



USATF Orlando Convention December 5-8, 2024 Reports

Here are 9 reports from Representatives of the Pacific Association that went and is reporting to the membership.

You are encouraged to read this brief report from each committee to get the latest News from National Office.

Content:

- 1) Charlotte Sneed Masters T&F Chair and Coaches Chair
- 2) Tom Bernhard-Masters LDR, calendar of 2025, Winner of 2024
- 3) Andrew Crawford-Men's LDR news and women's LDR news
- 4) Officials report: Ajay Padgaonkar-Certification news!!
- 5) Officials Training Chair: Bill Bartel
- 6) Officials Chair representative to Convention: Rory Osborne
- 7) Paralympic Chair: Lee Webb **Hot item from 2025-thereafter as Paralympic is part of the USATF Olympic movement**
- 8) Youth Chair Representative: Ed Hollshwandner
- 9) Youth Coach Chair: Cris Houston

These are brief reports that keeps you in "the know".

Happy New Year!

Irene Herman, Delegate Chair and President

USATF Annual Meeting 2024
Lake Buena Vista
Orlando, Florida

Charlotte Sneed

Masters Committee Chair
Coaches Committee Chair
pa.csneed@gmail.com

The 2025 Annual Meeting location is undetermined. West coast locations have been encouraged for 2025 and later meetings. The meeting is likely to be held in person at the strong preference of the membership. The cost of hosting the meeting continues to increase with decreased participation. There were complete rows empty in the closing session with multiple associations not sending delegates for each seat to which they are entitled.

Elections were a priority in all committees with term-limits taking effect. Many chairs and other officers who had been in leadership for years and even decades were termed out allowing new leadership to emerge. The following years

Master Committee: Reno/Tahoe has been encouraged to bid for future Indoor meets. The Masters Committee will be chaired by Robert Thomas who has not been friendly to PA bids in the past.

There were 0 bids for the 2026 indoor championships.

Coaches Committee:

Level 1 has taken form in its new multi-session format. There are monthly in-person sessions scheduled for the third phase of the Level1 course. Reno is preparing to host a Level1 in conjunction with the President's Meet in February.

Youth Committee:

Jacci White will return as Youth Chair after a difficult election including a protest and a revote.

2025 Outdoor National JO's will be held in Greensboro, NC



2024-25 Race Calendar-Masters National Grand Prix

2025 Masters National Grand Prix Schedule

2024

- **Dec 14 USATF Club Cross Country Championships** *Chambers Creek Regional Park* **Tacoma WA**

2025

- **Jan 11 USATF Cross Country Championships** *Chaparall Ridge XC Course* **Lubbock TX**
- **Mar 23-30 WMA Indoor Championships*** **Gainesville FL**
- **Apr 27 USATF Masters 10 Km Championships** *James Joyce Ramble* **Dedham MA**
- **Jun 21 USATF Masters 1 Mile Championships** *Monumental Mile* **Indianapolis IN**
- **Sep 26-27 WA/WMA Road Racing Championships**** **San Diego CA**
- **Sep 28 USATF Masters Half Marathon** **TBD**
- **Oct 18 USATF Masters 5 Km Championships** *5 Km Race at PNC Atlanta 10Mi* **Atlanta GA**
- **TBD USATF Masters 5 Km XC Championships** *Golden Gate Park* **San Francisco CA**

Other Events of Interest

- **Feb 21-23 USATF Masters Indoor Championships** **Gainesville FL**
- **Jul 17-20 USATF Masters Outdoor Championships** **Huntsville, AL**
- **TBD USATF Cross Country National Championships** **TBD**

*The best result from the XC or the 10 Km Road Race at the WMA Indoor Championships will be counted toward the Individual Grand Prix.

** The 1 Mile event on Friday and the 5K event on Saturday are both WMA [Non Stadia] Championships; athletes who participate in either of them may count their best finish toward the Masters Individual GP. No more than one race result for the weekend can be counted.

