

**Minutes of South Texas Executive Board Annual Meeting  
September 20, 2015  
San Marcos, Texas**

**Present:** Bert Pickell, Sue Humphrey, Bear Jones, Joe Prusaitis, Joyce Prusaitis, Debbie Romero, Preston Johnson, Keith Shedd, Cynthia Shedd, Rachel McCoy, Darlene Holland, Scott Slade, Jon Maas, Juan Dominguez, Randy Reina, David Dunbar, Tim Brownson, Branden Chiuminetta, Alvin Weaver, Randy Rendon, Michael O'Neal, Seth Brower, George Perry, Ricky Williams, Alain Rendon, Gary Mathis, Audra Blazick, Eric Craig, Lionel Johnson, Jeanette Brown, Angela Beechum, John Head, Sabrina Townsend.

The meeting was called to order at 2:10 pm at The Wellington by President Bert Pickell. He asked for a moment of silence in memory of Don Austin, a past South Texas USATF officer and Officer Emeritus. He passed away last month. The Association made a donation to the charity his family requested.

Pickell commented that he recently participated in a conference call with the Regional rep, Jackie Callendar. The discussion centered on issues the various associations are/have had with their programs.

Humphrey reminded members that they need to renew their USATF membership after November 1<sup>st</sup> for the 2016 year. It is a good idea to get a 4 year membership each quadrennial. There is a discount for multi-year memberships. She is still having issues getting the USATF hosted website to update all the time. The Association does have a Facebook page "South Texas USATF" which has the latest news posted.

Treasurer Bear Jones gave the financial report. Currently, the Association has \$40,054.08. He reviewed the monthly accounts since the last meeting. Jones asked the members to keep current in submitting any receipts they have and to let him know about any members' serious medical issues. He also reported that we have a storage unit for association equipment in the San Marcos area. We still have \$2,000. in a money market account. Broadway Bank has been bought out by Exico Bank.

Pickell reported that sanctions are now done online. There is a concern in that John Purnell's name off the association website. He got it put back on the site. The local association doesn't seem to have any voice in what group/person gets a sanction. There is no local control to insure the group sanctioned provides a safe event for our members.

Membership chair Gerald Smith resigned during the summer. Former chair Prusaitis and Pickell have been handling the on-going details. Currently, we have 1,348 members, 41 clubs with another 31 not renewing in 2015.

Officials chair Ricky Williams reported that he won't have any more certification clinics until the new quadrennial begins. He will request all officials to take a 4 year USATF membership as many of them haven't keep up with their memberships in the non-certification year. Officials must also take the SafeSport course on the USATF website by December 31, 2015 and have a background check completed. Currently, South Texas has 249 certified officials. Williams has also traveled all over the association to reach out to interested officials in all areas of our boundaries. The starters are creating a data base of certified starters in the state.

### **Old Business**

Slade reported on the Youth Grand Prix held over the summer. Chiummetta headed up the program and worked with Prusaitis, who developed the successful MUT series. He said it's taken a little longer to get established than he had planned, but is actively working on the next stages.

Pickell reminded all sport chairs that they must submit at least a draft of their operating procedures to him immediately. They should include how the sport area will handle the various events sponsored, committee membership, budgets, and awards. It will help organize the subcommittees. Subcommittees can meet in person and/or by conference calls.

Youth Athletics chair Gerald Smith resigned over the summer. During this time, a stipend for the youth athletes traveling and competing in the Junior Olympics TF nationals in Jacksonville, Florida has been discussed. Currently, we pay the entry fees for South Texas youth athletes who compete in the JO Nationals for both cross country and track & field. It has been suggested to also provide a travel stipend to the athletes competing in the National Championships. An email blast was sent out to all members asking any athlete who wanted to be considered for this stipend needed to send a request to our treasurer by September 15 listing the athlete's name, age group, and event. Jones said that over 25 athletes have requested reimbursements. Slade suggested that we come up with a sum and divide it among the qualified applicants. A motion was made by Seth Brower that all qualified athletes must be current South Texas members and competed in the Nationals will receive an additional \$50. in addition to their entry fees upon receipts for this season only. Motion was seconded by Williams. Pickell said this type of policy was for this season only until the youth operating procedures are in place. Motion passed. Jones will present the list of those who applied to Pickell and Humphrey for National participation verification before paying these funds.

### **New Business**

Brower brought up that he has collected a variety of implements over the years and would like to donate them to the association. He will verify their actual weights before storing them in our storage unit. Member clubs can check them out for meets as needed and will be responsible for their return to the unit. Dunbar made the motion, Williams seconded it. Pickell said a check out procedure and inventory of all our equipment is needed. The motion passed.

Elections for Vice President and Membership Chair were held. In addition, the youth and masters chairs needed to be appointed by the president. Pickell said he had personal meetings with the various declared candidates to hear their plans for advancing the association's goals. Slade oversaw the nominating committee and presented the candidates for each office and asked for nominations from the floor.

Dunbar asked for the 10% of membership rule to be suspended. The Prusaitis' verified membership of all attendees. Non-members were not given ballots.

Candidates for Vice President: Mike O'Neal. A nomination from the floor for John Head was made by Brower and Debbie Romero. Both candidates gave speeches. Candidate for Membership: Randy Rendon. He gave a speech. Voting took place. New Vice President is O'Neal and Membership Chair is Rendon.

Pickell reported that he has met with Brower about the youth position and Romero about the masters' chair. He will appoint them to these chairmanships.

### **Subcommittee Reports**

**Para Athletes:** Dunbar reported no new events.

**Mountain Ultra-Trail:** Prusaitis said the local championship series are on-going. Over 400 members have joined USATF to take part in this series. There is prize money for various races range from \$1,000 to \$200.

**Race Walk:** AC Jaime's "Turtles" team did very well this summer at the Nationals. His team had two walkers in the USA-Mexico-Canada meet.

**Track & Field:** Humphrey is concerned on how to get more open/post-collegiate athletes ages 20-29 to participate. Once they enter the masters division, they are in that group. Both groups need to continue to build numbers to have competitive events.

**Youth:** Brower thanked Pickell for opportunity to serve as youth chair. He's developed a working group to help him. He wants to have more meets during the season and incorporate the USATF's Run, Jump, Throw is program too. He plans to have meets year round.

He is hosting the Texas vs The World meet next week at Texas State and a meet at St. Michael's on November 22. Carol Finsrud has a throwing facility in the Bastrop area which is open for use.

**Coaches Education/Advisory:** Slade explained that the CE Level I program will be changing. There was a Level I school in Austin in early August. The new policies for CE now don't require each association host a Level I school every 4 years. Anyone can sponsor a school if approved by the National CE committee. Our usual first date this year is on New Year's Day. He is going to ask questions at the Annual Meeting about this new procedure and why we can't host more Level II schools across the country.

**Long Distance Running:** Slade said the committee is trying to incorporate a Grand Prix point series similar to MUT's. He'd like to work with some of the current races to increase USATF membership.

**Masters:** Romero would also like to develop a multi-meet Grand Prix series for master athletes. She also would like to develop incentives for these athletes to join USATF and compete in the South Texas meets.

Annual Meeting delegates will be finalized by the Executive Committee. Delegates will be asked to cover a variety of meetings during the convention. Subcommittee chairs who are interested in attending the annual meeting need to see Humphrey after the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 4 pm.

Submitted by Sue Humphrey, Secretary

Bert Pickell, President