



**USATF-SC Annual Meeting Minutes
September 17, 2023 at 3:00 pm
via Zoom**

The meeting was opened at 2:45 pm and attendance was taken by USATF-SC President Brian Jordan, USATF-SC Secretary Angela Hitch, staff member Susan Heiser-Whatley, and member Darlin Jordan. Quorum was determined with 48 members present, including representatives from eleven (11) clubs and seven (7) athletes. The following clubs were represented: *A Touch of Speed, Aiken Atomics, Caminata Elite, Carolina Gold TC, Classics TC, Florence TC, Greenville TC, Mt Pleasant TC, Myrtle Beach TC, Running is Good, YoCo Throwers.*

1. Attendance. Members present: *Ruth Albright, Andrew Allden, Al Barron, Justin Bishop, John Blackburn, Ieisha Bodrick, Michael Burchett, Treva Campbell, Maurice Campbell, Stephen Clark, Tami Dennis, Don DeWitt, Yolande Dow, Stephanie Dukes, Megan Frost, Ronald Geohaghan Sr (Treasurer), Darlene Goodwin, Susan Heiser, Jesi Heiser-Whatley, Tori Heiser-Whatley, Steven Heller, Angela Hitch (Secretary), George Illingworth, Valerie Jacobs, Jennifer James, Donna Johnson, Jaquan Johnson, Melanie Johnson, Brian Jordan (President), Darlin Jordan, Savannah Jordan, Deon Kelly, Christopher Kling, Steve Mullaney (1st VP), Martha op de Beeck, Steven Phan, Jackie Robinson, Ulysses Sherman, TaMara Sloan, Stephen Smith, Jimmy Stephens, Valerie Sykes, Lawrence Terry, Randy Treese, Eboni Thomkins-Webber, Norman Venyah(2nd VP), Ian Whatley, Joyce Welch.*

2. State of the Association Report. President Jordan welcomed the members and thanked all for attending and their dedication to the SC association. He mentioned being able to do a lot of great things this year including hosting a new JO meet location in Florence, SC. He thanked those that were there for participating and hoped there was good information to others about the meet. The association is also looking for other new locations and hoping to showcase those with association meets and upcoming regionals hosted in 2025.

3. Approval of Minutes from the 2022 Annual Meeting. President Jordan introduced consideration of the 2022 Annual Meeting minutes. Secretary Hitch made a motion to approve the minutes as presented and George Illingworth seconded. Motion unanimously approved.

4. Website Overview. President Jordan introduced the revamped association website. George Illingworth gave the website as the same as the current, www.usatfsc.org. The new website was presented to the members by George Illingworth. He showed the homepage and how to navigate finding the document library, annual meeting and their documents. Forms can also be checked on this page. The website will continue to be expanded with more information. The youth tab was visited and the "other" items on that page were demonstrated, such as youth implements information. He mentioned official's recertification for next year, 2024, would also be available via the website.

5. Treasurer/Financial Report. Treasurer Ron Geohaghan presented the Financial report. The report period is from September 2022 up until August 2023. The bank balance in July 2022 was \$77,815.66 and as of August 31, 2023 was \$129,861.69. Expenses for JO meets included a gas stipend, officials stipend,

and a lodging stipend that was increased. Ron thanked Brian and Steve for assisting in lodging for the officials and that all was well received. Florence allowed the use of the venue, and it is a really good setup. It helped because there was no fee for the venue. Ron thanked Brian for coordinating that. Securing contracts to pay for vendors was handled and it helped that there was no payment for ice due to the Florence facility providing the ice. There was a slight increase in officials lunches due to past meets offering lunches from vendors, but it balanced out due to no cost of ice vending. Another cost was security, but once the final bill was received it was reimbursed. The XC JO was in Newberry and hotels, and snacks were paid for. Other items with expenses were Racewalk, MUT, and Master's championships that typically included stipends and snacks as costs. Other upcoming expenses include convention, coaches education, which leads to quality coaches and developing better youth. The association is doing well and in excellent financial position with money to continue to develop coaches and officials. Budget review has current assets of \$129,861.69, projected income is \$76,400, projected expenses \$102,150, and projected assets \$99,789. The association hopes to increase funding for coaches ed, officials training, clubs, athletic support, and association promotion. These investments will benefit the association into the future. The proposed budget request is made by committees for the 23-24 year. In review of programs for funding is officials, equipment stipends, there was an agreement of raising the daily stipend \$75 to \$85 due to gas increases, coaches ed for L1 and L2 grants, adding funds for continuing ed courses, and also providing athlete support via the athletic advisory committee for elite athletes that are competing in Olympic trials and other events. Also, funds for club development and assistance programs for current and new clubs as well as funds for association promotion for membership and recruitment activities. SC Secretary of State accepted a tax return after one correction and everything is on track. Ron appreciates the board and those assisting with obtaining documents needed for tax filing. Susan thanked Ron and Val for getting finances formatted and providing reports as needed.

