

USATF-LI ANNUAL CONVENTION 2023



Minutes for the Annual Convention Held on Saturday, September 30, 2023

Opening Session: 7:00 – 7:45 pm

Video Message:

Vin Lannana, USATF President, thanked all members for promoting the USATF-Long Island-Association. He announced a task force that will meet several times to discuss communities, facility usage, and IT. A meeting is planned for Friday, December 1, 2023 at the National Meeting's President's Breakfast. He also stated that each Association should do the following: 1-Absorbing information regarding the sport of track and field; 2-Putting together youth organizations to involve and engage young athletes; 3-Mentoring program to support graduates who want to stay involved but not necessarily competitively. He concluded by saying to be active, be enthusiastic, be involved, and to challenge oneself.

Welcome:

Rob Lemke, Vice President, welcomed all members in attendance and thanked all for participating in this year's Annual Convention, especially since the meeting had to be postponed at the last minute from Friday, September 29, 2023 due to weather concerns, and a thank you to Hofstra University for allowing us to use their facility.

Agenda:

- Election of Committee Chairs during Committee Meetings (two-year term)
- Committee Meetings
- Election of delegates to the 2023 USATF Annual Convention which will be held in Orlando, FL from November 30, 2023 – December 3, 2023
- Closing Session

President's Report by Alex Cuzzo:

The race calendar is full so the date of the Annual Convention had to be immediately postponed from Friday, September 29, 2023 and rescheduled for Saturday, September 30, 2023. There are 1,390 members as of this date, which is a decline from past years, due to increased USATF membership fees, fewer scheduled events, and those events sponsored by large entities, such as Nike, which do not require USATF membership. Electing USATF membership on or after November 1, 2023 will provide membership benefits through December 31, 2024. There is some growth in clubs and organizations (currently 57). Sanctions are down this year due to loss of sponsorships and decline of the local population. The Association needs to engage youth with track and field. To engage youth, we must reach out by IT means and explore the growing eSports sector. Future race results need to be more efficient, and need to be tabulated, thus, eliminating paper. It seems that there will be more requirements for SafeSport certification. We need to increase the number of officials (currently 36) to meet accreditation requirements. It was suggested that we reach out to high school and junior high school coaches to educate them in USATF coaching certificates. Level 1 coaching classes are currently via zoom, possible future Level 2 class at Hofstra University, and Level 3 class is in-person at Chula Vista, CA.

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Presentation of 2023 Bank Balance and Proposed 2024 Budget sent by Gary Westerfield, Treasurer:

A motion to continue banking with Citibank was entered, seconded, and passed.

The current bank balance includes \$50,000 from contributions and from the elimination of the Association employee.

There are proposals to reimburse individuals to cover the \$50 4-year official fee (officials are already reimbursed for background screening fees), to increase official's fee for meets, and to increase amount of stipend for expenses for Annual Meeting Delegates.

Nominations: Nominating Committee: Elizabeth Henry - Chair, Erin Cassano, Trent Hampton, and Lori Mangual.

Committee Meetings

- 8:00 – 8:30 pm: *Track & Field, Para-Athletics*
- 8:35 – 9:05 pm: *Long Distance Running & MUT, Officials*
- 9:10 – 9:40 pm: *Race Walk, Youth Athletics, Master Athletics*

Closing Session: 9:45 – 10:00 pm

Committee Meeting Summations by Committee Chairs:

- *Track & Field:* Summer outdoor meets, Empire State Classic, and winter indoor meets were successful. The October Throws meet that was scheduled for October 8, 2023 at Commack High School has been cancelled due to facility conflicts. A series of clinics are scheduled to begin in October and will cover NYS Coaching Certification (begins October 9, 2023), Theory and Techniques of Coaching (begins October 12, 2023 – 10 sessions), and Philosophy, Principles, and Organization of Athletes (begins October 11, 2023 - 15 sessions). Leigh Pollet, Vice Chair of LITF Track and Field is working with Oyster Bay Town Supervisor Bruce Blakeman and State Legislator Taylor Darling to plan to renovate or redevelop Mitchel Field and Nassau Coliseum in hopes of bringing an indoor track to Nassau County.
- *LDR:* The Grand Prix road schedule will conclude in early December and cross-country championships are scheduled for November 12, 2023 at Bethpage State Park. New officials' jackets will be available at the cross-country event.
- *Race Walk:* There is a new Olympic Race Walk Mixed Relay which replaces longer distance Olympic events.
- *MUT:* Website will be available soon.
- *Master Athletics:* More involvement is needed.
- *Youth Athletics:* No report.
- *Para-Athletics:* Successful year; first year with a para-division in the National 10k Cow Harbor race.
- *Officials:* Successful year; meet fee increased to \$125/event; discussion as to increasing participation.

Vote on Budget and Routine Banking Matters:

- Motion was made to accept the budget and seconded. Motion passed.

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Election of Delegates to the 2023 Annual Convention (12 Delegates chosen)

- Erin Cassano, Steve Cuomo, Alex Cuzzo, Michael Frazer, Trent Hampton, Pamela Lee, Rob Lemke, Lori Mangual, Rose Mangogna, Ron Nardo, Gary Westerfield
- Brendan Dagan, Elizabeth Henry, Elizabeth O'Donnell – Tie for remaining delegate

Motion made to destroy election ballots was passed.

Closing Remarks:

- Rob Lemke, Vice President, thanked all members in attendance.
- Annual Convention is officially closed.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Pamela Lee, Secretary, USATF-Long Island