

# *Association of Track Officials of Michigan*

Minutes of February 6, 2009  
Association of Track Officials of Michigan  
Clare, MI

## MEMBERS PRESENT:

George Babcock, Cecil Burch, Jan Burch, Rudy Godefroidt, Kathy Hutfilz, Dan Johnson, Lorenda Jonas, Doug Kelly, George Kniola, Blake Hagman, John Meyer, Eric Zemper, and many other clinic attendees. Nate Hampton was also present, representing the MHSAA.

## SECRETARY'S REPORT:

December minutes were accepted with it being noted that Geri will be having hip surgery, rather than "hop" surgery, this month. Lorenda appreciates Jill agreeing to take over the secretary's responsibilities and has really enjoyed working with the group the last 10+ years.

## TREASURER'S REPORT:

George reported that ATOM currently has a balance of \$8140.59. There are 77 members registered for the clinic and approximately 212 registered members for 2009. George also shared the Annual Treasurer's Report for the last year. Treasurer's report was accepted as presented.

## ATOM NEWSLETTER:

Tom was not present. The next newsletter will be published in March. Contact Tom (Tom's contact info can be found on the ATOM website) if you have any information to include. Discussion has taken place regarding altering the dates the newsletter is published, with one going out before the school year starts to address any topics regarding cross country before the season begins.

## WEBMASTER:

George reported that we are approaching 2400 hits on the website. He encourages more to submit photographs from Final or Regional meets to be posted on the website. Doug thanked George for keeping the website up-to-date.

## 1<sup>st</sup> VICE-PRESIDENT:

Lyle reports that his van is packed and he is ready to head south Sunday morning. The clinic is set to go for tomorrow.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> VICE-PRESIDENT:

Dennis is starting to get next year's clinic together and organized. He will start the planning after tomorrow's clinic. If anyone has topic ideas for the clinic, please let Dennis know. Dennis will sign the contract tomorrow for the 2010 clinic to be at the Doherty again.

## REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORTS:

ZONE 1: Fred was not present.

ZONE 2: Doug stated the indoor season has started in his zone, primarily at UM. There have been four MITS meets at UM and one at EMU and several collegiate meets at UM and EMU. Numbers appear to be up at the MITS meets with a lot of athletes competing. The MITS Finals will be at CMU on 2/28/09.

ZONE 3: Geri and Darlene were not present.

ZONE 4: Dan reported SVSU has hosted some MITS meets. One concern he has is the use of 22s rather than 32s. 22s are allowable with an FAT system, although a 32 is recommended. Dan also shared that his brother Rob Johnson shares that the track life in Arizona is a lot different than in Michigan. Rob recently wrote a book on officiating track and field, a flyer will be shared with the clinic notebooks.

ZONE 5: Jill was not present. Jill has agreed to fill the secretary position, therefore we are seeking a zone 5 rep if anyone is interested.

ZONE 6: Brian was not present.

ZONE 7: Lyle spoke with several zone 7 coaches, who assure him they do still have tracks (they are just buried under the snow) and they will have a meet before the Regionals.

ZONE 8: John stated they have a lot of snow and are willing to transfer some down if anyone wants it!

USATF: Eric stated they are busy certifying officials right now. They will be having a level one officials training on 3/21/09. The details are still being worked out but it will most likely be in Ann Arbor. All four rule books will be covered. Eric wrote a paper last year on the evolution of track and field rules over the last one hundred years, covering from 1900 on and covers many of the events. The rule book was 18 pages a hundred years ago, with three of the pages being dedicated to cross country. Eric will share a copy of the paper with anyone that is interested.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

ATOM as a supplier was discussed. The executive board is seeking interest in ATOM being a "coordinator" for official's uniform gear. Jan has had contact with Harvard Outerwear as a supplier for jackets and discussed ATOM posting an order form on the website but would leave the rest to the official. It was suggested to look into the company having size samples with order forms at the 2010 clinic. Blue Star was mentioned as a potential business to supply starter jackets.

Doug found a company willing to make official's shirts, a long sleeve golf shirt with yellow sleeves and a red body. The catch is that a minimum of 300 shirts was needed at approximately \$25/shirt. Due to the large quantity needed, it is something the board would not be able to do unless a large number of shirts were requested.

The Mid-West Meet of Champions will be in Jackson on June 13, 2009. Doug will be sending a letter to workers soon. If you would like to work the meet but have not in the past, get Doug your contact information and he will include you in the mailing. This is the last time the meet will be in Michigan for at least eight years.

Rudy stated ATOM was well represented at the Rules and Regs meeting in January. All ATOM points of emphasis were addressed, some being done before the meeting started. There is a conference in Southeast Michigan encouraging coaches to become registered officials for meets (primarily cross country) and it appears to be economically driven. The concern is the position coaches will be put in if this is something pursued. Jan expressed concern regarding confusion still existing in the wording of the entering and exiting of the ring in the throwing events.

There are still a few sites needed for Regionals this year. If you know of a school that would be willing to host, please pass it on to Nate and it would be most appreciated. Erie Mason will be hosting a Regional and assistance with it would be appreciated as well.

Rudy will be presenting on some basic rules at the MITCA clinic next Friday.

The state final sites for 2009 will be as follows:

D1: East Kentwood

D2: Zeeland Public Schools

D3: Comstock Park

D4: Forest Hills Eastern

#### NEW BUSINESS:

Doug opened the floor for new business items. Blake shared a few articles relative to track and field. One article was about injuries and the need for supervision at events and the other was pre-meet notes that would be beneficial for new officials.

Lyle shared that any March Meeting topics need to go to Dennis since Lyle will be in Florida.

Rudy stated that he was contacted by a few Saginaw County administrators regarding the inconsistency in official fees and are seeking help. They have asked if ATOM would be willing to put together a common or suggested fee schedule. Rudy inquired if this is something ATOM would be interested in pursuing. Nate requested that

if this is something that is followed through with, a range be used and it be worded so that no one can mistake it as being unionized. Blake stated that most of the leagues in zone one have a consistent pay schedule that Fred Smith was a part of putting it together.

Wayne inquired about ATOM's level of involvement with FAT timing at this time. It was stated that this is something that ATOM has not addressed as an executive board.

The next ATOM meeting will be on March 8, 2009, at 10:00 a.m. at the MHSAA Building in East Lansing.

Meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.  
Minutes submitted by Lorenda Jonas