



One Step Ahead

ASSOCIATIONS WORKSHOP

Indianapolis – August 22-24 2008

Each summer, USATF holds an Associations Workshop where representatives from the 57 member associations get together and exchange ideas, learn of the latest happenings in the national office and take part in workshops covering a wide variety of topics.

The 2008 Associations Workshop was held in Indianapolis from August 22-24. Sue Polansky, Steve Cuomo and Diane Martin attended as representatives from USATF-LI. Workshop topics included Association Communication, Membership Administration, Diversity, Sanctions and Insurance, Association By-Laws, Conflict Management and Critical Tax Law Changes. Of particular interest was a session on the Proposed Restructuring of the USATF Board of Directors. A separate article appears in this issue which further discusses the Restructuring Plan.

Awards were presented to the 2007 Outstanding Associations and Long Island is proud to be a recipient of the Silver Recognition Award indicating that we have met and/or surpassed all association goals as set by USATF.



Long Island receives Silver Level Association Achievement award (l to r) Associations Committee Chair Alan Roth, LI reps, Diane Martin, Sue Polansky & Steve Cuomo and USATF President Bill Roe

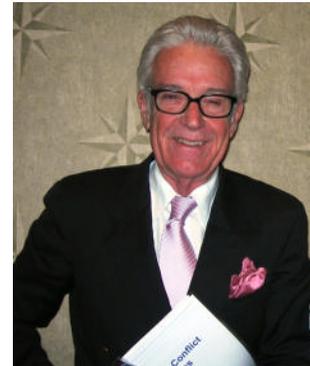
A highlight of the weekend was the Sunday morning Round Table discussion at which USATF-LI's Steve Cuomo presented an overview of the Disabled Sports program on Long Island with emphasis on the importance of local associations working with and for disabled athletes. Steve's talk was well received and we are very pleased that many other associations are beginning to develop programs for these special athletes and that they are turning to Steve for assistance and looking at Long Island as an example.



USATF-LI Chair of the Committee for Sports for the Disabled speaks to the Association representatives as Alan Roth looks on.

MEET DOUG LOGAN

New USATF CEO Addresses Associations Workshop



Those in attendance at the Associations Workshop had the pleasure of meeting USATF's new CEO, Doug Logan at the Sunday morning session. Logan, fresh off the plane from the Olympic Games in Beijing, gave an inspiring speech and left us with the impression that we have, in him, a strong leader, a fair minded individual who is not afraid to speak his mind and stand up for what is right, and a person devoted to our sport.

Logan comes to USATF with a long list of involvement in sports management which includes his former position as the Commissioner, President and CEO of Major League Soccer. He has served as a member of U.S. delegations to many international sporting events including the 1996 Olympic Games, the 1998 FIFA World Cup and the FIFA Copa Confederaciones in Mexico in 1998. Since leaving MLS, he has run Empresario, LLC of New York, a sports consulting and entrepreneurial firm. He also has a strong background in entertainment promotion.

Logan grew up in Cuba and Spanish is his native language. He has been a life long competitive road runner at distances from 10k to the marathon. He is a decorated Viet Nam veteran.

Logan states, "With my experience in international business and sports, I hope to foster better relations with the IAAF and IOC. I believe there is a vast potential for growth in sponsorship sales, event creation and television outreach. ...I will institute a 'customer service culture' in the National Office in its relations with the volunteer leadership and membership."

The members of USATF-LI welcome Doug Logan to USATF and look forward to a strong working relationship with him and a boost to our sport on the international scene as well as on the local scene.

For more information on coming events, contact USATF-LI at (516)349-9157 or visit our website, www.long-island.usatf.org

RESTRUCTURING

More Questions than Answers

The United States Olympic Committee (USOC) has mandated that the Board of Directors of USATF be restructured and reduce its size from the current number to a 15 member Board. The current Board is made up of the elected officers (President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer) and representatives from all Standing Sports Committees and constituency based committees (Youth, Masters, LDR, Race Walking, Associations, Athletes Advisory, Track & Field, High Performance, Sports for the Disabled, Mountain, Ultra, Trail, Officials etc.)

