

**USAT Mideast Region Council
Face-to-Face Meeting - Chicago
Saturday, November 8th, 2014
9:00 am to 3:00 pm. CST**

Presiding: Jim Weaver

Present: **Lawrence Giannetti** **Maggi Wettstein** **Todd Baldi** **Dan Tun**
 Jeff Grady **Rob Garren** **Lindsey Cook** **Mike Abegg (until 10 am)**
 Graham Wilson **Michael Wendorf** **Lesley Kruzel**

Minutes: Michelle C Harter

Absent: **Robert Takla**
 Juliette Goldstein
 Nick Cunningham
 Mike Groaning
 Dave Kuendig

ACTION ITEMS SUMMARY

| Task | Responsible | BY (if applicable) |
|---|-------------|--------------------|
| Submit incremental budget requests to Jim for any programs wanting funds beyond the proposed 2015 Budget. | All | Nov 14th |
| Indicate interest in Council officer position to Michelle. | All | Nov 21st |
| Sign up to help out at a Mideast Regional Event, serve on a Council Committee, or write an article for newsletter/magazine. | All | Nov 30th |
| Contact National about partnering at the ITU 2015 Event. | Jim | Dec 31st |

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Called to Order 9:13 am EST

Opening Remarks- Jim

- Council Introductions

Budget 2014 and proposed 2015- Jim

- 2014 Budget status shows Mideast on track with an estimated carryover of \$10,000 to 2014.
- Various factors contributed to carryover including event cancellations.
- Reviewed 2015 proposed budget. Any incremental requests due to Jim within the week.
- Reviewed the end of the year report 2014 and goals for 2015.
- Discussed the rationale of retaining a Special Qualifier in our region for 2015. Benefits include more opportunity to connect with athletes and race director, and spreading the AGN qualification opportunity geographically.
- Suggestions made to modify the AGN qualification process to boost the value of Regional Championships and Qualifiers which ultimately makes qualifying more competitive.

Youth Grants – Michael

- Reviewed the 2014 youth development program.
- This year focused on the traditional grants for participatory programs/events(i.e. races, clinics, camps, teams) and new skill camps grants for youth/ juniors.
- Outreach expanded and applicant recipients increased from 11 in 2013 to 19 this year. An estimated 2300 youth athletes were supported by funds received from our Mideast Youth Development Program.
- 100% of budget funds were awarded to applicants and events that are run by local coaches, race directors, parents and volunteers.
- Applicants establish their own metrics to measure success and submit documentation to report results.
- Not all grants were issued due to lack of follow through for some recipients and to some events being cancelled.
- 2015 the program will continue to focus on development and high performance arenas. Will work with the Mideast RADC(Mike Groaning) to target these groups, execute outreach to coaches, and attend to the growth of membership.
- A Mideast region skills camp has been proposed by the RADC, slotted for April 2015.
- 2015 Mideast Region TalentID series proposal provided for group to review.

Paratriathlon Championships 2014 Update – Dan

- Summarized the results and feedback from the Regional Paratri Championship, August 17th at Fox island.
- 4 participants
- Venue was very nice and race director was very supportive. It was evident that RD is in need of more volunteer support. However, the course was ideal for paratriathletes and Dan and other staff were there to guide them to a successful Championship.
- 2015 Regional Paratri Championships will be at the Detroit Tri either August 15th or 16th.

ITU – Rob Garren

- Partnered with Midwest Region to host a booth at the ITU event.
- Distributed sunscreen, prizes, and bottles of water. Met and spoke with lots of athletes.
- The 2015 Event will have a more international athlete presence.
- Suggested to help fuel the USA patriotic vibe by handing out American Flags to spectators next year.
- Discussed the amount of D.Q.'s due to miscounts on the multiple lap course.
- Suggestions given to provide a way for athletes to track laps.
- Courses not finalized for 2015 yet.
- Discussed the benefit of Mideast Regional presence at this Event.
- Group agreed to approach National about partnering at the Event for a more cost-effective presence.

Special Guest – Alice Farmer

- Todd Baldi recognized Alice Farmer (Chicago) who was awarded USAT's Most Inspirational Comeback recipient for 2013 at AGN last summer.
- The Mideast Council presented her with a Mideast Regional award to honor her contribution and inspiration to the multisport community.

Race Bid Selection Committee – Rob

- Rob announced the approved selections for 2015 including the Regional Championship, Special Qualifier, Duathlon Championships and the Paratri Championship.
- Suggested we determine ways to attract more RD's to the bidding process. Perhaps collect comments and pictures from current hosting venues describing the value of hosting a Regional Championship.
- Sign-up sheets passed around for Council attendance at the 2015 Regional Events, Council Committees, and Magazine/Newsletter Articles.

MERCERS – Lesley

- Gave overview of the Mideast Region Club Racing Series program.
- Reviewed 2014 MERCERS results.
- Series increased in participation substantially, and there was a tight competition.
- Some clubs took advantage of being promoted via our newsletter, website, and magazine articles, cementing the value of being a USAT registered club with the Mideast Region.
- Prize payouts were reviewed and an additional prize will be given to the Club with most races attended.
- Lesley will be visiting a few clubs to expand and promote the Series to Clubs that have never participated.
- Lindsey will serve as an ambassador for Kentucky Clubs. Todd will contact Chicago Endurance to solicit their interest.

Council Appointments – Jim

- Motion made and seconded to appoint Dan Tun to the seated Council, fulfilling the remainder of a four year term.
All in favor. None opposed.
- Motion made and seconded to appoint Lindsey Cook to the seated Council, fulfilling the remainder of a four year term.
All in favor. None opposed.
All seats are filled with voting members for 2015.
- Council members interested in serving in an officer position for 2015 can email Michelle by November 21st. If minimal or no interest, officers will remain as is for 2015.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:30 pm CST