6. Committee Reports. *(All committee reports are posted on the USATF-SC website at usatfsc.org)*

A. Athletes Advisory. Chair Ian Whatley presented the Athlete Advisory report, stating expenses were low because of no Olympic trials. 2024 moves into a qualifying period and there are already some people who have qualified, and the committee would like to continue offering grants for those that don't have sponsors and at least cover entry fees. In the past, athletes have been eligible and declined grants because they have sponsors, clubs, or schools with funds. The committee is planning to propose approximately 7 grants based on history plus entry fee reimbursement so about \$4500. John Blackburn proposed and motioned for a higher amount funded if the location changes for the trials in the amount of 1000 for west coast travel and 500 for the marathon (in Florida). Susan Heiser seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Coaches Education. Chair Andrew Allden reported that the bulk of coaching education continues to be online. From a financial perspective and an access perspective for our coaches and the association, it's relatively cheap. The next round of grants will be out soon for level one and level 2. Currently, the plan is to keep most courses online. Funds can change and are flexible based on location or in person and online courses. Andrew stated appreciation of the association's support of coaching ed. Eboni Thompkins-Webber proposed and motioned to ask for funds for emerging elite athletes for continuing education. In the past, there have not been applications for continuing education and Ian Whatley proposed adding or transferring funds for emerging elite applications for continuing ed. The amount proposed by Ian Whatley was \$1000 to be determined during the budget meeting.

C. Long Distance Running (LDR). Joyce Welch presented the LDR report stating there were two LDR races, one in the fall and one in the winter. The one in the fall is the Lexington half. It is in its 4th

year and a \$750 cash prize is distributed among open and Masters first, second and third place winners. Last year a new race that is in the Greenville Traveler's Rest area called the Green Valley 10 mile race and is planned for again this year, as well as including a third race. The LDR budget is \$2000 with \$750 going to each one of these two races and the remainder \$500 can be added to a third race, possibly a 5K, in the spring and in a different region of South Carolina.

D. Membership Services. Steve Mullaney presented the Membership report, stating rolling membership numbers are fantastic. There was a small dip in 2022 and in 2020, but our membership in 2019 was 1805 and 23 were 1898, so over 90 members stronger in 2023 than in 2019. Youth members have increased as well as adult memberships. The breakdown of the memberships right now is 56% male and 44% female As far as clubs go, there are 58 active clubs right now. Membership is growing, and all these reports are out on the website and the documents repository.

E. Mountain, Ultra & Trail (MUT). Chair Jennifer James presented the MUT report, stating technically there was no 2023 year, however, there was one in the spring of 2022 that helped get the MUT accreditation. This fall there will be two championship races, the first is going to be in the Mt. Pleasant area and then the trail championship will be the Paris Mountain 16K. MUT will be asking for an increase budget to offset sanctioning fees because the biggest expense is officials, monitors, travel, and hotel, and then awards and prize monies for the championship events, approximately \$4500.

F. Officials. Norman Venyah presented the officials report stating there are outstanding South Carolina officials for this year. They are Valerie Jacobs, Marcus, and, Ron and certificates are made in the National Office and mailed. Norman stated appreciation the committee I for their assistance over the years with helping with upgrades. Also, thank you to , Susan Heiser, Maurice Campbell, Ron Geohagan, Freddie Young, and John Blackburn, all on the certification committee. Norman announced he will be stepping down from this position so contact the new president since this is a an assigned position. John Blackburn mentioned the loss of two extremely long time and stalwart officials this year, Archie Yard and Larry Sanders. On the website, on the blue navigation bar, under home, there's a white triangle where an in memoriam page has been added, and it has both of those officials on there.