2024 Masters LDR Award Winners

Age Group Road Runners of the Year

| | | | |
|--------|-----------------|--------|-----------------|
| F40-44 | Sara Hall | M40-44 | Elkanah Kibet |
| F45-49 | Roberta Groner | M45-49 | Mario Vazquez |
| F50-54 | Perry Shoemaker | M50-54 | John Fernandez |
| F55-59 | Fiona Bayly | M55-59 | Mark Hixson |
| F60-64 | Suzanne La Burt | M60-64 | Nat Larson |
| F65-69 | Nora Cary | M65-69 | Jacob Nur |
| F70-74 | Kari Chandler | M70-74 | Don Morrison |
| F75-79 | Jeannie Rice | M75-79 | Gene Dykes |
| F80-84 | Jan Holmquist | M80-84 | Jan Frisby |
| F85-89 | Sandra Folzer | M85-90 | Ram Satyaprasad |

Paul Spangler Award Winners

| | | | |
|--------|---------------|------|-----------------|
| Female | Sandra Folzer | Male | Ram Satyaprasad |
|--------|---------------|------|-----------------|

Overall M/F Road Runners of the Year

| | | | |
|--------|--------------|------|------------|
| Female | Jeannie Rice | Male | Nat Larson |
|--------|--------------|------|------------|

Otto Essig Award

Phil Greenwald

Masters Hall of Fame

Fiona Bayly Nat Larson

Additional notes:

The 2025 World Athletics Road Running Championships will be held in San Diego 9/25-28.

Here is the link: [Home | San Diego, CA 25 | World Athletics Road Running Championship](#)

The Half Marathon will also be the USATF Masters Half Marathon Championship. US Masters can also earn points in the Masters National Grand Prix By running the Mile and 5 km races.

For the 2024 Competition Rules, this note was added to Rule 165.7 (b):

NOTE: Times for races conducted partly or entirely outside the stadium may be published to 0.1 second to illustrate time differences between finishers, but only times rounded to the next longer full second shall be official. For the Road Mile, the conversion shall be done to the next longer 0.1 second. The shaded section, relating to the road Mile, created some issues so for the 2025 Competition Rules the shaded section was temporarily moved to 165.11 (c). The issues will be resolved at the 2025 Annual Meeting.

USATF Annual Meeting

5 - 8 December 2024

Men's LDR Report

Andy Crawford

World Athletics calendar: Get meets and races on the calendar soon, so that athletes can plan and have their performances count for the ranking system.

Amy Begley and Rob Mullet will be working to make LDR event bid process be more in advance (bids 3 years in advance, awards 2 years in advance) to allow ample time for planning and advertising to help increase participation. They will also be streamlining the bid process, to make it easier on the LOCs. Rob is focused on LDR, and will be a great resource.

For LDR Championship road races, USATF is supporting the prize money in addition to the event host. In the past, the event host provided all of the prize money.

Galen Rupp's 10mi time from 2020 will be rejected due to lack of back up timing on the course.

Proposed that for Masters LDR: if an athlete is banned for more than 6 months for doping, they are no longer eligible to set records for life.

Conflict of Interest form has to be filled out every year, and updated mid-year if any change to information or situation on that form

2025 World Road Running Championships in Sept. in San Diego. Now, the World Masters Championships, and USATF National Masters Half Marathon Championships. The Mile and 5k are also on the 2025 USATF Masters Grand Prix. Masters runners can earn Grand Prix points at all three distances.

Cross Country:

Championship events will now be represented by the season (2025-2026, as opposed to a single year).

2025-2026 USATF Masters 5k XC Champs on Nov. 1, 2025 in Golden Gate Park! Pacific Association hosting; Andy Crawford as Meet Director

All in Tallahassee:

2025-2026 USATF XC Champs in early/mid-Dec 2025 (qualifier for World XC Champs)

2025-2026 World XC Champs on Jan 10, 2026

2025-2026 USATF Club XC Champs on Jan 11, 2026

2025-2026 USATF Junior Olympics Champs on Jan 11, 2026

Anyone and any teams going to Tallahassee in January...make travel arrangements EARLY.

