

THE MARKS

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Jim Conlin, President (jconlin@swtfoa.com)

There is always a little extra excitement in track & field during an Olympic year. It's all about who will be "chosen". Well we have several Southwestern Track & Field Officials Association members that have already been "chosen". There are several in our group that will be working at the Olympic Trials in Sacramento. They are:

Chester Bradley -
Finish Line Coordinator

Billy Walters -
Head Triple Jump/Long Jump

Bill Doreen - Clerk of Course

Shelby Sharpe—Head Marshall

Martha Sharpe - Marshall

We also have several members on the Alternates List. Hopefully some of them will make it too.

Also, congratulations are in order for Raymond Pierre for

being one of the starters for the Junior Nationals Outdoor Championships!

In the latest edition of the "USATF Official" newsletter there was an article about support for officials. Bob Tice of the North Carolina Association has been working diligently for years to improve the support situation for track & field officials. Bob reports that things are getting better. I agree with Bob but things are still not close to where they should be. I don't want to make money officiating track & field but I don't want to lose money either. I have seen to many good folks taken advantage of because of their love for the sport. When you see officials treated badly or taken advantage of please speak up. This is the only way we can end the abuse of the serving nature that most of us track officials have. I don't want to run this association like a football or

basketball officials association. I want the members to have the freedom to work where they want to work, when they want to work. I do want the members to be respected for the knowledge they have and the effort they give.

It has been a couple of years since we examined our objectives and vision for our association.

Our Vision is:

- We stand united in the advancement of track & field officiating in the Southwestern Association of USATF

- We try to meet the needs and expectations of the Athletes, Meet Directors, Coaches and Fans of track & field by fulfilling our duties as Officials and constantly working to become better officials

- We operate with integrity, innovation, and individual commitment in an environment of trust and open communication

- We are the present and future of track & field officiating

Our Objectives are:

A. Provide the information to

April 2004

Association Board

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(972) 223-4800 dbarnett@swtfoa.com

Certification Chair: Mica Barton
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Competition Director: Willie Davis
(972) 580-0286 wdavis@swtfoa.com

Member Services: Chris Marcellus
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Awards: Robert Mears
(903) 465-6239 rmears@swtfoa.com

Training Director: George Young
(817) 484-7261 gyoung@swtfoa.com

Competition/Training: Jeff Brazzell
(817) 596-0163 jbrazzell@swtfoa.com

Officiating Calendar: Mark Martin
(817) 535-4455 mmartin@swtfoa.com

advance the quality and knowledge of our officials

B. Provide quality track & field officials at area competitions

C. Education and cultivation of membership through the rules, certification, and ethics

If you feel we need to improve on these items please contact me and we will take your suggestions under advisement.

April

29-30	SPC Outdoor Championships	Fort Worth (TCU)	Chris Marcellus	972/266-9096, cmarcellus@swtfoa.com
4/29-5/1	Big 12 Outdoor Championships	Norman, OK		
4/30, 5/1	Region II 4A UIL Championships	Denton (UNT)	George Young	940/898-7166, g.young@charter.net
4/30, 5/1	Region II 3A UIL Championships	Commerce (A&M Commerce)	Pat Ponder	903/886-5574, patrick_ponder@tamu-commerce.edu

May

1	UTA Open	Arlington (UTA)	Wayne Cunnings	817/272-2367, wecunn@uta.edu
7-9	Sun Belt Conference Outdoor Championships	Denton	George Young	940/898-7166, g.young@charter.net
14-16	Southland Conference Outdoor Championships	San Marcos	Tina Cheatham	972/422-9500
12-15	WAC Outdoor Championships	Houston (Rice)	Darrel Robinson	713/348-8861, d robin@rice.edu
13-15	Conference USA Outdoor Championships	Louisville, KY		
27-29	NCAA Div III Outdoor Championships	Decatur, IL (Millikin University)	Ron Althoff	(740) 548-3996, Altrack@aol.com
28-29	NCAA Midwest Regional	College Station	Martha Brennan	979/458-2880, 979/845-9534, 409/845-3743

June

9-12	NCAA Outdoor Championships	Austin	Bubba Thornton	512/471-1372
19	Southwestern Association Open & Masters Championships	Coppell	Chris Marcellus	972/266-9096, cmarcellus@swtfoa.com
24-26	USATF SW Assn Junior Olympic Championships	TBA	Jeff Brazzell	817/596-0163, jbrazzell@swtfoa.com

July

9-18	U.S. Olympic Trials	Sacramento, CA	INVITATION	
13-17	USATF Region XII Junior Olympic Championships	Arlington (UTA)		
24	Texas Masters Championships	Coppell	Chris Marcellus	972/266-9096, cmarcellus@swtfoa.com
22-24	TAAF Texas State Games	Grapevine	Craig Dishman	817/656-7275

August

5-8	USATF National Masters Outdoor Championships	Decatur, IL (Millikin University)	Ron Althoff	(740) 548-3996, Altrack@aol.com
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Complete calendar located at www.swtfoa.com and clicking on "Officiating Calendar"

OFFICIALS OF THE YEAR NAMED

by Robert Mears, Awards (rmears@swtfoa.com)

The Board of Directors of the Southwestern Association recently named the officials-of-the-year for 2003.

Greg Young was named Track Official-of-the-Year and George Adams was named Field Official-of-the-year. Plaques were presented to both Greg and George at the March Board of Directors meeting.

Greg worked several meets during the 2003 track and

field season. Meets worked included the Michael Johnson Meet, the 5A Regional UIL Meet, and the TAPPS State Championships in Waco. He also worked the UIL State Meet in Austin. Meets that Greg worked during the summer included the Texas Greatest Athlete meet, Southwestern Championships, the Junior Olympics and the TAAF Region Meet and TAAF State Games of Texas.

