

Montana Association USATF

2021 Annual Meeting

The meeting was conducted via Zoom due to Covid 19 surge. The possibility of a last-minute change was noted in the original meeting announcement on August 25, and a zoom invite was sent to all persons that expressed an interest in attending the meeting and the Associations Regional Representative.

Board Members in Attendance:

Diane Cummins, Kay Newman, Bill Brist, Sara Brist, Greg Mohl, Chad Cohley, Jesse Zents, Liza Dennehy, Alan Cress

Guests:

Mike Perry

Call to order at 1:04

2020 Annual Meeting Minutes – Motion by Liza seconded by Chad to accept the 2020 Annual Meeting minutes as posted on the website. The motion passed unanimously by hand vote.

President's report (Greg Mohl)

Obviously a second challenging year for the Montana Association and USATF in general. The Montana Association will be Fully Accredited in 2020 having met all the active requirements We still have deficiencies relative to the requirements in regulation 7 regarding our bylaws that we will be addressing in this meeting.

My role with the Accreditations Sub-Committee continues to expand. I will be assuming the Chair role at this upcoming National Annual meeting

Vice President report – (Alan Cress) no report.

Secretary Report– (Kay Newman)

Greg reported that the business duties of the Association, primarily the filing of the Secretary of State's report, the IRS form 990, and the report to the National Office to make sure the Montana Association remains in the USATF Group Exemption was completed as required.

Treasurer – (Bill Brist)

The Treasurers report consists of two items. The year-end 2020 report and the year to date 2021 report. The reasoning for this is that much of our fiscal expenditures on an annual basis happen at this meeting and so the year to date is not an accurate reflection of our year end finances. Review of the year-end report reflects that the Montana Association remains fiscally solvent with an income of \$4,886.14, expenses of \$3,323.82 and ending balance of \$47,700.98. This represents an increase of \$1,562.32 in year over year. However,

The year to date assessment reflects increased income due to the change in membership fees and a minor rebound from 2020 (\$7,149.50) and reduced expenses due to the virtual Annual Meeting

(\$ 512) leaving a current gain of \$6,637.50. Additionally, the Montana Association holds certificates of deposit which are generating interest income. Including these certificates in our profit and loss statement and the current total year to date is \$65,731.94.

A motion to accept the Treasurers report as written was made by Dianne and seconded by Liza Dennehy. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Committee reports

Officials – (Chad Cohley)

Currently we have 26 certified officials and need 4 more to meet minimum accreditation requirements. With the COVID we did not hold any in person clinics, but an electronic rules review was held. This year we are considering a session with the MSU/ Bozeman area contingent in January. Other possible clinics are in Missoula and Billings depending on demand. We will also probably hold at least one or two remote sessions.

SafeSport Coordinator – Dave Skelton

Dave submitted a SafeSport report which is below, this position is in its second year and was created to assist the Associations to meet SafeSport and Background check requirements.

Foremost, SafeSport training is here to stay annually, both as a club and key USATF members, coaches, officials and Association Board members. It's imperative that we remind everyone that it is what it is, and not let it become an interruption. At our last SafeSport virtual meeting in August, members expressed concern with the repetitive training, and requested an enlightened or new approach be taken with the training. Nonetheless, we were reminded that it's not USATF, but the U.S. Center for SafeSport that sets the directive.

All of this, in concert with Covid-19 and the J.O. Olympic advancement process this summer made for a difficult track & field season. Especially for those advancing to the national championships. At our April meeting, Mariah Sloat (Training Manager with the U.S. Center for SafeSport) presented to the committee on the Center's education and outreach initiatives, response and resolution process, and the audit and compliance process. As a reminder, she noted that the Center began their audits of NGBs (including USATF) this year. More information on this audit will be shared in our September's ASVC call.

Secondly, we were reminded that as a participant within USATF, you should be aware of and understand the U.S. Center for SafeSport's 2022 Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies (MAAPP)—which become effective in just a few short months. To give you an overview (of the policy and new changes) and answer your questions, the U.S. Center for SafeSport throughout 2021 is providing free live MAAPP trainings—tailored specifically for roles as either an athlete, parent, coach, or administrator. You can register for these virtual trainings at [this Center web page](#). Numerous training sessions will take place each month, so check back periodically for calendar updates.

