

**Minutes of the
Pacific Northwest Track & Field/USATF Pacific Northwest
Board Meeting held April 16, 2018**

President Ken Emerick called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at Seattle Parks and Recreation Building at 100 Dexter Avenue N. in Seattle. The following were present:

P	Ken Emerick	YTH	Holly Genest	OTC	Bob Springer	A-L	Carole Langenbach
VP	Chris Kunzelman	OPN		ATH	Eric Sach	A-L	Carol Coram
SEC	Ed Viering	MAS	Lance Neubauer	ATH	Eddie Strickler	A-L	Patti Petesch
TR	Gwen Robertson	COA		ATH	George Mathews	A-L	Jim Ryan
IPP		OFF		ATH		A-L	
	Bob Langenbach		Bill Hickman		Darlene Hickman		Becca Peter
	Lawrie Robertson						

I MINUTES AND EXECUTIVE REPORTS

- A. Secretary's Report/Minutes: Ed Viering confirmed we had a quorum. The agenda and latest schedule were distributed. The minutes for the January meeting were emailed and posted on our website. The minutes were accepted.
- B. Treasurer's Report: Gwen Robertson submitted her report. Report was accepted.
 1. Overall Total as of 04/14/2018: \$126,412.07. Group breakdowns:

General -	\$70,957.49	Masters -	\$16,430.17
Open -	\$19,340.11	Fred Dean Youth Travel -	\$ 2,613.00
Officials T&C -	\$ 1,616.87	USATF Membership -	\$15,454.43
Youth -	\$ 0.00		
- C. Membership Report: Tracy Silva submitted her report via email. Report was accepted.
 1. As of 04/15/2018: Youth– 820; Open– 312; Masters– 538; Clubs– 62 (6 pending).
 2. Relative to a year ago: Youth is up 14, Open is up 23, Masters is down 99, Clubs is up 3.
- D. Sanctions Report: Carole Langenbach. We had 125 sanctions but 2 were cancelled putting us at 123. One was cancelled for allowing dogs and a Fun Run was cancelled because it was not a competition.
- E. Vice President's Report: Chris Kunzelman. We have 11 voters present tonight.
- F. President's Report: Ken Emerick. No report. The President will be speaking during all the items tonight.
- G. Office Manager's Report: Carole Langenbach. We received a very nice thank you card for the dinner from one of the Youth athletes.

II OLD BUSINESS

- A. PNTF Banquet: Chris Kunzelman.
 1. Kenny thanked Chris for a wonderful evening. Carole said we had 47 people pay online. We had 164 attendees including 50 Youth people, 25 Masters and 2 Open.
 2. Chris likes the format and says the food was awesome as always. People love that we do special giveaways for Youth.

III NEW BUSINESS

- A. By Laws Proposal: Carole Langenbach. Carole put forward a term-limits proposal for discussion tonight and to be voted on at next meeting. The idea is driven by the Secretary being term-limited at the end of the year. There were 3 options (Attachment 1) discussed:
 1. Limit Officers to 4 years except for the Secretary

2. No term limits
 3. Add “the Board may make an exception to the term limit restriction at any regularly-scheduled meeting with at least 20 days notice (email acceptable).”
- B. Schedule PNTF Annual Meeting: Ken Emerick. No decision yet.
- C. Future Meeting Location: Carole Langenbach. We can get a room at Embassy Suites for \$100. Patti thinks there are other places nearby that would work. Kenny recommends we stay here through the end of the year.
- D. SafeSport: Ken Emerick.
1. The National Office has recently increased the requirements for officials and volunteers. Their policy has been unclear and has caused a lot of concern throughout the associations. Kenny stated our choices are either to (a) deal with it or (b) tell them we can't put on their meets. We may be liable if we don't follow their rules.
 2. A discussion followed. Highlights from various members present included:
 - a. We can make a counter-proposal that is workable.
 - b. We need to be vocal.
 - c. It will cost someone \$46 and they'll have to take a course just to come in and rake the pit
 - d. Liability will fall on the meet director.
 - e. We can get out in front with a 1-page write-up on what people need to do.
 - f. Weightlifting and Wrestling are underwriting parts of membership cost and are creating new categories of officials/volunteers.
 - g. USATF should waive the member fee for volunteers.
 - h. If this falls apart, Youth people may wind up moving to AAU.
 - i. People are referring to this issue as “SafeSport” but the real issue is additional requirements being put on volunteers by the National Office, including membership and background checks.
 - j. There has been a lot of talk and email between various people and the National Office, but there has only been one official policy statement they call “the FAQ”.
 - k. National Office requirements are well beyond what is required by USOC.
 - l. We can create a \$10 volunteer membership, and we subsidize the rest.
 - m. We are farther along than other NGBs. USOC is not trying to decertify us.
 - n. Most of the USOC references to volunteers deal only with those in positions of power.
 - o. It is very hard to find if someone has passed SafeSport or not.
 - p. George, Patti, Becca, Darlene and Kenny were assigned to a task force to put together what we think will work.
- E. Grievance Proposal: Becca Peter.
1. Becca stated that at last USATF Board meeting, they skipped almost all normal business and went into Executive Session where they put President Vin Lananna on leave of absence. She is proposing we file a grievance to ask the panel whether the board followed the by-laws. This would not directly reinstate the President.
 2. Becca provided a summary of the grievance process and provided a list of Facts Giving Rise to Grievance, Alleged Rule Violation and Relief Sought (Attachment 2).
 3. It was moved and seconded to file the Grievance. The motion passed by a 10-4 vote.