Association Championships teams can get travel grants for club nationals. Follow up on this.

New Men's LDR Chair is

Special Note: New Women's LDR Chair is Kim Conley (Pacific Association ties).

LDR Board member is Dena Evans (Pacific Association)

From: Ajay Padgaonkar

To: Irene Herman

Subject: 2024 USATF Annual Meeting Report

- I attended the opening and closing sessions, all the Official's committee meetings and all the rules committee meetings. Below are my observations. Further details can be found in the annual meeting document library: <https://www.usatf.org/events/2024/2024-usatf-annual-meeting/document-library>
- **Certification:** Nationwide, the official count as of Oct 1, 2024 is 4765 officials. Nationwide the distribution across the levels is - Apprentice: 30%, Association 23%, National 21%, Master 23%. vs the Pacific association 52%, 18%, 12% and 17% resp. Nationwide, 440 (little under 10%) new officials were added in 2024 vs Pacific Association at 44 (13%). Growth over the last 3 years has led to higher % of apprentices in Pacific.
- **Recertification:**
We have 72 officials who have been recertified for the 2025-28 Olympiad, 250 more to go. The list of 72 includes 25 from the 2024 list; the National office will take care of the remaining 18 from the 2024 list by the end of the year. We have 108 of 293 (63% remaining) officials who completed the basic rules review, 52 of 101 (~50% remain) who completed the national/master review. Nationwide ~1000 of the ~4800 (80% remaining) officials completed the basic rules review, ~190 of the ~1000 (also 80% remaining) did the national/master review. So, we are a bit ahead of the rest of the nation. Sport80 quirk leads to membership renewal snapping back association to the official's residence area instead of Pacific. I sent an alert to such officials to file transfer and alerted the national office not to issue new badges till such transfers are complete. Pins for the new Olympiad are now with me. I distributed some in person to the annual meeting delegates; I will distribute the others with the new Olympiad badges.
- **Selections to the indoor, U20 and senior outdoor championships** are posted on NOC at: <https://noc.mach2k.net/2025%20Selections.pdf>
From Pacific 19 of the 33 applicants were selected. This is the highest I recall since I started as a cert chair. Nationwide Indoor 94 of 295 applicants got selected; U20 125 of 368 applicants; Outdoor 149 of 421 applicants; pretty much 33% across the board. We had lower (13%) in Indoor but about the same in the other 2. Hopefully the Reno Indoor venue will give our officials more experience and better selection chance.
The selected officials are as follows:
 - Indoor @ Ocean Breeze NY Feb22-23: Bill Bartel (Clerk) and Ryan Cowley (EDM)
 - U20 @ Eugene June17-19: Laura Barger, Robert Benoy (Hor Jumps), Mike Bower (Clerk), Dennis Boyle (CEC, Decathlon), Scott Kostka (PV), Don Mosbacher, Collen Prather, Sangram Singh (throws), Ajay (RW team and throws alternate)
 - Outdoor @ Eugene, July 31-Aug3: John Busto (Starter), JR (EDM), Ryan (alt-EDM), Teddy (Hor jumps), Charles Murphy (alt-Hor Jumps), Rory (Marshal Lead), Ajay (Javelin), John Lilygren (alt-PV), Jim Manha (alt-Discus)
- At the official committee meetings I discovered that ONLY ONE official had applied to the grants, so I sent a reminder to all officials to check and take action prior to the deadline only 2 days away. So far, only one more person has taken the action.
- **The selections for the NCAA championships** are not yet announced. When ready, they will be posted at the usual NCAA website location: <https://www.ncaa.org/sports/2013/11/26/cross-country-and-track-and-field-rules-of-competition.aspx>
- **Rules:** This (2025) is a rules change year for both USATF and NCAA. There is too much to summarize specifics here, details are in the document library. **Of the 84 rules changes proposed, 65 were approved as submitted or with slight changes.** This included my proposals about broken javelin and single set of flags. Only the "no picking" part of Al Geiger's proposal was accepted. **A few proposals (11) were rejected, mostly youth related** –youth exception to forego attempt than the current height, allowing somersault in long jump, Aug1 cutoff instead of year end, youth meet decisions, such as fees, penalties, adding meets which qualify for national championship qualification, advancing alternates. Most of the 7 proposals tabled needed to wait for WA updates. **Pod's proposed to keep only the competition procedure, records rules and throw out ALL technical rules referring them only to the WA TRs) was also tabled.** Most of the NCAA changes were to align to USATF e.g. weight handle, HJ visual indicator line and current practice e.g. WA shoe, immediate protest. The NCAA rule book is now "live", online version may differ from print.
- **Awards:** Pacific Association had nominees for all the 6 awards, but no one won and only Bill Bartel made it to the finalist list in the James Grey Award. Dave Shrock was recognized for his service by Vin Lananna.
- **NOC and USATF elections:** Len Krsak voted as NOC official's chair, Scott Phoenix as Training Vice chair, Patti Mitchell as secretary, Dick Boyd as rules vice chair. Kurt Clausen is the new USATF president.

