

2017 USATF Annual Meeting Report ~ PAIGE

For the 2017 USATF Annual Meeting I again focused on attending the men's and women's and combined LDR sessions.

One major focus of the LDR division as a whole at this time is soliciting and accepting bids for the 2020 Olympic Trials Marathon. Many cities have received a request for proposal and the intent to bid paperwork has been available to any local organizing committee since 11/17. The intent to bid is due 1/5/18. The complete bid is due 3/19. The selection committee is seeking a site that will host both men's and women's trials in January-March 2020 as well as the 2019 USATF championship (at any time that year). For 2020, NBC is paying the cost of broadcast (approx \$400,000) but requires the above time window.

On a related note, LDR would like to remind hopeful athletes that they must run their qualifying times in marathons (or halves) that are not only certified but USATF (or IAAF) sanctioned. This is something that USATF-Ohio should help to publicize within our association.

Nine 2018 road race championship sites have been decided and are posted on the USATF website. 2018 will offer \$558,000 in prize money, with an additional \$100,000 available for the circuit winners. The committee is open for bids for future years. They prefer multi-year bids (ideally 2) and there is a minimum prize purse required to be offered (\$20,000 per gender). They are open to bids for "nontraditional" distances (e.g., 8k, 12k, 7 miles). They also reported that the past two years' half marathon championships hosted by the Cap City Half here in the Ohio association were very successful.

The IAAF has a new rule which states that an athlete may be helped back to vertical after a fall without penalty of disqualification. There was a long discussion over whether LDR should recommend a similar rule be adopted by USATF, whether the rule should state who could potentially help an athlete, and potential ramifications of such a rule. In the end we did vote for it.

Additional discussion in the meetings included the relative lack of distance athletes at this year's annual meeting, award winners (women's LDR will likely add an award in coming years), the Olympic Trials marathon bid contract and improvements to be made over 2016, and the possibility of elevating Cross Country to its own committee which has been tabled.