Greg worked as a long jump, javelin, discus, pole vault, shot put, high jump and also

worked and an umpire and a starter.

George worked several meets as well during the track season last year. His meets included the W.T. White Invitational, the Urschel Meet at St. Mark's, the Baylor Dr. Pepper Invitational, the Arlington Invitational at UTA, Texas Relays, Longhorn Invitational, Texas Invitational, Sun Belt Conference, Big XII Conference, TAAF Texas Greatest Athlete, USATF Open & Masters Championships, USATF Jr.

and Sr. Nationals, USATF Southwestern Youth meet, and the Texas Open & Masters.

Events that George worked this past year were: discus, hammer, shot put, triple jump, javelin, multi events, long jump, and high jump.

I know that each of our members extends congratulations to both Greg and George for this honor.

TRAINING MEETS FOR SPRING 2004

by George Young, Training Director (gyoung@swtfoa.com)

Officials wanting to be trained in particular events have three more opportunities this spring. The purpose of training meets is to give officials training in the mechanics of how to officiate certain aspects of track and field. This is especially important for those officials wanting to move up a level when they are recertified following the 2004 Summer Olympics. **The training meets are not a rules review.** The training that takes place is in the mechanics of how to conduct that particular event or how

to do that particular job at a track meet.

The final spring meet to do training will be the Sun Belt Conference Outdoor Meet May 8-10 in Denton. At this meet training will be done in the area of implement inspection. This is one area of track and field officiating that the Southwestern Association is lacking adequate numbers of qualified officials. Any official who has an eye for detail and a desire to move up to national or

master level should strongly consider this area of officiating.

There will be training opportunities in the summer but the exact meets and events are still being formulated. We will be doing training at some of the Masters Meets as well as the Southwestern Association's Junior Olympic Meet. Check the website in May for an updated list of summer training meets.

CERTIFICATION & MEMBERSHIP IN USATF & SWTFOA

by Jim Carlisle, Retired SWTFOA Certification Chair (jcarlisle@swtfoa.com)

Every year the same questions come up concerning certification and membership in either the Southwestern Track and Field Officials Association or USATF membership. I will try to clarify the situation.

An officials' certification covers an Olympiad. An Olympiad is the years between Olympic summer games. The current certification is for the years 2000-2004. At the end of the Athens Olympics (August 2004), your certification will expire. If you choose to re-certify following the Olympics, it will cover the next four years or until the end of the 2008 Olympics in Beijing.

Your certification is provided through USA Track & Field (USATF) and the National Officials Committee (NOC). The NOC is charged by USATF to certify and train officials through each association. Therefore, you are certified by USATF via the Southwestern Association.

The Southwestern Association is made up of youth clubs, master clubs, long distance running clubs, race walking clubs, and other entities. The Southwestern Association has a board of directors. (www.sw-usatf.org)

About ten years ago, the Southwestern Track & Field Officials Association (SWTFOA) was formed. The membership includes anyone who is a certified official. The SWTFOA was formed to provide communication, training of officials, and general promotion of track and field in the Southwestern Association. The SWTFOA pays to be a member club in the Southwestern Association. Here's where it can get tricky. Everyone who has become certified or re-certified since 1994 became a member for the SWTFOA for that *one* year. If you re-certified in 1996 or 2000, then your fee covered your membership. If you decided to continue your membership in the SWTFOA each year, you were to pay the \$25.00 annual dues. The fee goes to pay for the newsletter and pur-

chase items that are related to officiating, like rulebooks.

The other type of membership is through USATF. All USATF coaches and athletes have to be members of USATF to participate. This goes for the youngest athlete to the oldest master athlete and all those elite athletes in between. As an official, you can join USATF and become a member. Remember, this is separate from being certified or being a member of SWTFOA. Here's where this gets tricky. If you apply to work a USATF national meet where there is an application AND selection committee, you **HAVE** to be a member of USATF to be considered. (www.usatf.org and link to membership) The Southwestern Association has a membership chair that help answer questions about membership, (www.sw-usatf.org), or call Kathy Martin at 469.964.8226. She is in charge of membership services for the Southwestern Association.



CERTIFICATION

By Mica Barton, Certification Chair (*mbarton@swtfoa.com*)

Re-certification is just around the corner. The new certification will be good for the 2004-2008 Olympiad. Clinics will be scheduled around the 2004 Summer Olympics.

Association level officials will have one test to complete. National and masters level officials will need to take an additional test. Those officials will be notified prior to the Olympics.

Please check the web site in the next few months for the dates and locations of the re-certification clinics.

WEBSITE NEWS

By Chris Marcellus, Member Services (*cmarcellus@swtfoa.com*)

Judging from the hits received in the past couple of months, it appears that the website has become a useful tool for all the certified track officials in our association. Last month, the "Apparel" page was transformed into the "Member Services" page, which will contain:

- 1) All info regarding certification and recertification
- 2) All official SWTFOA apparel, com-

plete with pictures of all apparel offered

- 3) Any other info pertaining to membership in the SWTFOA and being certified track officials.

Be sure to check out the "Officiating Equipment" page, and be sure to pass along any items worthy to be mentioned on there to me.

The "Officiating Calendar" is beginning to be formulated for the Fall, so if you know of any cross-country meets that are in need of officials please forward them on to me so that they can be included.

If you have any suggestions on how the website can better serve our members, please pass them along to me, along with any recommendations on apparel being offered.

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTHWESTERN TRACK & FIELD OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION

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Official SWTFOA
Website !!!
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