

2019 USATF Annual Meeting
Recap of Attended Meeting 12/6/19 and 12/7/19

Mary Wineberg- Ohio Delegate

Meeting 1- Association Committee Meeting & Awards Breakfast& AAC Meeting

Meeting 2- USATF Alumni Association Meeting

It was an exciting weekend at the Annual Meeting in Reno, Nevada in which all came together for one cause- to make USATF even better than before. The first meeting that I was able to attend was the Associations Meeting, here I was able to hear all of the up and coming news in USATF. It was quite interesting to hear the reports, the updates from the national office and the issue USATF is having with a decline in numbers. I sat in this meeting and thought of ways in which I could help in the areas discussed. Here are some highlights from this meeting in particular; USATF is offering \$500 dollar grants for associations to purchase merchandise that can be used when promoting/media/events. Robin Beamon gave an overview and then Patti Petesch discussed how she could help anyone seeking help with grants to contact her. The goal of the new website is to be more user friendly and help in promoting the sport in a positive way. The technology was a huge concern through the years and now the national office has stepped up to make it better and for associations as well. I also took from this meeting updates regarding SafeSport, attendees has the ability to conduct while they were there at the convention. They also have a refresher course that individuals can take to meet the requirement to be eligible in the national office eyes. The meeting also talked about the decline in youth numbers, which is putting a hit on associations as well. They discussed the comparison of USATF to AAU membership and how they compared. Also to start in the meeting they took a quick vote to see what the interest was of having the meeting on Wednesday vs Thursday vs Friday, and the pros/cons of it. They discussed the change of the meeting day and how it was different this year than years in the past.

I also got to attend the awards breakfast in which awards were presented to those who have done community service, or put in hours in the sport who are passionate, and those who did great accomplishments. Finally in this awards meeting there were several reports given to the attendees that morning. An award was given to me that morning and had no idea the Alumni Association had nominated me for the Athlete Alumni Community Service Award. I was asked to present an award and was quite surprised with getting the award. Some of the other awards were Lifetime Coach Award- Brooks Johnson, Norm Tate-Community Service Award, there was an Official Award and a heartfelt award was given to Gabe Grunewald in which her parents accepted. Gabe died on June 11 from cancer and has raised over 2 million dollars. She died of cancer at such a young age and started a foundation called Brave Like Gabe. Dan O'Brian was the mc for the event. This breakfast allowed those who may not know what is going on across the spectrum of the organization a chance to see all the good things that are occurring.

In one of the ACC and Alumni meeting athletes got the chance to share their concerns about the dismissal of events from meets overseas. They also got training on how to be financially stable- what it means to pay taxes/be able to set up for the future. I served as a liaison for new member Loretta Blout to our association as she attending the AAC meetings and getting the chance to experience a USATF Annual Meeting. The overall mood of the athletes at this convention was one in which they want their voices heard. They are working to form a relationship or program in which athletes can be mentored or paired up with athletes from the past. Here this would help with the transition from competing to the

work force or their interested profession. The meeting was very productive as it allowed a lot of ideas to be bounced out and the sense of some unity.