In closing, it's important that we make every effort to keep our members, clubs and key USATF members aware of the SafeSport policies and directives. All USATF Montana members should be receiving a 30-day notice of their SafeSport certification expiring

and encouraging them to renew it before it expires. This also applies to renewing their USATF membership and keeping their USATF account active. Otherwise, they may be required to start over through the various training programs. So this does not become a distraction to the many USATF disciplines that our members are involved in, It's probably good for me to send a blast out to our clubs, officials, coaches and other applicable members. Because many of our clubs are represented on the Board, their help would be appreciated.

Seniors – (Kay Newman)

no report ... may have some seniors in Missoula

Race Walk – (Kay Newman)

A few racewalkers at our games last weekend (7 of 11 showed). Greg reported that Big Sky State Games had a handful of participants but do not know off hand whether any were USATF members and none of the race walkers were competitive walkers.

Associations Workshop (Greg Mohl)

The Association Workshop coincided with the Annual meeting and was attended by Greg. Also there was a virtual Associations Workshop on February 28 of this year.

LDR – (Bill Brist)

This year was better than last year as far as races being held but some of the races are limiting the numbers of participants some limited sizes. A lot of championships are not happening. Greg will provide the membership list for Alan to get out the 5K and 10K that were run in association with Big Sky State Games.

Mens track/Masters – (Alan Cress)

Received our 200 medals that we ordered for last year and now caught up to this year

Education – Diane Cummins

All coaches' education classes are now being held online. If Montana Association wants to hold a school, we need to file to have it listed in the calendar of schools. The most important thing is that coaches that want to get into the coaches' registry will need to get their LVL 1 and then they need to recertify continually. Currently there is not recertification requirement for LVL 2 or 3. We may want to host a LVL 2 school.

Women's track - (Sara Brist)

No report beyond what Alan reported from BSSG

Law and Legal (Bill Brist)

No report – we did bylaws last year. As Greg reported we have a couple of deficiencies in our bylaws regarding regulation 7 which we will address in new business.

Communications (Sara Brist)

The new Associations website has been rolled out. I attended the online training last year. Much easier to do than the previous version. The platform hosted at the National Office removes any concern about meeting branding requirements. We are having no trouble keeping up with posting accreditation required materials. The biggest thing is we need to send news items in to post.

Membership and Sanctions (Greg Mohl)

Membership is down. Currently the membership is 713 as of this weekend which is up from the 613 from a year ago. Our normal would be between 1000 and 1100. We currently have 174 adult members down from 204. Our percentage of youth membership is 75% so we did rebound from last year but still a bit below normal. It should also be noted that the northern 1/3 of Wyoming are being included in our membership administratively but that only accounts for a small bump.

On the club side we have 16 active clubs (down from 18 active a year ago and a high of 21).

On the Sanctions side, currently we have 20 which is up from the 12 that we had at this time last year but down from pre-Covid numbers. Our target is 48. There are only three upcoming events.

Currently the Montana Association adds \$15 for Association members to sanction events and \$40 for nonmembers. We can change that or leave it where it has been for many years. Club fees are \$35

Youth – (Jesse Zentz)

The youth meeting and awards were not held this year due to COVID and the loss of the entire JO Season. At the Association Championship the four anchor clubs were well represented. AAU is making a move into the region both in Utah and in the Snake River Association. In part this is the result of the overall inconsistent and poor communication from USATF youth. We are still in a difficult place with the frustration on regional and National levels. That said, the Montana Association placed 23 athletes in the top 25 at Nationals and our kids are continuing to perform well.

This was also the first year in which we tried hosting the Region 11 multis at a separate venue on separate weekend. Montana (Greg) contributed \$300 to assist in getting this meet off the ground.

