

## **MTF Executive Committee Conference Call**

January 8, 2020 8pm EST

### **Attendees**

Jerry Bookin-Weiner Interim Chair	Robert Thomas Vice Chair
Amanda Scotti Secretary	Sandy Triolo – Communications Subcommittee Chair
Jim Weed Mid America Region Coordinator	George Mathews Northwest Region Coordinator
Carroll DeWeese Outgoing Treasurer	Lester Mount Southwest Region Coordinator
Sandy Pashkin – Chair Appointee to the Exec. Comm	Jim Flanik – Games Committee Chair
Bob Weiner - Chair Appointee to the Exec. Committee	Elizabeth Teague – Active Athletes Representative
Mike Travers Treasurer/East Region Coordinator (Joined call at 8:28pmEST)	

### **Agenda**

The meeting was opened by Interim Chair Jerry Bookin-Weiner with a moment of silence and reflections for Rex Harvey who passed away Dec 22, Mel Larson (Dec 8), and Ty Brown (Dec 22) – All Hall of Famers.

#### **Discussion of Funeral Arrangements to Rex Harvey's service**

Those on the call who are going to Iowa for Rex's service are: Jerry Bookin Weiner, Robert Thomas, Amanda Scotti, George Mathews, Jim Flanik, Bob Weiner as well as Max Siegel, and Renee Washington from the National Office, Chris Pasko, USATF Board member and Cheryl Bellaire, MTF Anti-Doping Subcommittee member. Max and Renee will bring a proclamation from USATF.

#### **Discussion of Memorial Plans**

Rex Harvey's family set up a Go-Fund Me page, currently at almost \$4900, with a goal of \$20,000 to be used toward supporting masters events, in addition to the current 800m, at the Drake Relays in Iowa.

In addition, the Combined Events Championships this year will be held in Rex's honor/memory. There may be trophies to the highest scoring combined events man and woman athlete at the Outdoor Championships. At the Indoor Championships there will be a daily moment of silence and also a brief memorial during the Athletes Meeting. A small selection of people will be asked to speak at that meeting; it will not be open to the floor.

#### **Discussion about Website Issues**

Jerry explained the email exchange he had with the National Office regarding use of Flipsnack to provide information on the Baton Rouge meet pages. His email was sent Monday, the issue was resolved by Tuesday. Next we are hopeful of getting rid of Flipsnack for the Masters Records. Sandy Triolo is working on that. Jeff Brower created a very useful method of searching records.

Soon on the National Office's website there will be a new landing page for Masters (Masters 2). This page will clearly separate Masters TF from MLDR and will go live soon. Jerry asked that if anyone sees things on the new website that need fixing to please send an email to him or Sandy Triolo.

E-blasts will still be sent out for MTF as they have been. Associations will soon follow the same procedure because the system formerly used to send out Association E-blasts will be changing due to cost.

#### **Approval of Appointments of Robert Thomas and Mike Travers as Vice Chair and Treasurer respectively**

Jerry spoke with Judge Murphy (Chair of the L&L Committee) and Bill Roe (former USATF President) regarding the legalities and formalities of his taking over the Chair position. His title is Interim Chair and he holds the same power as the chair effective until the next Annual meeting. As this left the Vice Chair position open, Robert Thomas has been appointed Vice Chair. As treasurer Carroll DeWeese resigned January 7, 2020, Mike Travers has now been appointed by Jerry as Treasurer.

A Motion was made to approve the appointments and seconded. There was no opposition voiced, so the new appointments will now be sent to the National Office for listing.

#### **Discussion of Charge to Task Force on Transgender Issues in MTF**

It was decided at the Annual Meeting to create a task force to look at the issue of transgender athletes competing in Masters TF meets. The document defining the duties of the task force has been edited and approved by the Officers and now reads:

## Task Force on Transgender Issues in MTF

At the 2019 USATF Annual Meeting there were several discussions about the implications of male-to-female transgender athletes in masters track and field competition. The MTF Executive Committee decided to create a task force to examine those issues and report back with recommendations.

