II. COACHES ASSOCIATION REPORT
   A. Don Cox presents the Coaches Association report.

III. OLD BUSINESS
   A. Discussed and approved fee for late entry or withdrawal.
   B. Scholar/Athlete of the year motion failed due to NJCAA already having an award in place

IV. NEW BUSINESS
   A. Bylaw Proposals (Must be Circulated 30 Days in Advance)
      1. D I - See attached PDF document).
      2. DIII - none
   B. Handbook Changes
      Division I
      1. Section 2.
      Delete – November 12, 2016 Butler CC
      Add – 18,19 20 locations once approved by championship events

      2. DII. Section 10 D. Schools that wish to register or withdraw after the meet deadline may be
         subject to a fee of $100 per team(per gender) and/or and additional $30 per individual entry.
         (This was passed unanimously last year but did not get put in the handbook. See old business
         above.)

      Division III
      1. Section 2.
      Delete – November 12, 2016 Finger Lakes
      Change November 11, 2017 Holyoke to November 4, 2017(with prior approval of
      Championship Events committee)
      Add – 2020 location once approved by championship events
2. DIII Section 9D. Schools that wish to register or withdraw after the meet deadline may be subject to a fee of $100 per team (per gender) and/or additional $30 per individual entry. (This was passed unanimously last year but did not get put in the handbook.)

C. Discussion Items

Division I
1. See proposal listed above.
2.

Division III
1. None
2.

V. RECOGNITIONS

A. National Championship
1. DI Men - Central AZ; DI Women - Lansing CC; DIII Men - Harper CC; DIII Women - Harper CC

B. Hall of Fame Inductees
1.
2.

B. Commendations
1. Thanks to Butler and Finger Lakes for this past years national championships

VI. MISCELLANEOUS

A. 
B.

V. ADJOURNMENT

NJCAA Bylaw Proposals

Year
Proposed: 2017
Proposed
By: 
Region 11
For: Executive
Type: Bylaws
Article XIII Section .J .4
Status: Unsubmitted
Current: Qualification of Teams for Competition
A. All teams will qualify by open invitation, provided they participated in their region championship.
B. No contestants shall be permitted to enter an NJCAA Championship Cross Country Meet unless accompanied by:
   1. A coach or faculty member of the sending institution, or
   2. A designated supervisory coach or faculty member from an NJCAA member college.
      a. A designation of a supervisory person in (2) above must be in writing. It shall bear the seal of the college and the signatures of the Athletic Director and President or Dean of the sending institution. It shall be sent by certified mail to the Meet Director. All contestants must remain under the supervision of their coach or the designated supervisory person throughout the meet and until departure from the site.
C. 1. Pre-meet rosters must be sent to the Tournament Host by all colleges three weeks prior to the national meet.
   2. All entries (up to 10 runners) must be made by each college by the second Tuesday before the national competition. Final declarations must be made by each college one hour before the first competition held at the national meet.

Proposal: PROPOSAL:
Create a three-meet championship season in the NJCAA as it is already done in all NCAA divisions.
These three meets, that would be contested every other weekend, would include our existing CONFERENCE (NJCAA Region) Championship, a new USTFCCCA Region Championship (used for qualifying purposes) and our NJCAA National Championship Meet.

Considerations:
Proposal Number: 309
Article XIII Section .J .4
Division I Cross Country Region Championship Qualifying System
Considerations:
1. NJCAA Half Marathon – either eliminate it or push it back to the 1st week of December
   a. Having the HM back to back with the National final is cumbersome for planning and travel purposes as well as exhausting for students and the amount of classes they miss consecutively.
   b. This will also allow for more specific training prior to the event
   c. Hold the event in a more centrally located venue as the participation numbers drop drastically every time the event moves away geographically.
2. Hold the NJCAA Cross Country Championships a week later than usual
   a. Keep each Championship Meet two weeks apart to accommodate planning, travel, training and recovery.
      i. NJCAA Half Marathon – held the 1st Saturday of December
      ii. NJCAA Cross Country National Championships - held 3rd Saturday of November; rather than 2nd Saturday
      iii. USTFCCCA Region Championships - held 1st Saturday of November
   iv. Conference Championship – determined by your conference, preference to two weeks prior to the USTFCCCA Region qualifier
3. Possibility of adding another expense and travel date to team schedules. Some teams would already be traveling any way.
4. Redraw and possibly increasing the number of USTFCCCA Regions
   a. They are currently drawn to proportionately balance equal number of teams
   b. Instead create regions to best accommodate geography and potential distance to travel for an added Championship
   c. See Attachment Below
5. Create an equitable qualifying system for the National Meet (see below)
   a. The goal is to include all the top teams and not leave teams at home.
   b. Give credibility to the NJCAA, Cross Country and our Championship Event
   c. Make the event more meaningful to the coaches, teams and athletes
      i. Earn a trip to the National Championship
6. Some schools may not be allowed to enter because it is not an NJCAA sanctioned event
   a. How do we go about sanctioning this meet with the NJCAA?
   b. If this is the final stumbling block, we can combine our NJCAA Region Meet and our Qualifying meet into one event.
      i. This would save money by not adding an extra travel date
      ii. We could score our large USTFCCCA Region qualifying meet and at the same time score separately each of our individual NJCAA Region (Conference) Meets.
      iii. In this scenario competition dates would be as follows:
         1. No later than the last Saturday of October – Combined NJCAA Region Qualifying Meets
         2. 2nd Saturday of November – NJCAA National XC Championships
         3. 1st Saturday of December – NJCAA Half Marathon
   a. For reasons already outlined, should not have these on back to back weekends.
   
