

**MINUTES OF THE LAKE ERIE ANNUAL USATF ASSOCIATION MEETING  
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2007**

The meeting was called to order by our President Larry Seifert at approximately 1:40PM at the Garfield Heights Library room in Garfield Heights, Ohio. In attendance were Ed Wilson, Vice President, & Men's Track and Field Chair and coach with ACTC. Jeff Gerson, Treasurer/Membership and Over the Hill TC, Brian Jones, Men's LDR Chair, Jim Flanik, Vice President and Officials Chair, Rex Harvey, Masters Chair, Jack Thornton, Warren Striders TC, Vincent Walls, Over the Hill TC, Ernest Downing Jr., Stars of Tomorrow TC, Spencer Johnson, Over the Hill TC, Nancy Seifert, Secretary, Larry Seifert, President and Youth Chair.

Larry asked that we all observe a moment of silence and prayer for our Official and Race Walk Chair Stanley Gorecki who passed away this past Friday. He also thanked those in attendance for taking the time to come to the meeting.

The agenda for today's meeting and the financial report were made available to everyone.

President's opening comments: Some of the Associations are having a difficult time operating because of some new mandates from USATF National Office. Statistics from 2006 regarding the raise of dues was more promising than expected. Lake Erie is down 100 members...mostly in Youth. The dues have affected Youth mostly. USATF does not promote Grass Roots enough. Athletes are being pushed to AAU, especially in our area. They should be getting away from Colleges and going to cities, clubs and local schools.

The background checks are doing well across the USA.

Approval of the agenda was asked for by Secretary Nancy. Two items were added for discussion under new business. 1. Grant Proposal for long distance. 2. Meet locations.

The voting delegates (10) were accepted.

Secretary Nancy asked for approval of the 2005 Annual Meeting Minutes that were posted on the Lake Erie Web Site. Unanimously approved.

The Treasurer Report given by Jeff Gerson was approved unanimously. We are down about 100 in membership. He feels because of the raise in dues and the AAU Junior Olympic meet being held in Knoxville TN.

## **SPORTS COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Men's Track and Field: Ed Wilson turned in a full written report and highlighted some of the events such as the Outdoor Open and Master's Championship on July 6 and 7<sup>th</sup>, We had 50 athletes compete at Mayfield Heights High School and Akron University. Our indoor season will begin with an open meet at Kent State on Dec. 8&9 and will follow with three more meets at Kent on Jan. 13, 19 and Feb. 17. Akron will have two meets Feb. 16<sup>th</sup> and 23. There will be other meets at Penn State, West Va., Ohio State and other facilities. For more information you can contact Ed at [discusman3@msn.com](mailto:discusman3@msn.com).

Women's Track & Field: in the absence of chair Cathy Jones, Brian Jones presented her full written report. He highlighted the events and reported that LaShaunte Moore took 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 200m at Norwich Union and 7<sup>th</sup> at the World Championships. Kristin Anderson was selected for Pam Am Games but did not run. At the NCAA she won Gold in the 3000 steeplechase. Treniere Clement made the World Championship team in the 1500m. Jessica Beard was on the Pam Am Jr. Team and won 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 400m. Erin Pendleton made the Pam Am Jr. team and World Youth Championship. Graham Meshawn was on the World Youth and placed 6<sup>th</sup> in the 400 m.

Master's Track & Field: Rex Harvey turned in a full written report. He stated that the Lake Erie Area puts more into the Master's program than any other area that he is aware of. They have participated and also directly organized and supported the following this year: USATF National Masters Indoor Championships in Boston MA.. Over the Hill Track Club North coast Cleveland Classic, Mayfield OH, Lake Erie Assoc. Outdoor Championship, Cleveland Heights, OH, USATF National Masters Outdoor Championship, Oreno ME, IAAF World Congress, Osaka, Japan, WMA World Outdoor Championships, Riccione, Italy, Norm Bower Memorial Weight Pentathlon, Kent, OH, Over the Hill Track Club Cross Country, University Heights, OH, Lake Erie Officials serve as USATF National Officials National Certification Chair and as USATF National Officials Training Vice-chair.

