Summary
Attendance at the USATF National Conference
Orlando, Florida November 30 – December 16, 2022

Dennis Boyle

In place of Phil Leake, I attended the USATF National Conference this year. Phil had asked me to sit in on two sessions specifically for the following purposes. One was to lobby for the addition of a new national award in the area of weights and measures and throws in the name of George Kleeman. The second was to register concerns about adopting rule 32 and 33 in John Blackburn's Rules Committee which would have concentrated the power for National Youth Meets in the hands of one person.

The Awards Committee chaired by Gordon Bocock entertained the idea of creation of additional awards but resisted the move to increase the number of awards. Mr. Bocock stated with some emotion, "Where will it end?" We, in attendance, got his message that he was not interested in expanding the number of awards at this time. So, George Kleeman is not in line, at this point, to be honored with a national award. The election of the Awards Chair brought on some competition with opponent Patty Mitchell and write-in opponent Betsy Reed challenging Mr. Bocock. Mr. Bocock won by double the number of votes in comparison to the combined votes cast for the two opponents.

I spoke with John Blackburn, Rules Committee Chair, outside the meeting at coffee in the morning. I presented Phil's concerns. Later, the rules were amended to clarify the authority and the levels of certification required for meets. See: https://www.flipsnack.com/USATF/2022-proposed-rule-amendments/full-view.html

A session on "Soft Skills in Managing Officials" was presented by Patty Mitchell. It focused on working with officials that present some interesting challenges for coordinators. For example, the topic of what can be expected of physically handicapped officials as well as officials who have some challenges in the area of mental retardation or undesirable behaviors, like Teret's Syndrome were discussed.

The session on Marshalling was well done and our own Rory Osborne did a great job sparking interest in the audience toward the Art of Marshalling a meet, nationally and locally.

I attended the Opening Session as well as the Closing Session. I provided a vote in favor of the amendments that would change the governance structure regarding representation and method of operation of the Executive Committee of the USATF. These amendments have taken years to create the language which would enable a "fairer" way in which to represent all factions involved in the USATF.

Lastly, I placed on the table outside the main General Session room, information available on our 5 x 7 informational card I had printed for the Regional Resource Coordinator Program. They were all gone by the end of the day and I received positive comments about what our Pacific Association is doing to communicate with its officials.

It was my pleasure to represent our Pacific Association at the Annual Meeting.