk Clinic on April 11th. Ron Salvio of the Freehold Area Running Club, is to be credited with doing such a fine job at the National World Cup Trials last year that New Jersey was awarded the Pan Am trials this year.

Youth Committee Report - Kevin Turner gave the Youth committee report. There were three indoor developmental meets this winter and they went well. This year there will be four outdoor preliminary meets, two on May 17th and two on May 31st. The Junior Olympic Track and Field Championship will be on June 20th with a site yet to be selected. The Regional meet will be at Three Rivers, and the National meet will be in Jacksonville FL.

VIII. Officials Committee Report - Bruce Fabrikant gave the Officials report. Nine candidates attended the officials training clinic on March 21st. Two New York officials attended and they expressed interest to officiate at New Jersey meets. We currently have 160 officials of which a little less than half are at the apprentice level. After two years they will be able to move up to the association level. Ben Kreitzberg has resigned his At Large position on the Executive Committee. He will continue to officiate meets. There will be a National junior disability championship held in nj in July 2015. There will be an LDR officials training clinic in September at Rutgers.

IX. New Business

1. As Ed Neighbour noted the New Jersey Association needs to be in compliance with Safe Sport and its required implementation by end of 2015. The program can be done on line but the association could also set up seminar location so that the video can be done by groups.
2. Jason Lattimore noted that the Track & Field page on our website looks under maintained. He noted that other associations have much more information and look better maintained. The website needs to have all material moved to the new website that we have but that has not been done. Ed Neighbour noted that one of the applicants for an internship this summer has website skills and it is hoped that the intern will be able to do the work needed. Jason volunteered to help if it is needed.
3. It was noted that the Youth committee has been given the task of creating the criteria for a Youth Travel Stipend and that there is a line item in the budget for it. Any athlete eligible for a stipend would receive it in the form of a reimbursement for travel expenses.

X. Meeting Adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Madeline Bost, Secretary