



**2025 Annual Meeting Minutes
September 13, 2025
Knights of Columbus Building, Columbia, SC
Zoom Session and In Person Meeting
AMENDED MINUTES 9/12/26**

The meeting was opened at 12:35 by President, Brian Jordan. Attendance was taken by Brian and Susan Heiser-Whatley. Quorum was established.

Attendance:

Members: 43 including 15 clubs and 12 athletes

In Person: Brian Jordan, Steve Mullaney, Ronald Geohaghan, Savannah Jordan, Valerie Sykes, Darlin Jordan, Sam Jordan, George Illingworth, Debra Hawkins, Matthew Hawkins, Ruth Albright, Maurice Campbell, Stephen Clark, Cleon Fowler, Sandra Fowler, Steven Heller, Duke Israel, Valerie Jacobs, Donna Johnson, Johnathan Rice, Treva Campbell,

Zoom: Al Barron, Susan Heiser, Eboni Thompkins-Webber, Iesha Bodrick, Velicia Bridgett, Michael Burchett, Diadre Dow, Stephanie Dukes, Megan Frost, M Darlene Goodwin, Gina Hambrick, Jesi Heiser-Whatley, Tori Heiser-Whatley, Tawanda Howe, Jeffrey Jacobs, James Jacobs, Jennifer James, Cassandra McKenzie, Rip Ripley, Stephen Smith, Paige Smith-Ducey, Norman Venyah, Ian Whatley, Clif McKenzie (revised 9/12/26 added)

Clubs: Greenville Track Club, Carolina Gold, Carolina Rockets, TriAndLikelt, Myrtle Beach Sports & Tourism, Classics Track Club, Mt Pleasant Track Club, Caminata Elite Track Club, Arizona Elite Track Club, Running is Good, Primer Athletics, Summerville Speed, YoCo Throwers, A Touch of Speed, SC Elite

State of the Association:

Brian Jordan welcomed all that were in attendance in person and by zoom and thanked them for attending. It was a good year for USATF SC. We have established great partnerships in the state with such as the City of Florence, Greenville Track Club and Rock Hill/York County. Thanks was given to all the great volunteers and officials who have made the events possible.

Approval of Minutes from 2024 Annual Meeting:

President Brian Jordan introduced for consideration the 2024 Annual Meeting minutes. George Illingworth made a motion to approve the minutes as presented and Cleon Fowler seconded. Motion unanimously approved.

Treasurer/Financial Report:

A strong financial position was reported by Ronald Geohaghan, Treasurer and by Valerie Sykes, Financial Chair. Reports were submitted for review by both. Financial data was provided such as Balance Sheet, Income Statement, Bank Reconciliation and Account Breakdowns for various accounting periods for the association. For the calendar tax year 1/1/24 to 12/31/24 there was a loss of \$8,450.12. Valerie noted that we did write off bad debts of Thaddeus Sligh and Clarence Richardson in this calendar year period. Presently for 1/1/25 to 8/31/25 we have a profit of \$47,063.20 and a bank balance of \$149,085.51.

Ron had completed with help from Steve and Susan the paperwork for the nonprofit status 501C which the National office had mandated that we do. We have been approved now by the IRS.

Ron refiled the 2021, 2022 and 2023 tax returns and we have paid the fines incurred for this. The 2024 tax return was filed and has been approved.

Ron is still working with the Secretary of State and had just send a Schedule G and a current check to them. He should obtain the letter from them with their approval within the next month.

The grants which Steve Mullaney obtained for the association and sponsorships with the youth meet locations he negotiated have made the profit from the youth events even greater than normal. The Association is thankful for the contract that have been done with the City of Florence for future events.

Future expenses will be officials clinics, shirts for certified officials, CPR course, National annual meeting, and the various youth, open/master, MUT and LDR events we will contest.

Communication Report:

Eboni Thompkins-Webber spoke about the communications blasts, newsletter and social media posts that she had completed during the year. She wants to highlight clubs in the state in the future on social media posts. Send information to communications@southcarolina.usatf.org

Memberships/Clubs:

Steve Mullaney presented for Joyce Welch. Report submitted. He noted that we have climbed back up in our youth and adult memberships. We had lost probably about 100 athletes of High School age due to the same day conflict with our youth meet and the Shoe meets that were being held. Per Brian the National office has sent an email with a survey to see what dates associations are having their meets. They will use this to tell us in the future what dates we will be allowed to have our meets.