   **USTFCCCA Region Qualifying Championship**
   - A host-school rotation will be established. Preference may be given to a central location or host.
   - The USTFCCCA Poll Representative and their assistant, the USTFCCCA Poll Rater, will assist in this process through email dialogue and a conference call
   - Only teams of up to 10 athletes may compete; no declarations necessary
- Entry fees will cover timing and awards (will USTFCCCA cover awards?)
- Plaques to the top 3 teams and Medals/Certificates to the top 21 individuals
- All-Region Team is 7 (1st Team) – 7 (2nd Team) – 7 (Honorable Mention)
- The USTFCCCA Region AOY will be the winner of the meet
- The USTFCCCA Region COY will be decided by ballot consisting of the coach of the highest placing program from each NJCAA Region.

Proposed Qualifying System Considerations

NJCAA Division I Statistics
- In 2016 there were 40 men’s teams with 298 finishers and 37 women’s teams with 313 finishers.
- In 2015 there were 39 men’s teams with 287 finishers and 42 women’s teams with 303 finishers
- In 2014 there were 33 men’s teams with 256 finishers and 36 women’s teams with 273 finishers.
- In 2013 there were 39 men’s teams with 298 finishers and 34 women’s teams with 281 finishers.
- NCAA Division I, II, and III contest a 31-team field

§ In 2015, anywhere from 246 to 280 individuals participated.
- Start with an agreed field size for the national meet; such as 30 full NJCAA Division I teams, to stay in line with the NCAA National Meet.
- Based on experience, trying to fit 50ish starting boxes in at any National Meet is a huge challenge, in addition to other considerations such as catering a banquet to that large number of athletes.
- It cannot be a straight number as each Region has a different number of teams and certain Regions are much deeper in talent than others.
- It cannot be a set percentage of teams from each meet because the strength of each region is very disproportionate.

Proposed Qualifying System
- The top three teams from each of the proposed 6 NJCAA Division I regions would automatically advance (18 teams)
- The next 14 individuals not on either of the top two teams may also advance.
- In stronger regions you could potentially pick up two more team’s top-five runners.
- If 5 athletes from an institution advance as individuals they may be represented at the National meet as a team.
- Any team that has been ranked among the top 20 in the nation during the final two polling periods would automatically advance
- The number of At-Large bids will be equal to 30 minus the total number of qualified teams from the above formula.
- At-Large bids would be announced by the end of the day Monday following the qualifying meet.
- A committee consisting of the Coaches Association President, Vice-President and Secretary; in addition to a subset of the ranking committee would decide who receives these bids.
- Consideration of bids would be given to teams ranked among the top 25 during the season in addition to their performance at their qualifying meet.

**Proposed Redraw for 6 USTFCCCA Regions** 2016 Final Ranking 2016 #M/F

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>NJCAA Regions</th>
<th># Programs</th>
<th># M/F in Top 20 Participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Southwest Region</td>
<td>1, 5, 14, 2</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>5M 5F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southeast Region</td>
<td>23, 22, 17, 8, 7, 10</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>1M 1F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northeast Region</td>
<td>3, 20, 19, 15, 21</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>0M 1F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Lakes Region</td>
<td>12, 24</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>3M 4F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Region</td>
<td>6, 16</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>6M 6F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midwest Region</td>
<td>18, 9, 11, 13, 4</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>5M 3F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Effective Date:**
August 1, 2017

**Rationale: Purpose:**

- To create an atmosphere similar to the NCAA with a conference, region and national championship structure.
- To clarify the purpose of and strengthen our ranking system.
- It will allow us to more accurately and meaningfully rank teams.
- It will put us head to head within our new USTFCCCA Regions we are being ranked against.
- It will give more meaning or emphasis to the USTFCCCA Region Awards we vote on.
- Establish credibility for the NJCAA Cross Country National Championships by creating a national qualifying system.
- Currently some regions, some coaches and some administrators all have different “qualifying” standards. We need to have a uniform process across the nation for credibility.
- Some schools do not currently have enough (or multiple) teams in their NJCAA Region and therefore do not currently have a Region Championship. Those schools only attend the National Meet. This would allow for them to have a Championship event prior to the National Cross Country Meet.
- It will add a layer to our post-season competition and therefore make it a more exciting season for our athletes, their families, student-body and institutions.
- From a meet management standpoint it has been difficult in the past years to accommodate our current field sizes with a banquet, starting boxes (sizes and numbers) and number of athletes on the course with the facilities available to us.