Regards,

Ajay Padgaonkar

2024 Dec 13

Annual Meeting Report

Sessions Attended:

Officials Rules Committee
Officials Executive Committee
Officials Training Clinic: Athletes/Officials Interaction Panel
Opening General Session
Officials Training Clinic: Vertical Situations
Officials General Session 1
Para Athletics: History of Para; Seated Shot Put Demo; Rules & Best Practices
Officials Hall of Fame Banquet
Officials Training Clinic: Referee Scenarios
Officials: Certification
Officials General Session 2
Closing Session

Ajay and I attended many of the same sessions, so no need to repeat what he said in his report.

Ajay, Lee Webb, and I met informally with Randy and Joey Chiavaroli and Pam Navarra to discuss necessary items to hold a Para meet in the Association. I came away from that discussion with the thought that we need to incorporate a few Para events into some meets before jumping in with both feet and trying to hold a complete Para meet.

The training clinics I attended were pretty straightforward. We are already one of the leaders in the country regarding mentoring and are doing everything that was talked about with maybe the exception of “training our replacement.” How many of us are doing that? The Referee Scenarios and Vertical Situations presentations are available in the Document Library. I plan on pulling them out and using them for local training.

The Officials General Sessions were largely used for Committee reports by the various committees as well as voting for the candidates replacing those who termed out. Again those were all mentioned in Ajay’s report.

I would certainly encourage more of our members to attend the Annual Meeting. It’s an excellent opportunity for officials, coaches, and athletes to see some of the inner workings of the organization we “work” for. It is also an excellent opportunity to meet the people who select folks who work National meets or meets outside of the Association. I was pleased to see Don Mosbacher there. Hopefully more folks will attend in the future.

Bill Bartel 12/20/24

From: Rory Osborne, Pacific Association Delegate

Subject: 2024 USATF Annual Meeting Report

I attended the opening and closing sessions, all the Official's Committee meetings, a subcommittee meeting on Recruiting and Retention, and a subcommittee meeting on Safety.

Officials Committee: The minutes for the Officials Committee meetings can be found on the USATF website under the Document Library.

Recruiting and Retention Subcommittee: As a member of this subcommittee, the first live in-person meeting was held at the Annual Meeting after multiple previous Internet meetings. This group has created multiple new marketing methods for recruitment and retention of officials. These included some preliminary poster designs, business cards that can be handed out to potential new officials that direct them to their specific Association resources, materials for setting up information tables at selected meets, and several video related materials. Work continues and a formal presentation of the current materials was made at one of the Officials Committee meetings at this Annual Meeting.