The issues to be considered by the Task Force fall into two categories:

1. Understanding the new World Athletics (WA) rules regarding transgender athletes and how they will be applied by World Masters Athletics (WMA).
2. Whether or not the WA rules reflect MTF's values (fair competition) and what, if anything MTF can/should do if it is determined they do not.

To address these areas the Task Force is charged, in the first instance, to assess the mechanisms for enforcing the new WA rules within WMA and to make recommendations to MTF about appropriate steps for Team USATF Masters team management to take to ensure that those rules are enforced, beginning at the 2020 World Masters Athletics Championships in Toronto. The Task Force is charged with making a report to the MTF Executive Committee no later than June 1, 2020. After delivering its report on the first category of issues, the Task Force is charged with monitoring how the rules are applied in Toronto and the activity of team management in pursuit of enforcement of the rules.

After the conclusion of the 2020 WMA Championships in Toronto, the Task Force is charged with making a report to the Executive Committee about how the rules were applied and deficiencies noted, if any. Then the Task Force is charged with assessing whether the WA rules reflect MTF's values (fair competition) and making any appropriate recommendations to the MTF Executive Committee for further action on this issue. This report is to be delivered prior to the 2020 USATF Annual Meeting.

Colleen Barney from California, a W53 sprinter, will chair the Task Force.

A motion was made to approve the Task Force definition and goals and Colleen Barney as chair. It was seconded and passed with no objections.

### **Discussion of MTF Input to USATF Strategic Planning (draft attached)**

As background, the National Office has asked for input from various constituencies to a number of questions. This topic was also brought up at the Annual Meeting. The National Office is requesting the MTF committee respond by the end of January.

The MTF officers have already provided input and now the Exec. Committee is being asked to give consideration especially to the questions about our committee's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats and provide any additional input.

### ***STRATEGIC PLANNING CONSTITUENT QUESTIONNAIRE***

*National Office and Board call for key constituents and associations to prepare summaries of their own strategic plans to feed into USATF's larger umbrella strategy.*

#### ***A. Competitive Assessment: For your division/committee, list Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats***

##### **Strengths**

- a. Dedicated/experienced volunteer administrators
- b. High quality events
- c. Potential for growth in numbers
- d. Diversity of income strata/occupations amongst both rank and file and leadership

##### **Weaknesses**

- a. Aging leadership
- b. Lack of racial and gender diversity in leadership and on committees

- c. Lack of masters activity in many associations
- d. Too many don't know MTF exists
- e. Marketing
- f. Diminishing female participation

#### Opportunities

- a. Grow participation at the local and regional level
- b. WMA Championships in No America in 2020, 2021 and 2023
- c. NCCMA in US in 2021
- d. Growth of funding through sponsorships;

#### Threats

- a. Competition from NSG
- b. The economy
- c. Travel costs
- d. Aging corps of officials
- e. Lack of bidders for regional and national championships

#### **B. Destination Outline: Answer the following:**

##### *i. What does success look like for you, or your group, 3-5 years from today?*

- a. Increased participation in association, regional, and national championships – 20-30%
- b. Leadership that reflects the diversity of USATF Masters athletes in terms of geographic distribution, age, gender, race, etc.
- c. Solid funding base from sponsorships and endowment
- d. Team USATF consistently #1 or #2 at WMA Championships

##### *ii. How will you organize to do this?*

- a. Use sponsor funding to improve all levels of meets
- b. Focus on association level improvements
- c. Targeted marketing to post-collegiate athletes
- d. Improved information flow to athletes

##### *iii. Who are the key targets you must earn support from to drive this forward?*

- a. Sponsors
- b. National Office
- c. Association Presidents and Masters Chairs
- d. Rank and file masters athletes

##### *iv. How do you want them to think, feel, and act?*

- a. Think positively about MTF
- b. Feel motivated to be involved and supportive
- c. Act by staging meets and entering meets, and providing resources

