**USATF Illinois Race Walk Committee Report**

**Diane Graham-Henry, Chair**

**April, 2018**

Sorry for my absence. I am at the Penn Relays in Philadelphia this weekend with athletes.

To update the list of the Illinois Race Walk Committee, the following persons are on the committee since elections in the fall. Diane Graham-Henry, Chair; Donna Green (masters), Anthony Peters (youth), Mercedes Mancha (youth), Will Leggett (athlete), and Tom Marhevko (officials).

We certified 10 race walk officials in 2017 and now will have 9 since one is now retiring to Florida.

As things move along in race walking, the Illinois Elgin Sharks Club is still the largest

race walk group in the country, with nearly 19 athletes. As this season begins we are gaining more young athletes to our sport.

We are proud to now have young 16-year old Giovanni Cisneros on the World Team Challenge in China. He will be competing in his first big international event. He will be competing on May 5. He qualified for the team at the World Team Trials in Philadelphia on April 8. He has worked hard the past year, and qualified for Junior National and got on the U.S. vs Canada Team which competed in Georgia last August. And moving up to World Team. He will hopefully make the IAAF Under 20 Worlds in Finland this summer.

In the past, we have had both Anthony Peters on the World Team as a Junior (China - 2014) and Senior (Rome - 2016), also Anali Cisneros was on that team as Junior in Rome.

This year at Penn Relays we will have Elgin Shark alums competing, Anthony Peters, Emilio Mancha, Jennifer Lopez, Anali Cisneros and Nayeli Cisneros. We have been participating in the Penn Relays for over six years.

As you know the much unliked Race Walk Pit Lane. It is now being used at team qualifying events, national championships and Junior Olympics; any event which moves athletes on to international teams, IAAF, NACAC, etc. competitions. Sadly, it is here and must be used. I’m not sure but will check on the use of it for the J.O. Regional competition. I do have all the materials, but 2 more persons are required for its use.

The Illinois Race Walk Committee is hosting an Association Track 5,000m, 10,000m, and 1-Hour event in June. Just need to confirm the use of the Proviso East track.

This year the Illinois Association 5k Championship was held at the 32nd Annual Diane Graham-Henry 5k on October 7 in Lincoln Park. It was also be the USATF Midwest Region Championship.

See you at the races.