

Minutes of the Age Group Committee Meeting

September 15, 2010

I. Members on the Call: Jim Donaldson, Kat Donatello, Chuck Graziano, Chair, John Jones, Tom Manzi, Steve Sutherland, and Tim Yount.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM

II. Approval of Minutes

The minutes were deemed approved as submitted in accordance with the procedure adopted by the AGC at the last meeting (If no objections- changes/corrections- are received by the specified date after circulation, they are approved)

III. Raising the stature of the Athletes of the Year Awards

A sub- committee chaired by Steve Sutherland and comprised of Steve, Chuck and Kat had a call to discuss the ideas that were generated on the last AGC conference call. Several concepts were raised including: how AOY's are selected, the current awards process, a potential award ceremony and time of year for that, ways of getting participation by award recipients and high level of recognition for the award and how generally to get the recipients of the AOY awards to be recognized throughout the year. The discussion resulted in the following recommendations being made to the AGC:

- That we reach out to the regional council chairs to establish ways to recognize AOY's in their respective regions through newsletters and whatever other means the regions have available (and including potential recognition at races in the regions where recipients are competing).
- The awards would be presented at the National Age Group Championship. In our last call we discussed having the awards being given at the Race Directors Symposium in January, however, the committee felt that there would be much more interest in recipients traveling to the National Championship race than to the RD Symposium.
- An event would be created to present the awards on Friday afternoon/evening prior to the race.
- Travel subsidies would be offered to recipients to be comprised of a complimentary hotel room and a complimentary race entry fee. This would leave only airfares and miscellaneous expenses to be paid by the recipient for the weekend.
- An appropriate commemorative award would be presented to each recipient.

Discussion of these recommendations ensued and Tim raised questions concerning whether or not we thought that the event in August 2011 would be too late in the year to recognize these athletes, whether or not we would draw all of the AOY recipients to the event and if a ceremony on the night before the event would be appropriate since everyone would be racing the next day.

For the most part, committee members felt that there would be more interest in attending the National Championship Race than any other venue that we've discussed so far and that the time of year would be fine for presentation.

With respect to the ceremony, it was felt that the possibility of having a “pasta dinner” and awards ceremony would work well. A celebrity guest speaker might be considered and a video with highlights of races during the year could be shown.

The AGC recognized that further details would have to be developed around these concepts and that priority would have to be on establishing a budget since the AGC budget will be due to the National Office shortly. Tim suggested that we start with Jeff Dyrek as a point person for help in developing some of the details needed and that Jeff would more than likely delegate this responsibility to someone on his team. It was suggested that the committee put some estimated numbers together based upon these concepts and speak to Jeff about fine tuning them after this year’s National Championship race is behind him.

Following discussion, the following motion was made:

Motion: Steve Sutherland/Kat Donatello- that the AGC recommend to the Board that the AOY Awards be elevated in stature by creating an event during National Age Group Championship weekend at which awards would be presented and that recipients receive a travel subsidy to consist of their hotel room and race entry fee.
Motion carried- Unanimously

The sub-committee will meet again to work out details of the program and communicate with the AGC via email between now and our next regularly scheduled call.

IV. Creating Closer Communication with Regional Councils

Kat Donatello is on the Northeast Regional Council, John Jones is on the Florida regional council and Tom Manzi volunteered to be liaison with the Southwest regional council (inasmuch as Tom now lives in Arizona for 7 months of the year). Kat and John indicated that they report on AGC activities to their regional councils and ask for any issues that the council may wish to be brought to the AGC.

In reviewing the roster, it was determined that there are representatives on the AGC from all regions except for Pacific Northwest, Rocky Mountain, South Midwest and Mid-West regions. It was suggested that we forward our minutes to the chairpersons of these regions. Chuck suggested that perhaps Sharon Carnes could forward our minutes to all regional council chairs when she forwards them to the Board. We will also communicate with all regional council chairs to inform them of who their representatives are on the AGC. John Jones volunteered to contact the 4 regions not represented on the AGC to solicit their input a couple of weeks prior to each of our meetings.

Chuck mentioned that the ideal situation would be if we had a representative on the AGC from each region, however, we have not been able to get people appointed from the regions not represented despite several emails going to the regional chairs.

V. National Age Group Championship/Town Hall Meeting

Chuck asked who would be attending the National Championship. Tim indicated that he would not be giving the CEO’s report because he’d be involved with finalizing race results during the Town Hall Meeting. Chuck and Brian Harrington will work out the agenda to fill in this spot.

VI. New Business Items

None

VII. Confirm Next Meeting Date/Adjourn

The next conference call of the Age Group Committee will be on November 18, 2010, beginning at 7:00 PM Eastern Standard Time.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Chuck Graziano, Chair

USAT Age Group Committee