##### *v. What will be the metrics of your success? And how will we measure this?*

- a. Decrease in the average age of those in leadership positions
- b. Increase in the % of women and people of color in the leadership ranks
- c. 20-30% increase in numbers at the local, regional and state levels
- d. Medal counts at international meets placing Team USATF Masters among the top two consistently (and always #1 when events are in North America)

#### **C. Core Messages: What are the 3-4 key themes and messages vital to achieving the above?**

- a. Improved quality of life through **training** competitive exercise **regardless of age**
- b. Forming meaningful relationships thru sport
- c. Increased feelings of well being thru consistent exercise/competition

#### **D. Strategic Action Priorities: Over the next 2-3 years, what are the absolutely key strategic actions that you must focus on and drive forward to succeed?**

- a. Create a more inclusive pipeline to leadership positions through conscious recruitment targeting younger **participants**, more women, and more people of color to become involved in MTF committees and subcommittees

b. Develop activities to target increased participation at the local, regional, and national levels

It was suggested that part C.a. Be changed to read, "Improved quality of life through **training** competitive exercise, **regardless of age**

And that D.a. Be changed to read, "Create a more inclusive pipeline to leadership positions through conscious recruitment targeting younger **participants**, more women, and more people of color to become involved in MTF committees and subcommittees"

Jerry asked if those present would prefer to submit any additions or changes via email and then have them discussed at the next Executive Committee Conference Call meeting. Most agreed that would be best. [See below for scheduling of the next meeting]

Mark Cleary added that we might want to include finding solutions to the challenges of finding training facilities. That perhaps creating a task force to address would be a way to generate action.

#### **Planning for Baton Rouge**

The LOC in Baton Rouge has done a good job having monthly conf. calls with the key USATF people. This has been effective at resolving issues such as the weight throw scheduling. They are also constantly populating their website with updated information. The USATF MTF Executive Committee meeting (Friday night) will be held at the Crowne Plaza Executive Center hotel, which is where members of the committee will be staying if booked by the National Office. The Athletes meeting is Saturday night.

The MTF TA list for TA is done and should be out by the end of January or beginning of February. Jerry is asking to have the National Office pay for the hotel rooms up front, the cost is \$117 per night, including breakfast. Those purchasing their own airline tickets may only get reimbursed up to the 21-day fare. Currently airfares to Baton Rouge are high.

#### **Planning for Toronto**

Registration is not open. There are issues with how money is deposited and taken out of Monaco, which is where WMA has their accounts.

Hotels: We currently have blocks at three main hotels:

The Hilton Garden Inn across from subway station

The Residence Inn next door to the subway station (the team staff will be here, it provides full kitchens)

The Homewood Suites, a 15-minute walk to train station (the trainers will be housed here)

Links for AirBnBs and other hotels will be on the website.

People are being encouraged to book early so that we can use up the blocks and then get more, also, the last week of the completion is the downtown Toronto Caribbean Festival and rooms sell out.

Re the medical/physio staff – the goal is to have teams of five at each stadium, we will know if this is feasible after the entries come in. A schedule will be made up then as well. The medical staff will have minivans and will be able to get themselves and their gear to the stadiums.

We will have a team of team managers for the meet. There will be a conference call with Phil Greenwald, Jerry, and Robert Thomas about this. The team managers will be selected and the announcements made prior to the Indoor Championships.

#### **Other Business**

The dates of the National Senior Games TF meet have been decided; 5-11 November, 2021 in Florida. The plans for a MTF cruise and track meet in the Bahamas are going forward around that date.

USATF MTF has agreed to assist with the NSGs in 2021, and it has been confirmed by Carroll DeWeese that the income from the 2019 games did go to the right category at the National Office.

#### **Date and Time of Next Meeting**

Due to the need to work on the Strategic Plan, an Exec. Committee Conf. Call meeting is scheduled for Thursday **January 16<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 pm EST**

It is Jerry's intention to have Exec. Committee Conf. calls on a monthly basis. This should result in shorter calls and better engagement. Exec. Committee members can email their schedules so that we can try to accommodate the majority.

Jerry thanked everyone for their help, it is greatly appreciated.

The meeting adjourned at 9:07 pm EST.