

## USATF-LI EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING



Minutes for Board Meeting Held on Monday, January 4, 2021

Meeting was brought to order at 7:35 pm via zoom.

**Attendees:** 17

### **Officers:**

President: Alex Cuzzo  
Vice President: Robert Lemke  
Vice President: Brendan Dagan  
Treasurer: Gary Westerfield  
Secretary: Pamela Lee

### **Standing Sport Committees:**

Track & Field: Richard Degnan  
Track & Field: Dwayne Johnson - *Absent*  
MUT: *Open*  
Youth Athletics: Clive Walters  
Para-Athletics: Steven Cuomo

### **Standing Administrative Committees:**

Officials: George Erker  
Sports Medicine: John DeGorter  
Records: Joe Meyer - *Absent*  
Outreach: Ronald Nardo  
Public Relations: Lori Mangual  
Nominating: Bridget McCann - *Absent*  
Membership: Larry Campbell - *Absent*  
Coaching Education: Michael Frazer  
Communications: Cici Hirsch - *Absent*

### **Club Representatives:**

### **Invited Guests:**

Vin Lananna, President, USATF  
Bob Hersh  
Debra Milano-Granito – *Youth Vice-Chair*  
Trent Hampton

**Minutes:** Minutes from Board Meeting of December 7, 2020 were approved as amended.

### **Budget & Finance:**

Bank Balance at Citibank as of December 31, 2020: \$25,623.81; Quickbooks balance: \$26,268.81.

Gary Westerfield reported that a check in the amount of \$5,500 has been recently received, and not yet deposited, from the Siemens Foundation in memory of Walter Hawrys for race walking. He also reported that there are outstanding checks of \$50 for Form 990 for the NYS Department of Labor and \$300 for two individuals for awards distributed at the Awards Brunch. Gary Westerfield will send a reminder email to the two individuals. In the future, a suggestion was made that a memo accompany award checks that any award check will be valid for 90 days. This issue will be revisited at the February board meeting.

Alex Cuzzo reported that an invoice for the Optimum system has been received. The final amount of \$4.95 is due on January 6, 2021.

**Membership:** 438 have renewed membership as of this date (compared to 670 at this time last year) and there are 54 Clubs (compared to the same number at this time last year). Part of the difference is due to the difficulty

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in obtaining membership on the new USATF Connect web site system. It was suggested that the Association set up a training video to facilitate the renewal process.

**Guest Speaker:** Alex Cuzzo introduced Vin Lananna, President of USATF, and welcomed him to speak at the USATF-LI board meeting over the next 30 minutes. This is a first for USATF associations. Alex Cuzzo also congratulated him on his recent national election victory.

Vin Lananna remarked that USATF National's strategic plan will be to look at its priorities over the next four years. There are a number of individuals, currently on the national board, who are passionate about their roles. Vin Lananna will advise the board of directors to listen and attend board meetings, committee meetings, and town halls. The immediate focus will center around seizing the opportunity to leverage the world championships in Eugene, Oregon for all athletes, not only elite athletes, and on the upcoming Olympics in 2028 in Los Angeles, California.

Some opinions from the USATF-LI board members addressed to Vin Lananna:

**Alex Cuzzo:** There is a lack of availability of athletic sites, especially during the pandemic. Can we get a letter of support from National to spearhead this initiative?

**Brendan Dagan:** There is a gap between youth and older athletes. Can we receive the support on the national level to find friendly universities which will assist in closing this gap? Vin Lananna suggested that we prepare a template and send to him for review.

**Clive Walters:** Desire for representation on the board for local associations. Vin Lananna replied that there is already representation for youth, associations, officials, high performance, and world athletes.

**Steve Cuomo:** Staff for para-athletics has been cut. Desire for a partnership for para-athletes and able-bodied athletes on a combined regional level.

**Discussion/Business Items:**

**Old Business:**

**Health Updates:** Rich Degnan spoke to Harry Penny recently. Terry Bisogno's recovery is moving along and he has started running. Bill Ott had a bad reaction to Covid vaccine and is back in rehab. Alex Cuzzo broke his collar bone from a bike crash and may require surgery in the future,

**Covid Task Force:** USATF has created <https://www.uscenter.org/covid19> which will be updated in February. Current procedures will be in place from now through the summer. A sanction will be valid if a permit is granted.

**SafeSport, Background Checks, and Membership:** An email will be sent 30 days in advance of an individual's SafeSport expiration date. SafeSport has been segregated into Parts 1 and 2 with Part 3 anticipated for next year. The Association President will approve completed SafeSport requirement. Gary Westerfield will approve an official's status. To update official's status: complete profile, upload passport-type photo, pay applicable fee.

**Sanction Refunds:** Any deposits coming from USATF will be net of sanction fees already paid to the Association. In the last quarter of 2020, \$600 was applied to the \$1,500 already paid to the Association.

**PPE Loan:** The 2020 loan for \$4,900 has officially been forgiven by Citibank. Hopefully, we can apply for a 2021 loan. We need to show a 25% decrease in revenue for the first quarter of 2021. Financial account address has been changed to Gary Westerfield's address.

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*Reducing Monthly Expenses:* Phone calls have been minimal since November's implementation.

*New Business:* None.

***Committee Reports:***

***Standing Sport Committees:***

*Track & Field:* Rich Degnan reported that no indoor track meets are scheduled. Winter track starts today. There will be no meets at St. Anthony's High School as the gym is being utilized as classroom space and Suffolk County dual meets will be virtual. NYS Championships are scheduled for July 24, 2021 in Cortland, but \$1,500 donation is required in advance.

*LDR:* Alex Cuozzo reported that 2020 administration fees have been deferred until 2021 and may be carried over to 2022 (TBD at next LDR meeting). Brendan Degan suggested that we attempt to put together a Grand Prix event and proposed some zoom meetings to promote leadership.

*Race Walking:* Gary Westerfield reported that there are no events scheduled at this time. However, the Town of Islip would be amenable to a national professional event.

*Mountain Ultra & Trail:* No report.

*Master Athletics:* Rob Lemke reported that the 2021 world outdoor meet in Finland has been rescheduled to 2022 and the successive 2022 event has been moved to 2023.

*Youth Athletics:* Clive Walters reported that there were several changes in the Youth arena: Youth Regional Chair, Bill McGovern, has passed away and the National Youth Chair has resigned.

*Para-Athletics:* Steve Cuomo reported that several small events have been held at the PAL facility at Clayton Park, Central Islip utilizing PAL insurance. A clinic is planned for March or April.

***Standing Administrative Committees:***

*Officials:* George Erker reported that officials should update their status by maintaining their USATF membership, background screening, and SafeSport requirements and completing the basic officials test.

*Sports Medicine:* Dr. Jon DeGorter reported that he has submitted an article to Cici Hirsch.

*Records:* None.

*Outreach:* Nothing to report.

*Public Relations:* Nothing to report.

*Nominating:* None.

*Law and Legislation:* None.

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*Membership:* None.

*Coaching Education:* None.

*Other Activities:* None.

*Next meeting:* Monday, February 1, 2021 at 7:30 pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Pamela Lee, Secretary, USATF-Long Island