Sanctions:

Steve Mullaney presented. Report submitted. We need a certain number of sanctioned events for our accreditation by the National office. We have had more than required for 2024 and are good for 2025. We will keep encouraging events in the state to obtain a sanction and for LDR events to have their course certified. If events do this they are eligible for USATF records. Cleon Fowler noted that you can combine with an event which we have been doing in MUT, Open/Masters and LDR.

Athlete Advisory and Coaches Education:

Ian Whatley spoke on behalf of Andrew Allden and himself. 2025 the Athlete Advisory did not assist with anything. 2024 we did pay athletes some funds for the Olympic trials. In 2027 we will once again assist with the trials.

Coaches Education – report submitted by Andrew Allden. Ian spoke on his behalf. National office has changed how coaches get certified in these courses. We do give grant money for this. There is a wufoo form which you complete and send with a copy of your receipt for registration and a copy of your certificate of completion.

A L1 course will be held at Davidson in the winter. Andrew Allden is looking into training people to be training instructors as well.

L2 courses we do not have a facility for this so it must be done online or out of state. Ian recommended the online course. The host schools are listed on the National

web page. To sign up you must use your connect account. These instructors are highly trained that will teach this course.

If you have any questions please contact Ian.

Officials:

George Illingworth presented. Report submitted. George thanked those worked all year for the association. We are up 2 officials from the prior year which shows a sign of growth. Noted that for the nation we are down from 4800 to 4200 officials so for us to be up 2 is awesome. 2026-27 we will be developing an intermediate workshop for current officials. When past officials asked why they did not renew they firstly found out how hard you work at a meet and secondly felt they were not learning anything. We will have senior officials mentoring our newer officials now. George implemented a written policy on how to upgrade and on recommendations in the future they will need to be more specific for upgrades. New official clinics will be done and the shirts are in process. George, Steve and Valerie will figure out a way to disburse these once they come in. Steve reiterated we are doing these shirts as a courtesy as the National office reneged on providing shirts. The wufoo deadline to register for a shirt was 8/31.

LDR:

Steve presented for Joyce Welch. Report submitted. The association has provided prize money again for various sanctioned events which we used are our championships. Noted that only USATF SC members may obtain this prize money. We have upcoming events – Run Hard Half-marathon 11/11/25, Green Valley 10-miler 2/7/26 and Aiken 10-miler March 2026. The goal eventually is to build a race series.

MUT:

Jennifer James presented. Report submitted. Two championship races are scheduled for 2025 – Midnight Dreary and Paris Mountain events. In 2024 due to the damage from Hurricane Helene the Paris Mountain 16k was moved to March 2025. Prize money is awarded to USATF SC athletes in these events.

Our Open/Masters XC Championships will be concurrent with the Paris Mountain 16K and will be 7K long. We are going to try a team competition with this. This should generate additional excitement. Prize money will be offered at this as well to USATF SC members.

Open/Masters:

Michael Burchett presented. Report submitted. For the Open/Masters track meet we partnered with Greenville Track Club again and provided the officials for the event. 167 total athletes registered. The association does not receive entry fees from the event. Partnering is the best option for this event and we will do it again in 2026. A site for the event will need to be done as the past site will be under construction.

Racewalk:

Susan Heiser presented. Report submitted. Various race walk championships were held during the year – 3000m Open/Masters, 1500m/3000m Youth. We hosted the Region 4 Championships and 7 of our athletes competed. 5 of these athletes competed at the National meet in Savannah, GA. Three of these athletes were All American.

The goal of the committee is to promote race walk to all age groups and provide training and competition experiences. The committee has worked on a new race walk official forms and best practices that has been submitted to the National Officials Committee. There is a new USATF eight hour online coaching course that was written and almost entirely filmed in SC using our coaches and athletes.

Susan is looking for a 1K loop in SC to certify for championship events. She will work with all sport committees to provide race walks as needed for accreditation.

