



**Minutes of South Texas Executive Board Meeting
February 22, 2015
San Marcos, Texas**

Present: Bert Pickell, Gary Lyles, Sue Humphrey, Bear Jones, Debbie Romero, Deborah Carr, Ricky Williams, Alvin Youngblood, Randy Reina, Juan Flores, Diana Lee Flores, Diana Flores, Sabrina Townsend, Joyce Prusaitis, Joe Prusaitis, Darlena Carter, David Dunbar, Gary Mathis, Donna Mills-Honarvar, Scott Slade, Keith Shedd, Cynthia Shedd, David Reisman

The meeting was called to order by President Bert Pickell. He began the meeting by presenting "Awards of Recognition" for the 2014 season. Many of our athletes, coaches, and administrators had outstanding achievements during the past year. However, the following individuals received special certificates for their performances.

National Champions from the 2014 USATF National Junior Olympic included Carolina Hernandez, 1500m walk; Jonathan Aguilar, 3000m walk; Amberly Melendez, mile & 10K record in the walk; Brian Peterson, discus; and Emma Perkins, Jaida Lyles, Asiah Fox, and Alexandra Glenn, 4 x 800m relay. Mountain Ultra Trail selected Lisa Plainter and Thomas Orf who won the Championship MUT Series. Kendall Baisden was the Elite Athlete of the Year. Michael O'Neal was the Official of the Year. Joe Prusaitis was honored for his work as Membership Chair for the past 4 years. Joyce & Joe Prusaitis were recognized for creating and implementing the very successful MUT Grand Prix series. Wendy Gumbert was recognized for all her work with ParaAthletics athletes and AC Jaime also received accommodation for all his work in the area of race walking-hosting camps and coaching an outstanding walking club. Former Olympic Gold Medalist in the high jump, Charles Austin, set a new World Masters Record in the 40-45 age group.

Other South Texas members mentioned were several Olympic athletes who train in the area; Leo Manzano, who is returning to his 2012 form; new members of the Texas Track & Field Coaches Association Hall of Fame—Amy Acuff, Sue Humphrey, and Bubba Thornton.

A moment of silence was held for Janis Bluhm, our race walk chair, who passed from kidney disease since the last meeting. Janis had served our association for many years and was a leader in the walk area. She was also the only master walk official from South Texas. Her leadership will be greatly missed!

Operating procedures of each subcommittee were discussed as the next needed piece of organization for each group. Ricky Williams made the motion, seconded by Scott Slade that each subcommittee chair needs to finalize their operating procedures and get them to Bert by the end of March. Samples were sent to the various chairs by Bert before the meeting.

Bear Jones, treasurer, gave his report. He said that original receipts must be submitted to him within in 90 days of the bill to be reimbursed. Any exceptions must be approved by the President. In September 2014, we had \$42,363.29; in October, we had \$44,190.84; in November, we had \$45,075.76; and in December, we had \$41,326.72. We started 2015 with \$36,341.03 in the account. He reported that he moved a majority of our money market funds to the general account to help with Annual Meeting costs, as was agreed upon at a past meeting. That leaves \$2,000. in our money market. Bear also reported that Coach Boone from Texas State donated \$2,000 back to us for equipment purchases. Sue said we are still expecting more funds from San Antonio Sports for the 2013 JO Cross Country meet. They are waiting on the State of Texas comptroller's office to complete the process of reimbursements.

Ricky reported for the Officials Committee. He did a class this morning at UT. However, he needed a site in San Antonio to host a clinic there. Scott said he'd check with UTSA. Currently, he's certified 53 new officials and 10 recertified ones. After the clinics in the Valley, he said they plan on having some meets in 2016 and we all need to support them. Ricky, Bear and Mike O'Neil will do on the field lessons and provide opportunities for officials to gain upgrades based upon performance. As of today, we have 212 certified officials with a few still pending paperwork.

Dave Dunbar gave a report for ParaOlympic athletes. The Texas Regional Games will be April 24-25 at UTSA. They will pay officials \$20. a session worked.

Scott Slade heads up the Coaches Advisory subcommittee. He stated that Coaches Education works under the Coaches Advisory group. He turned in a detailed set of operating procedures earlier. He is going to reach out to more coaches and develop working task forces. More coaches need to go to Level II schools once they've completed the Level I program. He's looking for sites in our association to host a week long Level II school (dorms, track and a close airport are some requirements). We also need to get interested coaches to take the Instructor Training course. Right now, we have less than 5 certified instructors in the association.

Scott also gave a report for LDR. This area has been lagging in South Texas yet there are thousands of runners competing in road racing events. He'd like to identify current LDR members and research other associations' programs in areas like ours, work with current race directors to include USATF races and develop a Grand Prix series, and create an active group of LDR workers to implement these programs. He also wants to work with Brandon Chiuminetta to develop a Youth LDR summer running program in 2015.

Randy Reina shared that the Masters program still needs more direction in South Texas. Currently, they are sharing meets with the youth to make the numbers financially equal out. Jeff Brower is the new Masters Records chair. Martha Watson of Nevada has offered an exchange with Nevada, if we are interested. Seth Brower is hosting the National Masters Multi-Events Championships at UTSA in late May.

Joyce Prusaitis let members know that USATF sanctions and insurance only cover USATF members. Race insurance won't cover non-USATF members either. Athletes can join USATF at races. To earn points in the MUT Grand Prix, they must be USATF members.

Joe Prusaitis said MUT had 30 events in 2014 with 15,000 runners 500 are USATF members. The championship series was the main draw for membership along with prize money. More runners understand how the insurance through USATF benefits them. The two largest clubs in South Texas are MUT groups.

Race Walk-AC Jaime has books, DVDs, and other teaching aids to help coaches. He'll come to schools and clubs to teach the proper techniques. Bert is involved in fitness walking. More road races are letting walkers compete too.

Sue reported on Youth events since Gerald Smith wasn't able to attend. National Office has a few initiatives for youth athletes. One is "Run, Jump, Throw" where materials are provided for youngsters to try all the different events to see where their interests/abilities are. Any group in USATF can host one of these events. ALL coaches/parents who work with USATF youth must complete and pass a background check along with the "SafeSport" course. The links are <http://www.usatf.org/About/SafeSport.aspx> and <http://www.usatf.org/About/Programs/Background.aspx>. There are other grants and events listed on the USATF Youth page.

Locally, there will be a developmental meet, "Speedster Relays" April 18 at St. Michaels Catholic Academy. Contact www.runningourownrace.com for more information.

Old Business:

Bert said the Annual Meeting reports will be posted on the South Texas website soon. Every delegate has to write a report about the meetings he/she attended.

The topic of renting a storage unit in the San Marcos area was voted on. The storage company charges insurance. It was suggested that we check with someone's homeowner's insurance to see if this could be added to their policy. Scott motioned and Ricky seconded that we get a climate controlled unit at Uncle Bob's storage in San Marcos. The motion passed.

New Business:

Ideas for increasing attendance from the outlying areas of the association were discussed. Some of the ideas included mileage fees for members driving from a set distance and bringing a certain number of people in the vehicle, make the meeting more exciting and not just reports-more action topics, have a social budget for refreshments, and get more people involved in the various subcommittees. Final vote was tabled until the next meeting.

The next meeting in May will be determined and advertised.

Submitted by Sue Humphrey, Secretary

Bert Pickell, President