Safety Subcommittee: Background and rationale for creating a pre-meet facility inspection safety checklist. Preliminary checklist had been created but has sat in limbo due to not

Training Sessions: There was a well-attended training session that spoke to the issue of mentoring. Though enlightening to others, it was gratifying to see that the Pacific Association is well ahead of most other Associations in this regard. More work is ahead and can dovetail with the Recruiting and Retention Subcommittee (see above).

Pacific Association Meet Selections: The selected officials from the Pacific Association were:

- **Indoor at Ocean Breeze NY Feb. 22-23, 2025:** Bill Bartel (Clerk) and Ryan Cowley (EDM)
- **U20 at Eugene June 17-19:** Laura Barger, Robert Benoy (Horizontal Jumps), Mike Bower (Clerk), Dennis Boyle (Combined Events Coordinator, Decathlon), Scott Kostka (PV), Don Mosbacher, Collen Prather, Sangram Singh (Throws), Ajay Padgaonkar (Race Walk team and Throws Alternate)
- **Outdoor at Eugene, July 31-Aug 3:** John Busto (Starter), John "JR" Heberle (EDM), Ryan Cowley (EDM Alternate), Teddy Hayes (Horizontal Jumps), Charles Murphy (Hor Jumps Alternate), Rory Osborne (Lead Marshal), Ajay Padgaonkar (Javelin), John Lilygren (PV Alternate), Jim Manha (Discus Alternate)

The selections for the NCAA championships are not yet announced. When ready, they will be posted at the usual NCAA website location: <https://www.ncaa.org/sports/2013/11/26/cross-country-and-track-and-field-rules-of-competition.aspx>

Awards: Pacific Association had nominees for all 6 of the awards. Bill Bartel made the finalist list for the James Grey Award. Dave Shrock was recognized for his service by Vin Lananna.

NOC and USATF Elections: Len Krsak as NOC official's Chair; Scott Phoenix as Training Vice Chair; Patti Mitchell as Secretary, Dick Boyd as Rules Vice Chair. Kurt Clausen as USATF President.

Para Athletics: January 1, 2025, USATF will be acquiring the high performance para athletics national team and associated programs from U.S. Paralympics Track & Field (USOPC). USATF will now be responsible for providing the Certified Officials that will be officiating para athletics national championships, team trials, and the LA 2028 Paralympic Games. The 2025 USATF Outdoor National Championship will be held concurrently with the 2025 Para Athletics National Championship. The officials have already been selected and there will be a mix of experienced para athletics officials and first-timers. At the end of both championships, all those officials will have para athletics officiating experience. A few of the professional attributes of USATF national championship officials are resourcefulness, adaptability, and versatility. Officials never need to be concerned with the "classification" process. That is the system by which para athletes are determined eligible and grouped into levels of functional ability. All that officials need to know is the para athlete's classification and what rules apply to that specific classification. That is what officials do when applying Masters rules. Similarly, different rules apply to different age-divisions at Masters meets.

USATF Conference Report

Orlando, Florida December 5-8

Day 1-Youth Meeting 10:00-12:00

Voting logistics for most of the day. I thought I was there to vote, but NO! Very frustrating Day. Late start and the Youth very unorganized and not prepared. After voting 2 hours of figuring out voting the many rule changes for Youth were briefly discussed. 2 of the main rule changes were for including a new size javelin for 9–10-year-olds and the other was new hurdle height for 13-14 Boys. At 12:46 they still were not sure of voting members, At this time we voted on minutes, I actually got to vote on this one, my only vote of the conference. Ron Williams, President of the National Youth Track Coaches Associations talked about the organization and officers were voted on. Membership is about 100 people, and they give grants for Level 1, 2,3 courses. 2:10 Duncan Atwood discussed the new Javelin. No studies or in-depth evaluation has taken place on the Javelin. USATF Nominees were announced. More discussion on rules. It was proposed to have a new category for ages 15-16,17-18 called Elite Divisions. This division would have standards to qualify for Nationals. More info and discussion on rule changes and amendments. 5:00 Dismissed to Opening Session. Opening Session from 5:00-7:00 Pacific Association gathering and discussion. Great to meet and talk to these members-Great knowledge and ready to share and work.