IV COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Youth: Holly Genest.
1. We asked each club to provide 5 volunteers to go through SafeSport/background check,
 2. Trey Knight (15yo), from Evergreen Storm, was invited to New Balance National. Youth voted to give him \$500 to attend. He won the Weight Throw against 18-year olds and was 3rd in the Shot Put.
 3. We gave Ed Turner the level 2 scholarship.
 4. Gabriel Dinnel of Evergreen Storm was appointed to USATF International Mountain Running Team. The family is asking if we can help fund the trip. MUT has no money. Youth will try to fund.
 5. We will send 2 kids to Youth XC Camp in Lake Placid.
 6. Dion Keeton was promoted from Region 13 Coordinator to West Zone Coordinator. Jeff Hoskins is new Region 13 Coordinator. The Inland Northwest President quit. Doug Chandler is interim President.

- B. Open: no report.
- C. MUT: no report.
- D. Masters: Lance Neubauer.
 - 1. George has been working 3 meets: June 2 Parks Meet; July 14 Masters Classic; Aug 4-5 National Masters Throws.
 - 2. USATF required a 44-page contract with 20 pages of examples to put on USATF National Masters throws. George refused, so is putting on the meet with no mention of USATF.
- E. Race Walk: Holly reports that Logan Roberts Jr., Thriller Club, was 2nd at JO Nationals and did really well at a national meet in December. He is trying to qualify for the Olympics.
- F. Athletes: Eddie Strickler. American women went 1-2 in Boston Marathon.
- G. Coaches. No report.
- H. Officials: Bob Springer for Geof Newing. We sold the last TimeTronix to Bill Roe.
- I. Officials Training & Certification: Bob Springer. We have close to 80 officials now. We gained 5 or 6 new ones from the clinics. Carole has color brochures for recruiting officials.
- J. Communications: Lance Neubauer. I worked with Andy to get a great landing page for Masters.
- K. Associations Admin: Patti Petesch.
 - 1. SafeSport conversations have been pretty much going like ours tonight.
 - 2. People are not being reimbursed for Associations Workshop
 - 3. Executive meeting is in August.
 - 4. Ed stated our marketing materials arrived: tent, teardrop, tablecloth, rain ponchos.

Next meeting is on June 18, 2018. We will discuss the meeting location before then.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward Viering
Secretary
Pacific Northwest Track & Field/USATF Pacific Northwest

Bylaws Proposal: April 16, 2018 for voting on June 18

ARTICLE 8 OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES *Current*

A The officers of PNTF shall be: President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. They shall be elected by and from the PNTF delegates at the PNTF annual meeting. No person shall serve in the same office for more than four (4) successive one (1) year terms. **There shall be no order of succession to any office; in the event an officer resigns, is removed, or is unable to serve, the Board shall name a successor for the unexpired portion of the term. Elections of officers shall be by written secret ballot tabulated by three persons selected by the President, one of whom must be an athlete. Uncontested elections may be voted by acclamation.

OPTION # 1 | limit officers to 4 years except Secretary

ARTICLE 8 • OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES

A Positions: The officers of PNTF shall be: President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. They shall be elected by and from the PNTF delegates at the PNTF annual meeting. No person shall serve in the office of President or Vice-President or Treasurer for more than four (4) successive one (1) year terms, ~~or in the office of Secretary or Treasurer for more than eight (8) successive one (1) year terms.~~ There shall be no order of succession to any office; in the event an officer resigns, is removed, or is unable to serve, the Board shall name a successor for the unexpired portion of the term.

