



## USATF Niagara Board Meeting

April 10, 2023

The April Board meeting of the Niagara Association of USATF was called to order by President Russ Ebbets at 7:32 EST. The following Board members were in attendance: Russ Ebbets, Fred Covelli, Jacky Mendez, Izeal Bullock, Don Lawrence, Mike Nier, Kraig Connors, Eric Boyce, Kathy McLymond, Matt Merrill and Rozanne Redlinski. Michelle Bogdon did not attend.

1. Approval of the Minutes from March 13, 2023. Don made a motion to accept the minutes of the March 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. This was seconded by Fred Covelli and approved by the Board.

The minutes of the Special meeting that took place on March 21<sup>st</sup> were approved after a motion was made by Izeal Bullock and seconded by Don Lawrence.

2. President's Report: There were 70+ participants at 6 clinics on March 25<sup>th</sup> (5 sites). Youth clubs are being contacted regarding the RJT program. Growth to Impact Monies were received and deposited. Lions JO donations are \$2050.

Don Lawrence reported that he had 32 participants in his Racewalk clinic. Twenty-three of these were the best racewalkers from around the state. He is planning to offer this clinic again next year in the Rochester area.

Russ has sent the information to Jacky about the honorariums for the clinic heads.

3. Treasurer's report: Jacky Mendez reported that the CPZ's will be helping her with various forms for the USATF reporting. She needs to refine the budget since Dave is no longer doing the Region 2 meet and there will be adjustments with the new meet directors.

Don Lawrence asked for the name of the accounting firm that is handling the association accounts. He asked if there was a fee for their services. Jacky said there was a budget line for their services and the fee for the forms required by the Nation Office will be rebated upon completion of the forms.

4. VP Reports:

Fred Covelli: Region 2 meet report will be given under Old Business.

Michelle was not in attendance.

5. LDR: Eric Boyce reported Niagara's Championship season kicked off March 4 and March 11th with the 4 and 5 mile championships. It's a quick start having back to back championships but now we get a little break since the next LDR event is 5/6. This is a successful start with the participation numbers and having our top LDR members participate examples (2024 Olympic trials marathon qualifier Joe Whelan and elite masters Mark Andrews and John McMahon).

Participation numbers: 64 from 4 mile champs, 106 from 5 mile champs. The 4 mile champs in Syracuse was well attended from the Syracuse TC. Then this past weekend Roadkill and GVh really came out in force for the 5 mile event in Rochester.

6. Membership: Jim Glinksy

Youth: 204→211

Open: 200→210

Master: 347→370

Total: 751→791 (up +31 over 2022)

7. High Performance: Don Lawrence

Russ Ebbets will be presenting this Thursday (April 13<sup>th</sup>) about Longevity for Masters Athletes. Vicki Mitchell will be the speaker next month. Don is pleased that people are asking about next year's clinics, already.

8. Youth: Izeal Bullock

Izeal is looking for the site for the Youth Meet. He is talking to the City of Buffalo for All High Stadium. He is talking to Just Blaze Track Club to host summer developmental meets for children ages 13 and under, that will be funded by "Project Play". These meets will be in both Buffalo and Niagara Falls. "Project Play" will fund the equipment and site rental fees.

9. Officials: Kathy McLymond

Kathy needs information about the location of the meets for the official's applications.

Old Business:

Russ reported that Dave Rinehardt will no longer be hosting the Region 2 meet in Jamestown.

Matt Merrill will be contacting Roberts Wesleyan about hosting the Association meet at a fee of \$1000, rather than the \$2700 of Nazareth.

The Region 2 meet was discussed with Roberts Wesleyan, but nothing was confirmed. Matt was going to meet with the staff at the college for more information. Russ asked to have a walk through of the facility to help develop questions for the college about what would be included in the price.

Rozanne Redlinski asked who the Meet director would be for this meet. Matt said he would be as involved as possible. She also asked about finding a timer at this late date.

A discussion of the details continued.

Membership Kit Update: Not sent out yet.

New Business:

Rozanne Reported that the bylaws need to be changed to address taking nominations from the floor. She will contact Andy Martin about the procedure.

Mike Nier announced to the Board that the National Masters Race will be in Rochester this weekend. Rozanne asked that we give more credit to the Masters/LDR since they bring in more sanctions than any other group. This led to a discussion of the sanction process and the need for someone to be in contact with various clubs about getting more sanctions. Sanctions are a major source of income for the Association, and we need to become more active in getting more sanctions and tracking data for the reasons why clubs are not sanctioning their events.

Eric requested that the sanction chair make a report at every Board meeting. A lengthy discussion followed about collecting data and the issues with completing the sanction process.

Many clubs find cheaper insurance carriers for their races and are not required to complete Safesport courses.

Russ is going to ask Dave Rinehardt to provide his ideas for increasing the number of sanctions as well as a report to the Board at each monthly meeting.

Mike Nier suggested that we look into the membership numbers as well. We should see why our members may have left USATF.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:23 pm EST

Submitted: Rozanne Redlinski