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Post Annual Meeting Notes/Recap

December 10, 2017

USATF Women's Commission Meeting

I attended this meeting due to seeking out more information about this newly designed women's committee. I also wanted to be able to bring back valuable information that could be passed along to the other members of this association.

The meeting was on 12/3/16 in Union D room of the Hyatt and was opened up by Bonnie Edmonson (former throws coach of the 2016 Olympic Team), Lauryn Williams and Terry Crawford. They each stood up and explained the mission statement of the group. The room was packed with women of all ages and diversity. It allowed women to network, come together for a cause and show what they can do to further USA Track and Field; coaching, and women's showcasing their talents.

Mission Statement was amended:

To empower women in all aspects of track and field by identifying barriers and creating solutions to promote gender equity and diversity. We will highlight accomplishments and provide resources to further skill sets and leadership opportunities for women in track and field.

We then broke out into groups to see what and where our interest lies in order to help advance the group. These committees would then be followed up by email updates. Some other news was shared with the group such as having a women's leadership academy.

SWOT was also talked about during the breakout session and ladies were able to give their thoughts and ideas. Overall it was a productive meeting and an awesome opportunity for women to excel.

USATF Men's Long Distance Running General Meeting

Meeting was held on 12/1/2017 in Room A213 and was called to order and a welcome was given by Eduardo Torres. He then walked around the room and introduced his committee. Tomas Sitton then gave the meeting from 2016 and they were passed.

Eduardo gave reports on the past meets and discussed the upcoming 2018 opportunities. The World Half Marathon Team will be made up from the 20K winner and half then the next 3 times chosen by time.

He also moved into talking about 2017 awards and acknowledged those that won.

-Leonard Korir, Robert e. DeCelle Award

-Bob Latham, H. Browning Ross Award

-Tom Bernard, Scott Hamilton Award

-Richard Fannin, Allan Steinfield Award

Then the subcommittees gave their reports:

Athletes Advisory: Jeff Porter is following up with the board; they want bidding for future sites (Marathon Trials). Have specific athletes go to site to view and be able to have their input. They want to know what the athletes are looking for.

Coaching Education: by middle of 2019 adding on a coach's registry. Want to improve professionalism of the sport. There will be recertification for leveled coaches and they will be able to go online to take the test.

Law and Legislation: Tom overviewed that they had met on October 27-29 and that they are putting in a lot of good things and doing well for MLDR.

Records: It was stated that they were approved.

In this meeting there were some other updates and an opportunity for those in the room to voice concern or ask questions. Blake Bolden talked about some upcoming updates. Mitchell Garner talked about a fully funded program that would have no cost to athletes. They would want these athletes at events and aid in promoting MLDR. They want to work with USATF and AAC. She suggested Road Scholar and there will be more information to come.

Eduardo also discussed the meets that are lined up and talked a little about each. The big discussion included how could associations be aware that championships are being held in their area? This is key in getting area associations more involved and not letting them feel as if they don't even matter.

Another voice in the crowd brought up a discrepancy in the way athletes are chosen: Her question was why wasn't Boston used as a qualifier for the Olympic Trials recently and then comparing it to the standards released for this year. She wanted more clarification and the committee said that they would look into it and get back wither by the end of the meeting. I am not sure what they discussed with her because the meeting was over and they were still discussing.

Finally there was a question as to why we aren't sending a team to NACAC. There are some security concerns, but at the same time athletes should have a say is what others were saying in the crowd. The national office has said that the team shouldn't go and that security will be in New Mexico for the USATF indoor championships. There will be an update on this.

AAC General Session

This meeting was held in Union AB room on 12/2/17, and it gave current athletes a chance to voice their concerns and hear new updates that would be given. I was unable to attend this meeting to its entirety and heard some of the concerns of the athletes:

Listed below are their concerns and they want to seek closure or answer to their concerns:

Money payout

Athlete tiers

Programs for athletes

Updates and being informed within USATF

The room was full of current and some former athletes were present. The former athletes either have a position within AAC and or were there to speak on behalf of a subject. AAC is excited for the New Year and wants their athletes to ultimately be happy and feel as if they are being serviced.