Youth:

Steve Mullaney presented. Report submitted. Steve thanked all on the Youth Committee as well as George and Valerie for their assistance.

Cross Country – thanks to grant money received from Rock Hill/York County we were able between both meets to make a profit. We had to add the Open/Masters to our Youth meet again as due to the damage from Hurricane Helene the championship planned at Paris Mountain was cancelled. We had to change one location for our youth meet as we were informed that the facility was going to be busy parking wise with other events. Steve was able to rent from a local high school in York County.

Track & Field – we were able to obtain sponsorship from The City of Florence and had great profit from both events. We hosted the Region 4 Championship as well this year. Even though Georgia was not present we have a very successful meet.

Noted that officials are our biggest expense and we will not deviate from this as it makes for a quality meet. Food, drinks, snacks for officials and volunteers is \$28 per day per his calculations and this will not change either. We look after our hard working volunteers and officials.

Site Selection – we will be at Florence for the next 3 years. Contract has been signed with wonderful sponsorship again. Steve is also working with the Hampton Inn on a deal as well since we know we will be there for the next 3 years. We will host Regionals again in 2027 here. Noted that Florida will be missing from one rotation and could be for more rotations if they do not get their athlete count over 100 and they have been nowhere close to this number.

Regionals in 2026 will be in Georgia. No site has been assigned for the 2026 National meet. Registration for our association meet will close 6/2.

Cross Country – our association meet is in Aiken on November 8th and will start at 10:30. The two older age groups will be combined again. All information is on the website. The Regional XC meet will be in Fairburn, GA – same site as the last Regional XC meet there.

New Equipment- We have obtained 70 250 gram javelins. 60 of these will be given to clubs at our next youth association meet. We will look at what clubs have javelin athletes to disburse these to. We had obtained a grant and have used these funds to offset the cost of these. 10 of the javelins will be used at our association meets. Note that the turbo jav will still be used in 2026. 2027 the Aero jav will come into place but the 8 and under will still throw the turbo javelin.

New association records list was provided. These are pending ratification and will be official in the next couple weeks. Noted that the mixed gender relays were a new event thus their times is a record for this year.

All American list of athletes for 2024 cross country and 2025 track and field were provided. Noted National Champions were highlighted on the list.

Steve announced this was his last Youth Chair report as he was stepping down from this and Eboni Thompkins-Webber will be doing this now.

2025-26 Budget:

Valerie Sykes, Finance Chair presented the 2025-26 Budget. Report submitted. Cleon Fowler made a motion to approve the budget, seconded by Duke Israel. Motion unanimously approved.

Site Selection:

Previously discussed by Steve that the youth meets for the next 3 years will be in Florence. Steve spoke about trying to organize a Para event with Florence as well. Clemson hosts a para event each year and we will be involved in some form.

National has not picked a venue for their youth meet and few are interested in hosting as you must pay \$7,500 for a rights fee and the National office comes in and takes over the meet so we definitely will not be bidding.

We are always looking at venues to partner with. We should recognize that we now have venues not approaching us to bring our events to their facility. We bring income in to their community.

Awards:

George Illingworth, Officials Chair presented the two Outstanding Official Awards to Steve Mullaney and Susan Heiser. He also presented the Outstanding New Official Award to Sherika Hutchinson. This award is for persons who have been an official less than two years.

Brian Jordan, President presents an USATF South Carolina Meritorious Service Award to Steve Mullaney. He thanked Steve for going above and beyond always and his volunteer years. We have gone from an association begging for a place to have a meet at to places coming to us asking us to bring our event to them. His hard work in the background and the foreground is much appreciated. Steve is now going to be volunteering at the National level. He will be greatly missed.

National Convention:

The deadline to be apply to be a delegate for the National Annual Convention is 9/30. You must contact/email the office email or Brian Jordan if you would like to be a delegate. After this date the committee will decide who will be the delegates and will specify if they will be hybrid or in person, whichever will benefit the association the best. Nationals is doing some hybrid meetings and have gone from a 4 day event to a 2 day event which will save us some money. We still have to send a certain number of delegates. Per Susan this number is 10 and we have to meet a certain combination of athlete, coach and admin. Now the delegates can do hybrid or in person. Some committees are only doing a hybrid. Apparently the athletes prefer the hybrid so they can keep training. Cleon noted that coaches will probably prefer the hybrid if they have athletes training. There is no more gala or awards dinner. Susan noted that even National Committee members have to pay their own hotel. Some committees are doing their meeting ahead of this date and just posting

their discussions on the annual meeting website. To date Susan had received one application.

