

**USATF Illinois Annual Meeting**  
**Race Walk Chair Report**  
**Diane Graham-Henry**  
**4/21/22**

All events beginning in 2022 were still under strict COVID-19 protocols, with the 35k National Championships/World Race Walk Team Trials mid-January, and the 20k and U20 10k World Race Walk Team Trials early in February. All participants had to be PCR negative to compete. The Elgin Sharks are proud our two young ladies who qualified for their first international team at the trials with outstanding times, and impressing all who watched them drop 3 minutes from their previous 10k. Angelica Harris finished first with a 50:44 (4 seconds off qualifying for the U20 Worlds), and Heather Durrant finished second with a 51:05. They were seriously thrilled to receive their USATF team gear and travel with the 14 other athletes to Muscat, Oman, in late February for the World Race Walk Team Championships. The original team manager resigned and I was chosen the replacement. So thrilled to be with my girls on their first international championship. The athletes endured 16-hour flights to Oman. AND... the course was a bit of a challenge due to 1k up hill on the 2k loop course. Sadly, even the world's best did not have great times due to this. The event and the host LOC were amazing, warm and welcoming. Muscat is the most clean place I've ever been. Not a lick of litter anywhere. Oman had very strict COVID-19 protocols with no entry to the country without proof of vaccination, and proof of negative PCR test.

The Race Walk Committee continues to encourage our judges to complete their new Olympiad rules review. On May 15 there is a race walk officials virtual clinic being hosted by Gary Westerfield and Jeff Salvage. Notice of this has gone to all association race walk chairs, and Jamero is sending this out to the association certification chairs. Gary is our Race Walk officials subcommittee chair, and Jeff and he have produced many instructional videos on race walk officiating. Hopefully more officials will sit in on this clinic and learn more about better officiating of the race walks.

As most of you know I was elected to the position of Chair of the USATF Race Walk Executive Committee during the annual meetings. Previously I moved from Vice Chair to Chair when John Nunn resigned upon beginning his medical studies in late 2018. I'm pleased to have a strong Executive Committee and look forward to a productive next 2 ½ years.

The 35th Chicago Walkers Diane Graham-Henry 5k, and Illinois State 5k Championship and Midwest Regional 5k Championship is waiting for confirmation from the Chicago Park District on the date of the event. It is scheduled for September in Lincoln Park.

The Elgin Shark race walkers are getting stronger all the time. We have three girls, Angelica Harris, Heather Durrant, and Hannah Durrant, qualified for the 5,000m race walk at the Penn Relays on April 30. And former Shark Nayeli Cisneros, now competing for Judson University in Elgin, will be competing as well. This is the first time the younger girls have competed at Penn Relays. They are racking up new experiences this year. Hoping to see them do well at the U20 in Eugene and qualify for U20 Worlds in Cali, Colombia, in early August.

Sorry to miss the Annual Meeting. I will be at the USATF National 20k Race Walk Championship on April 24. With the crazy timing of the National Championships and the World Championships in Eugene being close together, the 10,000m runs had to move to the Pre Fontaine, the combined events move to University of Alabama and the race walks to Long Island. Juggling those events was a challenge.