Day 2-Youth Meeting 10:00 Voting, Voting, Voting. They separated the voters on one side of the room and the non-voters and the other side of the room. 12:00 Voting ends. Small break.12:49 More discussion on rules. Guest Speaker on college recruiting. Robin Beamon came in to speak on various topics including sites for future meets, Association info, Robert Rules of Order, Document Library. I am off to the only Para meeting at the conference
Para Athletics 4:00- Great meeting. Was looking forward to any information I could get. Met many resources for Para in our association. Para is an untapped avenue for opportunities for all ages. A great presentation was given on the history of Para, qualifications for Para, categories and athletes, coaches and teams were introduced. A demonstration on how a seated Para throws the shot put in a competition. Cover in detail rules, coaching and mechanics. This was a great presentation. I needed to see 3 days of this information. Very organized, on time and informative. A great 2 hours. After I left it was 6:30

Day 3-9:00 AM Attended Coaches Education for a short time. Great Information
Youth: 10:00 Scheduled time to start. We started at 10:40 more Voting. Run-offs.
11:25 Voting is now complete. Ed Koch comes in to talk on law and legislation. Very knowledgeable and experienced person. He promoted his book called Another Long Run, I purchased it and have been reading it. Great book on running. Kurt Klausen spoke on his views, values and vision for USATF. Emphasis was given on chain of command at Association, Regional and National level, a clear and continual message. A few more rule discussion. Check the Document Library. Robin Beamon came to thank her staff, displaying a visual presentation on last year's National Championships. Discussion on upcoming National meets, youth standards, Mark Springer Grant, bidding, Cross Country. This was very informative and well presented. Willie Banks was the next guest. He talked about World Athletics rules, e-learning and his commitments to USATF. A quick review of Paralympics for youth. We need to have events accessible to be entered for Association and Regional Championships. We need to have a minimum of these 4 events 100, 200, 400 and Shot Put. Other events can be added. 4:55 Tracy Sundlin came into to talk about Running Championships. 5:16 Session Ended.

Day 4-I did not attend Closing Ceremony. A last-minute memorial for a long-time friend came up.

In summary I reached out and got to talk to many Para experts and resources. I great chance to reconnect to many athletes who came to my clinics over the years-Martha Watson, Norm Tate, Duncan Atwood, Dan O'Brien..... Also, my roommate Mark Cleary who I had never met was an unbelievable resource on Master Athletics and Track and Field in General

Lee Webb
Para Chair
Combined Youth Chair

USATF Annual Meeting Thursday 12/5 – Sunday 12/8 trip report
Submitted by Ed Hollshwandner (PA Youth Delegate)

Below is a list of the USATF Annual Meeting sessions attended as a Pacific Association Youth delegate, session information / items of interest communicated during these sessions, and a summary of significant decisions or other info affecting the Pacific Association Youth or general membership.

Sessions Attended

Thursday 12/5

- Youth General Session (4pm – 4:30pm) – update on rule changes
- Opening General Session (5pm – 6:45pm)
- PA Delegate Caucus / Curt Clausen meeting (7pm – 7:30)
- Youth Candidate Forum (7:30pm – 9:00pm)

Friday 12/6

- Officials Training Clinic (9am – 10am)
- Youth General Session (10am – 3pm, 4pm – 6pm) -elections

Saturday 12/7

- Officials Training Clinic (9am – 10am)
- Youth General Session (10am – 1:45pm)
- Youth General Session (2:30 – 5pm) – championship dates announced / other information disseminated

Sunday 12/8

- Closing Session (8am – 9:30am)