Rex has been elected to the IAAF Masters Committee.

He asked that we promote the Over the Hill Cross Country meet for better participation. Larry asked for a round of applause for his appointment to the IAAF.

It was suggested that we check into having an indoor Masters Meet. Jeff Gerson mentioned John Holman from Mt. Union might be interested. Clyde Holland from Cleveland Hts. said he would be interested in hosting summer meets Larry said he would check into these possibilities.

Larry mentioned that the Plain Dealer has articles in the paper sometimes. Jeff said they sent some in but nothing was put in. Larry will talk to some of his connections at the paper.

Men's Long Distance: Brian Jones turned in a full written report. Matt Folk ran as an AADP runner in the Gate River 15 k in Jacksonville FL. He placed 32<sup>nd</sup>. He is selected to run as an AADP runner at the Twin cities 10 miler next month. He made the "B" standard and will run at the marathon Olympic trials in New York in Nov.

David Gramick was an AADP runner at the Houston ½ marathon and also the Gate River 15 k. and to 21<sup>st</sup> place in both. At Grand Rapids 25 k he took 9<sup>th</sup>. He also made the “B” standards and will run at the marathon Olympic trials in New York in Nov. Leo Kormanik was selected as an AADP runner for the Gate River 15 K and took 34<sup>th</sup>. Brian gave a full AADP program report at the 2006 USATF Annual Meeting and also at the 2007 Association Workshop in LA. He also worked as an official at the JR. and Sr. National Championship Indianapolis.

Cross Country and Background Screening: In the absence of Dave Woytek Larry reported that we have been doing very well with our background checks. Nineteen out of twenty two clubs have sent in their requests for background checks and have been approved. Dave is doing a fine job of getting this done for our Association. The Cross Country Association, Open & Masters and Jr. Olympic meet will be held on November 10<sup>th</sup> at Lorain Community College.

Women’s Long Distance: In the absence of Marilyn Gorecki Brian reported that the 8K National Championships will be held in Akron.

Youth: Larry reported that the Association Meet held in West Holmes was down about 100 from last year. He feels the raise in fees and the National’s being held in CA. attributed to this. Rex commented that the West Holmes facility did a good job with our meet. Grants have been increased for Youth Clubs. The comment was made that none of the grant applicants from Lake Erie won this year. Nancy said she checked into this and was told that they like to consider new requests before they do repeats of the Grants. It has been many years since a Lake Erie club has received a grant. Ed Wilson is checking to possibly using Austintown Fitch for our JO Association meet. We need to consider what the charges will be as West Holmes does not charge us any fees for use of their facility.

Officials: Jim Flanik reported that Lake Erie Association has 63 Officials. There are 8200 Nationally. Malone College needs officials for April. Jim will be able to help him out. He suggested that Jack at Malone contact him for officials mailing labels so that he can send out his request with all the pertinent information. He feels that USATF officials need to be USATF members.

Rex asked about re-organization. Larry said that in the present form it will not pass. They want to try and pass at the Annual meeting this year. Rex said that he observes at most of the board of directors meetings and it his feeling also that it is not acceptable in its present form.

Jeff asked about dates for the Association meets. Larry said he will check with Joe DeRosa who is head of the AAU in our area so that we don’t conflict.

Ernest put in a grant request for minority Cross Country and Distance Runners for Youth. He spoke to Evie Dennis and she will try and get more information for him.

Spencer mentioned about the distance of our meet locations. Can we get something closer for our Association meet. Larry said that the main factor in our going to Holmes County was the cost and the amount of help we get from the people in that area and also the athletes that participate from that area.. Most of the facilities around the Cleveland area are charging to much to use and we have a difficult time getting people to do the concession and set up of the meet. Per our previous conversation, Ed Wilson and Jeff Gerson will check into closer facilities and see if we can't work something out.

Meeting adjourned at 4:50.

Respectfully submitted by  
Nancy Seifert,  
Lake Erie Association Secretary