Unfinished Business: None to report.

New Business:

Steve reported that there is a grant for \$2000 coming from the National office and this will be applied for CPR training in the upper and lower state. He is hoping to have 2 people trained to be instructors on CPR, ADD and basic first aid and they can train others across the state. If anyone is interested they are to contact George Illingworth.

Valerie asked if our association can pass a rule that athletes entered in the shoe events can obtain a waiver for our association meet. Steve said this is up to the board and the youth committee per the National office. Valerie asked that we need to make sure this is done for our future youth track and field meets.

Maurice Campbell announced the SC High School league cross country meet will be November 14/15 at the Aiken steeple chase facility. No overnight lodging is provided and they are looking for officials. The track and field meet will be May 14-15-16 2026 at Richmond NE and Spring Valley High School. There may be a prerequisite that you must do the High School league test. He will let everyone know. George offered to coordinate a Zoom meeting if this test will be required.

Valerie noted that the date of this high school meet is after our meet and high school age athletes are not allowed to compete at our meet if they are on the high school team. She asked that we allow waivers for athletes so that they may go on to regionals. Steve said that this will be arranged.

Jeff Jacobs from Myrtle Beach Sports & Tourism noted that they will be having on 10/4 and Spring and Hurdle Youth Development Clinic at Doug Shaw Stadium. The cost is \$15. There will be a Field event one on 10/18. He will send the information to Steve and Brian to be sent out.

Credentials Committee Report:

Susan Heiser confirmed all credentials and if someone had registered under a constituency that they should not have she would email them. She confirmed who was not in attendance.

Nominations & Elections:

Susan noted we had received 5 letters of intent and all were verified members, in good standing and have met all requirements. They were Brian Jordan for President, George Illingworth for 1st Vice President, Eboni Thompkins-Webber for 2nd Vice President, Al Barron for Secretary and Valerie Sykes for Treasurer. You can only be nominated for one position.

Floor was opened. There were no more nominations presented.

President: Brian Jordan self nominated. Ian Whatley seconded the motion. Ruth Albright made a motion to close the nominations. Seconded by Cleon Fowlder. All were in favor.

1st Vice President – George Illingworth self nominated, seconded by Steve Mullaney. Ruth Albright motioned to close nominations, seconded by Valerie Jacobs. All in favor.

2nd Vice President – Eboni Thompkins-Webber self nominated, seconded by Ian Whatley. Cassandra McKenzie motioned to close nominations, seconded by Ruth Albright. All in favor.

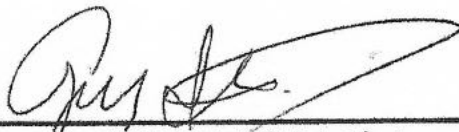
Treasurer – Valerie Sykes self nominated, seconded by Steven Heller. Cassandra McKenzie motioned to close nominations, seconded by Ian Whatley. All in favor.

Secretary – Al Barron self nominated, seconded by Jessi Heiser-Whatley. Cassandra McKenzie motioned to close nominations, seconded by Gina Hambrick. All in favor. Motion by Cleon Fowler to close nominations and elections as the entire slate had won by acclamation. Seconded by Ruth Albright. All in favor.

Adjournment:

Brian Jordan, President thanked all who were in attendance either by Zoom or in person. He thanked Steve Mullaney for the lunch which he had provided to all who attended in person. He thanked everyone for their time to the USATF SC association. 3:20 George Illingworth made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Ruth Albright. All in favor.

Minutes prepared by the USATF SC Officials Chair

Signature 
George Illingworth, USATF SC Officials Chair

Date 9/12/26

Approved in form by the USATF-SC President

Signature 
Brian Jordan, USATF SC President

Date 9/12/26