G. Officials Certification. George Illingworth presented the officials certification report stating that the other part of officials beyond certification is training and development. George thanked John Blackburn, Ron, Geohagan, and Steve Mullaney for all their work over the past year. Three officials clinic were held during the past year, one at Myrtle Beach in conjunction with Myrtle Beach Sports Authority, one at USC, and one in the low country for high school coaches and parents. These clinics brought in 38 new officials. A new standardized handout and PowerPoint has been developed for use at the clinics for prospective officials. The new clinic structure also includes now a group session where we take those official those prospective officials who want to, through the rules, review that step. George thanked Coach Allden for suggesting it because it was a major reason why there were so many new officials by doing that work up front and not leaving it for the prospective official to do when he or she gets back home. A PowerPoint and handouts to use with our current track and field officials is also being developed. The plan for the next year is to gain at least 25 new officials as well as moving more officials to the national level. George intends to present at least two clinics each year. The budget request for this year is \$2200, which is the same as it was in fiscal 2022.

G. Open/Masters Track & Field. Chair Michael Burchett presented the O/M report stating two events were held this past fiscal year, the bigger of which by far was the open and masters meet, which was held this June in the partnership of the GreenvilleTrack Club and director Jim Roberts. There were 37 association athletes that participated, which is up from 32 in 2022 and up significantly from 20 in

2021. Officials were paid their stipends, and the snacks and beverages. The Greenville Track Club provided the meals and the facility and the timer. The association's total expense was about \$2400. A throws pentathlon was also added to the event this year. It was an exhibition event. This year, however, it will become an actual event in 2024, and there is the possibility of it being classified as a separate USATF Association Championship. The Cross Country Championships were held November 11th and attendance was low. The plan is to piggyback onto The Greenville Track Club's Paris Mountains 7K Trail race, which is typically held in August. The committee is requesting \$1000 budget for that, the most of which would go towards prize money.

H. Racewalk. Chair Susan Heiser presented the racewalk report, stating this year, race walk hosted a stand alone event in December of 2022 and produced collegiate qualifiers out of that race. In addition, we partnered with the Youth Committee to have officials for the 1500 meter and the 3000 meter race walks at the JO event and we partnered with the Open Masters Track Committee to host a 3000 meter event at their championships, so all of the accreditation requirements by USATF were met with that. Next year will be an Olympic year and foresee the need to host A20K Olympic Qualifier for our open athletes to have an opportunity to make the Olympic trials. There will need to be a professional timer for that event as well as record level officials. The budget request is \$3000 for that event. The committee is asking for an additional \$500 to repeat the 3000M Championship and then have some available to host another Masters or high school distance on a track for any high school or masters that need a qualifier to to make a national event. A discussion was held about joint events and Susan stated there is discussion with surrounding states with the idea of a possible Southeast region 20K championship.

J. Youth Committee. Chair Steve Mullaney presented the Youth Committee report, stating it was a moderately successful year. Costs exceeded profits at about \$1500 because truck prices for the rental truck was up, venue price was slightly more, but flagging and banners, however it will be reused. Steve stated due to unforeseen circumstances a new venue is being pursued for the cross country JO meet and officials applications will be out soon. In 2024, SC will be hosting the regional cross country meet. This year it is in Lakeland, FL, about 40 miles east of Tampa. The national meet will be in Louisville, KY this year. A national rule change is that instead of 9 going to the finals, it will be restricted to 8 people will go into the finals in the field events. Steve stated thank you very much to the ten members of the Youth Committee. Also mentioned was the application for committee positions for youth committee and for others. Also, the youth report you will have the youth accolades including South Carolina state records and All-Americans. John Blackburn posed a discussion regarding the scheduling of the track and field JO meet and Steve stated a survey would be sent out around October regarding the scheduling of this meet. Steve reminded about the waiver that is available if conflicts arise.

7. Budget. Athlete Advisory chair, Ian Whatley, stated the committee originally asked for 4500 and are now asking for 6000. In coaches education, an additional \$1000 for the online campus courses to be included has been requested so that total is now \$6760. There was a discussion about fiscal year vs calendar year and it was stated that the budget is all based on fiscal year, while the treasurers report is based on tax year. A motion was made by Susan Heiser Whatley to accept the budget and was seconded by George Illingworth. The budget passed unanimously.

8. Youth Site Selection. Chair Steve Mullaney presented the committee report, indicating that the Youth Site Selection committee is looking for an alternate venue for the cross country meet and negotiations are being made for the JO track and field meet. In 2024, the JO cross country meet will be

in York. County. 2025 is also being negotiated with the hope to have that secured by the end of October of this year (2023). Once that's finalized, that information will be out on the website.