The new Board would have a maximum of 15 members – 3 of whom will be active athletes, 3 will be independent directors (eg: from business), 1 will be the IAAF Council Member from the US, 1 will represent the national sports organizations that are members of USATF, 1 shall be the President elected by the USATF membership, 6 shall be At-Large members who shall serve a 2 term limit based on background and expertise and who are not currently part of the operating structure of USATF. Of the 6 AT-Large members, 1 shall come from High Performance, 1 from LDR, 1 from Officials, 1 from Youth, 1 from Coaches and 1 from “Grassroots programs.”

A Nominating and Elections Committee will be appointed, presumably by the current Board of Directors, to select the members of the newly structured Board. The details of who will select At-Large members, how they will be selected, the role of the Nominating and Elections Committee in their selection and general procedures have to be worked out by the USATF Law & Legislation Committee.

While the overview of the new structure of the USATF Board clearly spells out the number of members of the new Board, there are many, many questions left to be answered about this. Clearly, the new Board will have much less representation from “grassroots” programs and the effect on these programs has yet to be spelled out.

It is our hope that the L&L Committee can clarify many of the details and provide answers to some of our questions before we are forced to vote on restructuring during the Opening Session of the USATF Annual Meeting in Reno in December.

One thing seems certain. USATF will change. Should the restructuring vote pass in December, our Board will no longer have representatives from all parts of our sport. Should it fail, we are told that the USOC has the right to cut funding to USATF and/or take away its designation as National Governing Body of the sport.

UPCOMING EVENTS

LDR Grand Prix Series of Road Races

- 10/12 Elite 8K
- 10/18 Oyster Bay Supervisors Oyster Festival 5K
- 11/16 Mineola Mustang 5K
- 12/7 Fly With the Owls 4 Mile Run

Cross Country – Open & Masters

- 10/26 USATF-LI Association Championship 8K
- 11/9 Northport Veterans Day 4K
- 11/30 Rob's Run 5K

Youth

- 9/28 Sunken Meadow State Park
- 10/12 Sunken Meadow State Park
- 11/9 Association Championship & JO Qualifier

Disabled Athletics

- 10/5 USATF National 5 Kilometer Cross Country Disability Championship Meet & International Challenge
Sunken Meadow State Park

USATF-LI MEMBERS ON THE GO

Laura DelBiondo finished as one of the top 50 women overall at the USATF 20k Championships on September 1, 2008 in New Haven, CT. She ran 1:27:46.

Gary Westerfield served as a Race Walk Judge at the 2008 Beijing Olympics. Gary was one of only two Americans who officiated in track & field at the Summer Games. **David Katz**, who serves as the USATF delegate to the IAAF Technical Committee, was also in attendance.

Welcome home to **Chris Mammone** who returned to Long Island after a stint in Eugene, Oregon. Chris will be running for the Bellmore Striders again this year.

Fred Benlein spent a good bit of the summer in California serving as a coach for masters athletes preparing to compete in a reality show.

Youth athlete, **Melody Penny**, ranked high at national youth championships in the Race Walk.

August 27-31 saw over a thousand athletes representing many countries from North America, Central America and the Caribbean compete in the WMA NC and C Regional Masters Track and Field Championship. Among those representing the United States were **Mary Trotto, Joe Cordero, Sue Nesbihal-Cordero, Bill Hiney and George Sandas**. Mary competed in 14 events scoring gold medals in the steeplechase, pent and 4 x 100 relay. In addition she got 1 silver and 5 bronze medals! Joe Cordero easily won the 2000m steeplechase outpacing runners from Argentina, Puerto Rico and Mexico. In the 5000M Joe won and lapped the field including a Mexican athlete seeded first!! Sue captured a bronze medal in the javelin and triple jump and had a 5th place in discus. Bill took first in discus, while George won silver in both hammer and weight throws.

We all had a good time even though the temperature was 96 when not raining!!



Michael Phelps, beware!!!!
Here's Mary

We would love to print the accomplishments of our fabulous Long Island athletes but can only do so if YOU send the information to us. Please send all information to Sue Polansky at spolansky@aol.com

INDOOR SEASON COMING UP SOON

Before you know it, we will be ready for the Indoor Season. We are once again planning on having our meets at Suffolk Community College in Brentwood. We are currently waiting for the college to confirm the dates that we have requested.

Please check our website for updates on the Indoor Season – www.long-island.usatf.org. We look forward to seeing you there.