In discussion regarding 2021 events the question of why AAU? And the general feeling was that first and foremost it was parents and clubs simply looking for additional meets to participate in. AAU does not have some of the restrictions that USATF has regarding Safe Sport, Background checks and COVID response but the general feeling is that once

AAU why? ... some meets as another option is probably the largest driving factor ... time will tell but individuals may not find the grass is not always greener but there is no doubt that the National meet is so much stricter. All that said, we need to tighten up our regional. Most of the problems were related to a last-minute change in meet director so they were having some organizational issues (weren't running calls effectively, it was hot and there was no shade).

Looking forward, the Montana Association and a good facility for the Association xc meet with will be November 6. For the spring season we will stick to the third Saturday of June for our state meet (Helena Novas are open to hosting) and it appears that the region will be requesting us to host the region 11 meet this year (most likely Bozeman) and the Multis will be in Idaho Falls again.

Old business

Club Incentives Subcommittee

During the discussions regarding the 2020 Annual Meeting Liza brought forward the idea that perhaps a new initiative could be considered that would incentivize clubs to develop their internal resources to get more certified officials, more SafeSport and Background Screened parents/volunteers, more individuals interested in assisting USATF with it's mission and programs. Liza was named the Chair of the Subcommittee and charged her with forming the committee and to come back at the 2021 Association Meeting with recommendations and funding request as her committee determines.

Due to continuing COVID no progress was made so the project was deferred into next year

New Business

Due to the late change in the meeting venue and the COVID 19 Elections were not held in 2020 and current officers and the elected chair of the Youth Committee agreed to hold in place until such time as elections can be effectively held.

President – Greg Mohl
Vice President – Alan Cress
Secretary – Kay Newman
Treasurer – Bill Brist
Youth Chair - Jesse Zentz

Committee chairs

By our By-Laws, the committee chairs serve as appointed by the President unless there is reason to elect them by the memberships of specific sports committees (youth and LDR in particular). By practice the Montana Association President has selected committee chairs with input from the floor at the Annual meeting.

Four years ago, the Youth Chair established a youth committee which normally meets in advance of the Youth Awards and elects their chair. Again, this year youth awards were not presented and due to COVID without any activity there was not a youth meeting held.

Chair positions:

Communications – Sara Brist
Education – Diane Cummins
Law and Legal – Bill Brist
LDR – Bill Brist
Seniors – Kay
Masters - Alan
Memberships and Sanctions – Greg Mohl
Mens Track – Alan Cress
Womens Track – Sara Brist
Officials – Chad Coley / Mike Perry (Mike is going to Assist Chad with western Montana)
Race Walk – Kay Newman
Technology Chair - Liza Dennehy

Sargent at Arms - Linda Skelton
Youth – Jesse Zentz
Marketing - Stu Melby
Safe Sport – Dave Skelton

Bylaws Revision:

Last year we completed the major bylaws revision to bring our bylaws into compliance with Regulation 7 of the National organization Bylaws and Regulations.

We had two areas that we did not address in last year's revisions (paid employees and a provision to place the selection of Annual Meeting Delegates within the bylaws). Upon review of the Accreditation Sub-Committee, we are required to add these two items to maintain our compliance.

7G-9 National Delegates -

a: Local option: Delegates to the USATF Annual Meeting may be elected or appointed according to the Association bylaws.

b. Plurality: When Delegates are elected, a plurality vote (the person receiving the most votes may be accepted for election.

Montana Association Officers and Committee Chairs present at the Montana Association Annual Meeting shall appoint delegates to the USATF Annual Meeting as a standing New Business item in the agenda.

7G-12 Employees and Elections:

Current Association employees (working within the past ninety days) shall not participate in any part of the elections process, including nominations or campaigning, but may, at the Association's discretion, be permitted to vote if they are members and otherwise eligible. Current Association employees may, at the Association's discretion, seek election by the Association as a national delegate, or any other representative position at the national level.

The Montana Association has never employed anyone so that is why we left this clause out of the last revision. However, it does make sense to have it included in the unlikely event that we ever do hire an employee and it keeps our bylaws in compliance with current accreditation standards.

Following the discussion Sara made the motion "to accept the bylaws revisions as presented with the changes as discussed" utilizing the exact wording of Regulation 7G. It was seconded by Alan, As per the current bylaws a quorum to adopt amendments is 2/3 of the members present. By unanimous voice and hand vote the motion was adopted 11/0 with no abstention. Motion carried.

