

# *Association of Track Officials of Michigan*

Minutes of November 13, 2011  
Association of Track Officials of Michigan  
East Lansing, MI

## MEMBERS PRESENT:

Darlene Barber, Lyle Berry, Lew Clingman, Rudy Godefroidt, John Greathouse, Blake Hagman, Kathy Hutfilz, Geri Jackson, Dan Johnson, Doug Kelly, Lynn Ketelhut, Brian Macomber, John Raducha, Gordie Richardson, Jill Sandro, and Al Wood.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: The October minutes were accepted as presented.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The treasurer's report for the month of October was approved. As of this report, we had 97 memberships for 2012 paid and 32 2012 clinic fees paid. The membership for 2011 was 228. The question was asked how many of the memberships that have come in have requested/ordered a rulebook.

ATOM NEWSLETTER: Tom was not present. The next newsletter will go out December 1<sup>st</sup>. If you would like to submit something for the newsletter, please send all information to Tom at [eschmann.tom@gmail.com](mailto:eschmann.tom@gmail.com). The deadline for this publication is November 15<sup>th</sup>. Contributing articles are accepted in ANY form.

WEBMASTER: George was not present for the meeting.

1<sup>st</sup> VICE-PRESIDENT: Lynn would like to have one or two more speakers for the clinic, especially speakers with field event expertise. Geri and Gordie will do a session on field events. Everything else is coming along. Lynn also commented that the Cross Country State Finals were good and went well from a coach's point of view. Lynn was the winner in the USATF 5K Master's Cross-Country run at Cass Benton in Northville with a winning time of 29:40 that took place the second weekend in November.

2<sup>nd</sup> VICE-PRESIDENT: John mentioned that feathers were popular at the beginning of the season, but not as much by the end of the season. He also mentioned that he worked the Greater Lansing Jr. Cross Country Championships.

2<sup>nd</sup> VICE PRESIDENT AD HOC: Ron was not present for the meeting.

CROSS COUNTRY STATE MEET COMMENTS/REPORTS: It was a great day for the State Finals. Many commented on how they liked that they could park on the middle of the field. Because the banner was too low and the bib numbers were a bit small, it was hard to read them on the video, but both of those issues have been talked about with the videographers already. The 3-mile marker was in the wrong spot, so times for the 3-mile would be about 15 seconds slow. To show their support, some fans chose to paint their bodies instead of wearing clothes. This posed a problem after the races as those fans used the bathrooms to clean off their body paint leaving the bathrooms painted and the fans clean. There were over 10,000 spectators and 1,100 programs sold. It was suggested that the National Anthem be played earlier and the PA used for the Anthem be in better condition. There was also a problem with where individual runners were placed in their assigned box (runners who finished ahead of others at Regional were placed behind those they beat), so for next year the clerks will need to be provided with Regional finishes to help with box assignments. Lew also mentioned how there were 4 starters for the State Finals meet, but the crew may need to use the clerks to watch the boxes they are assigned to help with false starts and watch for runners who may fall within the first 100 meters. With so many runners and where the starters are positioned, it is hard to see all areas of the starting line and easy to miss something. Because the clerks aren't usually carrying a starting pistol, they may use flags to signal one of the starters to fire off their pistol to alert the runners to return to the starting line.

## REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORTS:

ZONE 1: Al reported that the cross-country season for him was fairly easy with decent weather. He wasn't as busy this season as past as there are more invitationals rather than dual, tri, and quad meets.

ZONE 2: Doug stated he had a fairly quiet season. He is gearing up for the indoor season. Many of the indoor meets are set. The meets at U of M will be on Thursdays with the State meet again being held at Eastern Michigan University.

ZONE 3: The ladies reported their cross seasons went well. Darlene worked the USATF Cross Country meet on Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup> and the USATF Regional meet would be Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup>.

ZONE 4: Dan reported all is quiet. He just finished his 30<sup>th</sup> year of coaching. He enjoyed the State Meet because the weather was so nice. He saw no major problems throughout the season.

ZONE 5: John stated all is quiet. He didn't have any cross-country meets this fall because he had other conflicts with dates he was given.

ZONE 6: Lew and Brian reported that they saw many watches this fall, some of which were GPS watches. There were feather issues at the beginning of the season, but not so much at the end. There was one potential uniform issue as the Zeeland uniform had a pink ribbon, but the coach followed protocols and had a letter from the MHSAA that stated the uniform was legal for the season. Undergarments were not really an issue this season because of the nice weather we had. Cross Country is strong in western Michigan. The OK Conference has been realigned to 6 team tiers not 8, so coaches are wondering if they will start to see dual conference meets now. Lew also wanted to mention that Bob Bloomer's wife passed away the beginning of November.

ZONE 7: Lyle had 14 cross-country meets this season. One meet he started at Mesick had a deer run in front of the runners just before the race was about to start. Lyle said the only problem with that was all he had were blanks. Lyle will also be having 4-disc fusion surgery on November 28<sup>th</sup>. We all wish him a speedy recovery. Gordie reported that many of the schools that he works with in Zone 7 only have 3 or 4 runners so it feels like the "team scoring" concept takes away from these runners as they don't have enough bodies to compete as a team.

ZONE 8: John was not present for the meeting, but asked where it was officially stated that officials working a meet must wear the officials' uniform selected by the MHSAA. Anyone can find information about the officials' uniform in the MHSAA Officials' Handbook, which can be found on the MHSAA website. For Track & Field, the starter is required to have a red jacket with yellow sleeves and the referee needs at least a red jacket.

USATF: Eric was not present for the meeting.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

Please remember to contact Dan Johnson with names of anyone who was an ATOM member that has passed away. These persons will be recognized at the ATOM clinic in February right after lunch. Right now, Dan has a list of 64 names.

Blake has been in contact with all clinic award recipients except Jill Baker-Cooley. Blake needs more nominees for both the Bernie Abrams Leadership Award and the Judy Hagman Award. The Judy Hagman award nominees do not have to be registered officials. Please forward all nominees to Blake Hagman.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

Tom Minster is retiring from the MHSAA so there will be a new contact person when setting up meeting dates and times at the MHSAA building.

The next ATOM meeting will be on December 11, 2011, at 10:00am at the MHSAA Building in East Lansing.

Future ATOM meeting dates: ATOM Clinic in Clare February 3-4, 2012. The board meeting will be Friday evening, February 3<sup>rd</sup> and the clinic will be on Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup>.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 am.  
Minutes submitted by Jill Sandro.