OPTION # 2 | no term limits

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* There shall be no term limits to any officer position.

**** OPTION # 3** | add to current wording

The Board may make an exception to the term limit restriction at any regularly-scheduled meeting with at least 20 days notice (email acceptable).

Facts Giving Rise to Grievance

1. On Sunday, February 18, 2018, the USA Track & Field Board of Directors met for their scheduled in-person meeting. After dealing with two orders of business, the Board entered executive session, bypassing the various reports that are normally given.

2. While in executive session, the Board took action against USATF President Vin Lananna. Because the entirety of the matter occurred during executive session, the delegates' knowledge of this action is limited to what was released by the national office (see Attachment A).

3. The press release states that Lananna was placed on "temporary administrative leave" per Article 10.F of the USATF Bylaws. Mike Conley was chosen by the Board to temporarily serve as President and Vice Chair.

4. Article 10.F of the 2017 USATF Governance Manual (the current published edition) states: *Succession and vacancies: There shall be no order of succession to any office. If the Board determines that the President is temporarily unable to serve, it may, in its sole discretion, name another individual to fill the vacancy temporarily. The Board shall fill temporary or permanent vacancies for Board Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, or Treasurer. If the President resigns or is permanently unable to serve, the Board shall name a successor until the following annual meeting, when a special election shall be held for the unexpired portion of the term.*

5. Although the delegates do not have knowledge of what occurred in executive session, they must assume that the Board determined that Lananna was "temporarily unable to serve" due to the ongoing investigations into the awarding of the 2021 World Championships.

6. Lananna is of sound mind and sound body and desires to serve as President. Board Chair Steve Miller stated in the press release that he does not believe Lananna is the target of the DOJ investigation.

7. No criteria were given for when the "temporary" leave would end. The investigation of the awarding of the 2021 World Championships began with the French authorities in the fall of 2015. Reports that it was being investigated by US authorities came out in June 2017. The investigations are covering a wide range of meets and issues, not just 2021. It is likely that the investigation will continue for years.

8. Because no criteria were given for the end of the suspension, the effect is that of a permanent suspension. Even if charges against a party unrelated to Lananna were filed, it is always possible that new charges could be filed against other parties, it is not clear that the filing of charges would satisfy the Board.

9. Article 10.G of the Governance Manual states:

"Removal from office: The President may be removed for good cause by a two-thirds vote of those delegates of USATF present and voting at an annual meeting or special meeting called for this purpose, and provided the requisite notice for the meeting (see Article 8) properly states the removal vote on its agenda. The Board may remove the Board Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, or Treasurer for good cause by a two-thirds vote of those Board members present and voting, who are not conflicted, at a regular meeting or special meeting called for that purpose. If the Board

removes the President as Board Chair, the Vice Chair shall become the Board Chair, and the President shall become the Vice Chair. The Board may not remove the President as Vice Chair.”

10. It is clear that the Board does not have the authority to remove the President. This power is specifically given to the delegates.

11. By adopting a very generous interpretation of the word “unable” and by creating a “temporary” suspension that seems unlikely to be resolved before Lananna’s term as President ends, the Board has effectively removed him as President, which appears to be in conflict with Article 10.G.

12. Article 10.B.2 of the Governance Manual defines the role of the President as:

a. Preside at all meetings of USATF’s membership;

b. Be an ex-officio non-voting member of all committees;

c. Except as noted in 1.e above, select committee chairs and other members that he or she is entitled to appoint, as well as other appointments authorized by these Bylaws and the Operating Regulations after consulting with the Vice Chair. He or she may likewise terminate appointments for good cause upon written notice to the appointees and the other officers.

13. In 2017, Lananna underwent a lengthy thorough process to make appointments under 10.B. 2.c. Interest was solicited from the USATF membership and the nominees were thoroughly vetted.

Alleged Rule Violation

1. By declaring Lananna “unable” to serve, when he is able to serve, the Board has violated Articles 10.F and 10.G of the USATF Governance Manual.

2. By giving no criteria for when the “temporary” leave of absence would end, the Board has effectively make it a permanent removal from the position, violating Articles 10F and 10G of the USATF Governance Manual.

Relief Sought

1. That the Panel would make a determination as to whether or not Articles 10.F and/or 10.G were violated.

2. That the Panel would prohibit interim President Mike Conley from making any changes to Presidential appointments unless an appointee is unwilling or ineligible to serve, it is necessary to fill that vacancy, and there are no other administrative paths by which that vacancy could be filled.