9. Awards. Steve Mullaney presented the *Meritorious Service Award* to Tami Dennis. Tami's many accomplishments were noted such as a runner's world Gold Shoe Award recipient, Spartanburg Striders coach and founding member, Coach at Mount Pleasant Track Club, coach at Ashley Hall High School, Road Runners Club of America Hall of Fame and USAF Hall of Fame. Additionally, she's played a major role in the success of the USATF South Carolina Association, and she's been a long-time member of the Association as well as a long-time member of USATF South Carolina Youth committee. She has been the association Vice president from 2018 through 2021. Congratulations to Tami Dennis of Mt. Pleasant Track Club.

10. National Convention. Susan Heiser stated the National Convention is going to be in Florida from November 30th to December 3rd. Delegates are needed delegates to cover all of the sports committee meetings, as well as officer meetings, and the association is also required to send 10 year and tenure plus athletes to meet our accreditation requirements. Requests should be submitted by September 30th and decisions made by the middle of October to the office email.

9. Unfinished Business: None

10. New Business. None.

11. Credentials Committee Report Susan Heiser reported Secretary Hitch and herself serve as the credential committee, and all emails for voting are sent to Secretary Hitch. They are inputted in the system and Susan verifies them against the USATF Connect system to make sure that everyone is qualified to vote in the constituency that they have requested to vote in. Susan reported that everyone has been placed in a constituency. The contested elections will be prepared and mailed out within three hours of the adjournment of the meeting. The constituencies are athletes, clubs, coaches, general and officials.

12. Nominations and Election. John Blackburn acted as Parliamentarian and Susan Heiser took over the running of the nominations and elections.

Susan Heiser- Whatley as well as Val Sykes nominated Brian Jordan for President with a second by Chris Kling. Brian Jordan accepted the nomination for President.

Susan Heiser- Whatley nominated Coach Lawrence Terry for President with a second by George Illingworth. Coach Lawrence Terry accepted the nomination for President.

Candidate bios are on the website and candidates also have the opportunity to speak.

George Illingworth nominated Steve Mullaney and Randy Treese seconded the nomination for 1st VP. Steve Mullaney accepted the nomination for 1st Vice President.

Steve Mullaney nominated Eboni-Thompkins-Webber and Jennifer James seconded the nomination for 2nd VP. Eboni Thomplins-Webber accepted the nomination for 2nd Vice President.

Ian Whatley nominated Ronald Geohaghan and Jennifer James seconded the nomination for Treasurer. Ronald Geohaghan accepted the nomination for Treasurer.

Val Sykes nominated Susan Heiser for Secretary, who respectfully declined the nomination.

Brian Jordan nominated Ulysses Sherman and Steve Mullaney seconded the nomination for Secretary. Ulysses Sherman accepted the nomination for Secretary.

Val Sykes nominated Val Jacobs for Secretary, who respectfully declined the nomination.

Each candidate was given the opportunity to speak, and after the speeches, members were allowed to question the candidates. No questions were asked.

Ron Geohaghan and Ian Whatley moved to close the nominations and vote in all uncontested candidates by acclamation. Val Sykes and Val Jacobs seconded. Motion unanimously approved.

The following members were voted into office by acclamation:

1st Vice President -- Steve Mullaney

2nd Vice President – Eboni Thompkins-Webber

Treasurer -- Ronald Geohaghan

Secretary – Ulysses Sherman

Secretary Heiser announced that the ballot sent tonight will only be for the contested election for President. There would be two (2) candidates on the ballot - Brian Jordan and Lawrence Terry. The ballots are open until 12 noon the following day. The voting panel has three members tallying ballots.

Election Addendum

The Voting Panel met on Monday, September 18 to tabulate and certify the results of the contested election for USATF-SC President. The ElectionBuddy report showed the following outcome:

45 of 48 eligible voters cast ballots in the election for President of the USATF-SC Association.

Rounding to the nearest half of percentage point the results were:

Brian Jordan 85.5%

Lawrence Terry 14.5%

Brian Jordan was thereby declared the winner and President of USATF-SC.

Election Results were Certified by Al Barron, Valerie Jacobs and Ian Whatley (*10year athlete*)

13. Closing Comments/Questions. President Jordan closed the meeting thanking everyone for attending and for their time to the association.

Val Sykes made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Val Jacobs seconded the motion. Motion unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 5:13 pm.

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Minutes prepared by the USATF-SC Secretary.

Signature: _____ *Angela Hitch* _____ *10-17-23*
Angela Hitch *Date*

Approved in form by the USATF-SC President.

Signature: _____ *Brian Jordan* _____ *Date*

Minutes adopted with/without revisions at the 2023 Annual Meeting _____ *Date*