

# *Association of Track Officials of Michigan*

ATOM Executive Board Meeting, October 8, 2023 held at the MHSAA building.

This meeting was preceded by a Past President's meeting under the auspices of Kathy Hutfiz. The Past Presidents selected awards recipients for the 2024 clinic that will be held at the Doherty Hotel and Conference Center in Clare, Michigan.

The past President's meeting ended at 10:05 a.m.

The Executive meeting was called to order by President McPhail at 10:10 a.m.

Present: John Greathouse, Kathy Hutfiz, Lew Clingman, Mike VanDyke, Christine Lee, Richard Lee, Mark Haney, Charles Parker, Gordie Richardson, Dave McPhail, Ron Buchanan, Darlene Barber, Eric Zemper, Jonathan Flott, Geri Jackson, Jonathan Bush and Rudy Godefroidt

The September's secretary report was reviewed and accepted as written, motion by Gordie Richardson and second by Mark Haney, passed unanimously.

The Treasurer's report hadn't changed much since September so no hard copies were distributed. Discussion was held on the ATOM ads in the finals programs for both the UP and LP in Track and Field as well as Cross Country. After costs as well as advantages and disadvantages were discussed, a motion was made by Rudy Godefroidt and second by Gordie Richardson that we continue the ads and change the text of the ad as soon as possible, probably for Track and Field or at least for the 2024-25 school year, motion passed unanimously. Christine also mentioned to zone representatives to send out emails to their constituents with new forms to renew their ATOM membership and also a blank to sign up for the next clinic.

The President's report was made by Dave and he passed around a list of current emails and asked the members present to add their phone numbers to it after checking their email address. Dave also held a discussion with examples of shells, 209's that he had purchased and where with cost. This led to more discussion on the use of 209's for cross country compared to 32's and/or 22's. Rudy mentioned the number of coaches and fans that talked to him about his use of 32's and the appreciation of being able to see smoke for cross country. Again cost here is a huge issue.

The Newsletter report was made by Jonathan Bush and he reminded his approval of the September discussion to change the title of this position to Communication Director. We all stressed the need to get Jon the information he needs in a timely manner and that he welcomes any and all information from the membership. It was stressed several times throughout this meeting and probably every meeting the need to spread the word about ATOM

to officials and encourage them to jump on board. With more awareness and information, we hope to make progress on this. The communication director will use newsletters, email, the website (eventually) and Facebook to help achieve this. We also discussed the cost of the newsletter and agreed the current format and use was expensive and not achieving its purpose. We reviewed our discussions on the newsletters from September and agreed to keep researching and working on it. Jon reminded us he needs clinic information from Charles, a State Cross Country report from Rudy, and any important information members want to share. He reminded Mark that Jon needs to be hooked up with the website as soon as it's available to do.

The webmaster discussed status and a few issues he had to deal with. He shared the need for information from the UP. Eric suggested that with all discussion we are having on these above issues that we form a committee to come up with a viable plan to make it work as discussed. Rudy motioned and Christine supported Eric's suggestion and volunteers for the committee were established: John Greathouse, Mark Haney, Gordie Richardson and Charles Parker under the chairmanship of Jonathan Bush.

Under the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President's report the clinic was reviewed and detailed on where Charles is currently at. He mentioned format and handed out a sample copy of what to cover and when. This for some reason led into a discussion on taxes and reporting expenses to offset income. I believe this will be discussed further and something might be happening at the clinic. It was stressed that we should have a professional manage this discussion and keep us from doing something we could regret later. A CPA would of course be ideal. A concern was brought up on members that vote on issues at the clinic and what we need for a quorum. Eric looked it up in the constitution and we determined 10% of the membership.

There is no 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President currently and we are still looking.

Zone Reports:

Zone 1, Charles, cross country is winding down and continues talking to athletic directors and coaches in his area.

Zone 2, Jonathan FI, nothing to report at this time.

Zone 3, Darlene mentioned all seems smooth and that the USATF championships in cross country are scheduled for November 11. Geri mentioned that ATOM serves a useful purpose and discussed some of the reasons for ATOM. She also reinforced the need for proper communication among officials and the need for zone representatives to undertake that task.

Zone 4, Rich went over official fees and the need to advocate for ourselves if we want to see change. Referred to the list Rudy shared and what he has put together. This is a topic we will surely keep addressing and working towards.

Zone 5, John mentioned his cross country season seems to be over and will be sending a note out to his membership.

Zone 6. Lew mentioned that there is still work being done on the sites for track and that in his area many very good officials have stepped down from the ranks recently due to retirement. Mike reinforced that and shared a few items from the zone as well.

Zone 7, Kathy and Gordie teamed the discussion on happenings and such from the north part of the LP and asked Rudy to discuss the recent Shepherd invite and all it did and showcased. Kathy discussed where she had been working and Gordie also mentioned the need for more communication and awareness made in their area.

No report was given from the UP.

USATF, Eric also discussed upcoming events and where he had been recently and the way the meet went. He also discussed rule changes among USATF with starters and starters' assistants. Interesting concept for sure. Eric just worked in Eugene at the Prefontaine meet and that always gets my attention.

We determined that we had already discussed all of the Old Business topics.

Under New Business Rudy again mentioned the fees and how he has been asked by several AD's to revise what he uses (from 2017) to reflect fee changes that have occurred in all other sports. Rudy gave examples of fees paid and suggested; and I believe, this discussion will probably not go away. Last but not least Rudy mentioned the conflict in USATF cross country and MITCA cross country. It will be interesting to once again compare numbers at these two meets.

Next meeting is November 12, 2023.

Submitted by: Rudy Godefroidt. 10/9/2023