

The all virtual meeting was called to order at 10:05am on Saturday, October 10, 2020

Attendees

Carma Robinson-Kendall, President
Pam Olawaiye, Membership Chair
Gilda Muci, Shockers Track Club
Darren Muci, Shockers Track Club
Dion Lewis, Communications Chair
Missy Tate, Women's Track And Field Chair
Wayne Armbrust - Sanctions Chair
Victor Everett, USATF Starter
Harvey Kendall Jr., KCEC Track Club
Jamie Kootz, Racewalk Chair
Dion Lewis, Communications Chair
Herb Martin, Officials Chair

NOTE: Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the Association received permission from the USATF National Office to hold the 2020 Annual Meeting as a virtual event. It was also granted permission, voted and approved on by the members of Missouri Valley to postpone this year's Board elections until the 2021 Annual Meeting.

Approval of 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes

The group voted to accept the 2019 minutes as written.

New Business

The President gave an account of the Missouri Valley 2019 financials. She explained that, due to the cancellation of all USATF summer events due to the pandemic, the association did not make any money this year. She also stated that the National Office still owes MV a considerable amount of money and they have stated that they are working on getting checks out to the various organizations. If interested in the financials, please contact Carma Robinson-Kendall at president@missourivalley.usatf.org

The President then asked the group if anyone had any ideas for the use of the monies that are currently in the account. No one offered a suggestion.

Carma stated that there are currently no indoor meets (not youth or collegiate) scheduled, as schools and teams are unsure about the future of Covid-19 and indoor track meets.

Carma asked for possible ideas as to possible indoor track meet sites and to start looking for sites. The group agreed that if an indoor site is found, we should not prepay for its use due to the unpredictability of Covid-19 on the community and the possibility that we may not recoup the deposit if the event is cancelled.

W. Armbrust stated that MU hosts a high school series of meets in January. Mr Armbrust agreed to look into the possibility of USATF Youth hosting a couple of indoor meets there.

D. Muci stated that they tentatively have a meet scheduled in Wichita, KS at the Heskett Center on Jan. 23 & 24, but he is uncertain if that will happen, again depending on the status of Covid-19 on the area.

Mr. Everett then stated that he spoke with Wichita State unofficially, and they are unsure if there will be an indoor track and field season in 2021.

Membership Report

Pam Olawaiye, Membership Chair reported that:

Pam explained that due to Covid-19, most of the members and clubs that registered for 2020 (1 year) actually registered prior to the pandemic (before March). Therefore, the numbers are extremely due. There are 22 clubs and 431 total members to date. Comparatively, 2019 had 1078 members and 39 clubs.

Sanctions Report

W. Armbrust stated that he has sanctioned 24 meets this year so far.

Officials/Certification Chair Report

Herb Martin, representing both the Officials Chair and Certification Chair (in lieu of Racquel Adams) reported that, due to issues within the National Office (they are moving, updating and changing databases), Officials recertification's are on hold until further notice.

If a member of Officials Safesport course is due, those courses can now be found online. All certification requirements are listed on line, including the background check and Safesport information. For information or concerns about badges, contact Rae Adams @ mvacertifications@gmail.com.

Herb acknowledged that there are still issues and a backlog for getting badges. He stated that, per the National Office, if an Official needs proof of certification in order to officiate a meet, the Official can either contact Herb Martin or contact a Board Member who can pull their account from the database, and copy and paste their credentials into an email for them to show to Meet Management to verify certification.

The question was raised that, in order to recertify for the new Olympiad, Officials will need to complete the application, take the test and pay their fee. However, there is some concern amongst Officials that they are not willing to do this currently due to the uncertainty of meets being held during the pandemic. It was suggested that we hold off until either we get guidance from the National Office, or we are sure that meets will be definitely held.

The group discussed how to increase the volume of MV Officials, but simplify the process. It was suggested that after interested parties register, do an online course, then they possibly could shadow a current Official for certification completion

The concern was voiced that the pandemic has brought to light another issue. Officials, Starters etc. tend to be older, more seasoned adults who are voicing concerns and are considering retiring. This will leave a huge need for Officials and Starters. It was suggested that we need to think of creative ways to bring more young people on board and find ways and incentives to get and keep them engaged. One suggestion was creating a Youth Board. The group agreed, and will revisit this idea in the near future.

New Business

The USATF annual meeting will be a virtual event this year due to the pandemic. Carma will send out more information when available.

Communications Chair Report

Dion Lewis presented his Communications report to the group.

- He will continue to send out the USATF Newsletter monthly. He is requesting that anyone with news, updates for meets, meet winners, accomplishments – both on and off of the track, forward to him to be included in newsletter.

Race walk Report

Jamie Koontz, Race walk Official, stated that she has had a lot of people shadow her for Race Walk events. She has also had Racewalkers from area schools training to compete: 6 from Friends University, 5 from Baker U and 5 from Mid-America Nazarene. She also stated that the Heartland Racewalkers are getting more visibility during meets. There remains a desperate need for trained Racewalk officials. Anyone interested in officiating Race Walk, please contact either Carma Robinson-Kendall or Jamie Koontz.

The question was asked whether Jamie had thought hosting a virtual racewalk meet. She stated that it would be hard to do because of the amount of close monitoring that needs to happen when judging racewalk.

Presidents Report

Carma stated that MV will be hosting the Regional Championship in 2021 at Emporia State University. However, The City of Emporia is giving the Association no incentives for hosting the meet there. She asked for other ideas for venues that may be willing to host in exchange for incentives. It was suggested that a High School in Joplin, Mo. was a good alternative. Carma will talk with the City of Joplin leaders about logistics and specifics. It was also suggested that the group should look for facilities in Salina, KS to possibly host indoor meets.

Carma stated the Youth Executive Committee Board is being revamped and Board positions are changing. Contact Carma for more information.

The question was asked whether we will have a youth cross country meet. The group discussed possible venues for the meet and it was suggested that a course in Olathe be considered.

The question was then asked if we could possibly host a virtual cross country meet. The group will look into it.

A question arose about the rules to sanction a virtual cross country meet and will it count towards our meet requirements. Carma will talk to National Office about that possibility.

It was then suggested that, to be socially distant, maybe we could host a Regional XC meet on different days and/or times, breaking the participants up so as not to have many on 1 day. Carma will look into this possibility.

Darren and Gilda Muci stated that they will be hosting a Virtual Larry Stanton Virtual Cross Country meet. The deadline to register will be from Oct. 29 until the end of November. Interested parties can register at shockertrackclub.com.

Carma then expressed a desire for Darren and Gilda Muci to get involved on the Board in some capacity since they are such loyal and dedicated members of USATF track and field. Carma will put together a list of open positions and will discuss with them.

Meeting adjourned at 11:20am