Greg will affect the changes as discussed and circulate to ensure that the revised bylaws are complete and correct as per this vote and then will execute effective September 27, 2020.

Appropriations:

This being a strange year with COVID impacting both income and expenditures it is difficult to forecast Association budgetary needs for 2022. After discussion regarding what will need to be brought back online quickly as well as known fixed expenses it was decided that we would return 2022 appropriations at this time following the level at which they were funded in 2020 and 2021 and review as needed when events unfold.

Executive -	\$ 120 (PO Box rental)
Annual Meeting/Assoc Workshop	\$ 1000 (Registration fees)
Communications –	-----
Education	\$ TBD
Grants	-----
Law and Legal	-----
LDR	\$ 200 (medals for Champions/ recognition awards)
Masters/ Seniors	\$ 50 (medals for Champions)
Memberships and Sanctions	-----
Mens Track	\$ ---- included in Masters/Seniors
Officials	\$ 1,000 (certifying fee and background check)
Officials chair expense	\$ 200
Race Walk	-----
*Technology Chair	----
*Sargent at Arms	-----
Women’s Track	-----
Youth	\$ 1000 (awards and advertising)
Marketing	\$ 1500 and TBD as year unfolds

TBD on the Associations Workshop and Annual Meeting Stipend. This year we anticipate that USATF Annual Meeting will be held virtually or possibly mixed. It is anticipated that there will not be a need for Annual Meeting Stipend. If that changes, it will be the President’s accountability to re-convene the Board to consider Annual Meeting Stipend.

TBD on Education. We are still waiting for the virtual education offerings to be settled out before we consider Association offerings. At this time education is considered an individual expense. As that program matures, it will be the responsibility of the Education Chair to bring forward any requests for Association Funds.

TBD on Marketing. As with last year, the marketing needs are unknown and while it is anticipated that there will be marketing needs associated with the restart of programs those needs are not possible to anticipate at this time. It will be the responsibility of the Marketing Chair to develop a budget with needs for Association Funds and anticipated impacts to bring forward for Board consideration.

Motion to advance the appropriations as recommended was made by Bill Brist and Seconded by Chad Cohley. Motion carried unanimous by Hand/Voice vote.

Annual Meeting delegates and Associations Workshop Representative.

The Montana Association currently has an accreditation target of 4 delegates at the Annual meeting. but with it being held virtually we should pay for the registration fee and expect to fill our delegation.

At a minimum the Delegation is expected to cover:

- Association Workshop Designate, Required Associations meetings (President - Greg)
- Youth workshop Designate, Youth (Youth Chair- Jesse with Liza as backup)
- Athlete Representative (from list provided by National office)
- Masters/Track and Field (Masters and Mens – Alan, Womens- Sara)
- LDR Representative (LDR Chair – Mens and Womens LDR - Sara)
- Officials Representative (Officials Chair- Chad)
- MUT (Bill – also LDR)

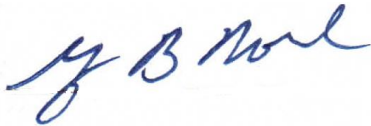
As the details of the Annual Meeting are announced and the plans begin to firm up Greg will communicate and coordinate to make sure our delegation is properly submitted and credentialed. To the degree that Committee Chairs and the international athlete are available we will fill with them first then seek to fill in with available members to fill out the delegation.

Call for additional new business, finding none a motion to adjourn was made at 2:35 PM by Sara Brist and seconded by Liza Dennehy. By voice and hand vote without objection motion to adjourn is carried.

Feb 27 allcomers indoor meet will be in Bozeman. There was also discussion that there may be an opportunity to capture athletes for the USATF Montana meet that would be competing in the NXR if that meet is canceled. If so, we may be able to do a post state all class meet and consider a premium giveaway for the first so many registrants. Jesse will take that ball and let us know what can be done (working within the marketing and youth budgets as presently defined).

Bill Brist made the motion and Liza Dennehy seconded to Adjourn 3:42 PM

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Secretary

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "G B Mohl". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gregory B. Mohl
President, Montana Association USATF