Session Highlights / Activities / Information

- Participated in 12 rounds of National Youth Committee voting all day Friday and Saturday morning (Jackie White re-elected Chair)
- Short presentations were made by NCSA, NFHS, World Athletics, National Youth Track Coaches Association, and Coaches Advisory during different Youth general sessions
- Significant time was spent on Association Chair and Regional Coordinator roles and responsibilities and Youth 'chain of command' procedures for action requests
- The following 2025 and 2026 Youth Championship dates were provided:
 - o 2025 Junior Olympics in Greensboro NC July 21-27
 - o 2025 Youth Indoor Nationals (March) will again be held at Seabreeze and 2025 Youth Outdoor National (June) at Icahn Stadium in greater NYC area.
 - o 2025 JO XC meet date and location MOVED to mid-January 2026 in Tallahassee FL to reportedly address a Youth and Masters meet component requirement for USA hosting 2026 IAAF X-C Worlds meet. (NOTE: age group issues and USATF membership status issues were raised and additional info will be forthcoming)
 - o 2026 JO XC and 2027 JO XC meets to be held in Lafayette LA.
 - o No 2026 JO Track & field meet discussed.
- Other reports about 1) proposed rules changes discussed and recommended; 2) Rules Committee status of recommended changes later reported back; 3) Pending 2025 Records status reported; and 4) 2025 Youth Outdoor Performance Guidelines and Combined Event Performance Standards information were made. Most notable Competition Rules recommended changes were hurdle height change to 36" for 13-14 Boys and replacement of Turbo-Jav with 250gram Aero-Jav for 9-10 age group. Not aware of status of these proposed changes.

Summary / Comments

This being my first USATF Annual Meeting attended, I found the Youth sessions extremely disorganized and little information was disseminated. The schedule changed repeatedly and there was no session agenda and few (if any) hard copy handouts. In my opinion, the overall Youth schedule of sessions/meetings were not very informative nor productive.

The Officials Training Clinics attended were very basic and felt were of lower quality than those provided by local PA Officials.

The in-person meeting aspect was good for networking and many Youth representatives expressed an interest in continuing with in-person Annual Meetings. Robin Beamon told the Youth General Session that a final decision about whether 2025 will be an in-person or Zoom meeting has yet to be decided. Final decision about 2025 Annual Meeting will be announced soon.

2024 USATF Annual Meeting Report

Cris Houston–Coaches Committee-HS/Youth

pa.youthXC@gmail.com

The 2024 USATF Annual Meeting, held at the Hilton Lake Buena Vista in Orlando, Florida, was most notable for its many contended and often contentious elections as a result of term limits taking effect in this election cycle. The meeting schedule, condensed into three days in 2023, seemed again rushed and poorly laid out.

This was my fourth (in-person) annual meeting. Each meeting I feel less and less return on the considerable investment of time and money. This fact is even more discouraging as my personal contribution to the cost of the trip continues to increase. There is considerable value in in-person meeting, however, the value is diminished when the in-person time is used without prudence.

It appears the option of an online annual meeting in 2025 is off the table due to the near unanimous preference for an in-person meeting in the committees. The ballooning costs of producing the event require USATF to implement cost reduction measures. The most likely solution will be to host the event within driving distance of the Indianapolis headquarters. Rumors abound it will be held in Indianapolis.

The highlight of my experience in Orlando was an off the schedule event. The Athlete Alumni Committee hosts an annual RunJumpThrow at a shelter in Orlando serving unhoused families in the greater Orlando area. The event utilizes the many olympians in attendance at the meeting.

The event was held on site at the shelter in a grassy field adjacent to the facility. All equipment was provided by USATF and brought onsite in one SUV. The pictures in the link below detail that there is no need for a track or any specialized facility to successfully host this outreach program. Grassroots development has to meet those we want to engage where they are.

RJT Photos and Videos: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/m9XSBfEtz1oLiXgf7>

I believe the Pacific Association can duplicate this type of event several times a year in different communities across the association. These events can be a platform to accomplish multiple functions for the organization. If properly promoted, it can serve as advertisement and outreach. Media can be engaged as a viable community service story and promoted on social media as well. Active athletes should be engaged and receive a

stipend for their appearances(Through the PA Foundation) as an opportunity to support them financially.