

Pancho Rahming: Why a vote of No Confidence in the BAAA Executive is a good call

By Frank "Pancho" Rahming

Nov 19, 2013 - 7:53:49 PM



Photo: Kermit Taylor / Bahamas Athletics

If we are honest with ourselves, we must admit that between the AGM in November 2012 and today, there have been friction, dissension, disrespect, name calling and for use of a better word, disruption of progress and everything else that divides an organization. And what makes it worse, everyone involved feels that they're right.

New members on the executive board have refused to cooperate and in many instances the majority of the meetings have come to an abrupt end with shouting and name calling. I hate to say it's contagious and had myself at one time stop in my track, remember my upbringing and at the end of the meeting made my peace with the member for Grand Bahama. No, I did not get to name calling but did raise my voice. I apologized,

and when he insisted that I have wronged him, had to seek his forgiveness for all perceived wrong I did. He has yet to say how I've wronged him. But lesson there is that before I became one of them, I stopped, realizing that nothing worthwhile will be achieved.

Executives have called me old, and they're correct, and if they live as long as I have; they will be old also. They said that I have done nothing for the Association or my country and my answer to them is that everyone is entitled to their opinion. The third thing they say, and I disagree with, is that it is their time; the executives they met in the federation had their time and should step down. One has had the audacity to say, after the vote of no-confidence, "There will be no IAAF WORLD RELAYS".

In May of this year a meeting, approved by the President, was called. At that meeting, members present were brought up to date of how disruptive executive meetings have become. The facts given included but not limited to:

- a. How a letter from the BAAA to the BOC suddenly appeared at the BOC AGM. This is no big deal, however, the correspondence was not approved by the Executives or the body and was the pipe dream of two or three members and it achieved their goal;
- b. How during an IAAF visit and as a private meeting was in session between the IAAF representative and a Council member, an executive barged in disrupting the meeting, pot-cake style;
- c. A program was produced displaying PUMA'S name on ADIDAS'S uniform;

d. Numerous stories by executives stating disruptive actions, and embarrassing moments in front of PUMA representative.

Members, at this meeting moved a vote of no confidence and three members were impeached. It is a sad state to be rejected by a body who six months earlier accepted you as young and rising stars and future leaders of the organization. We all know what transpired and how the Association was placed in courts, how the courts ruled first, and how it changed and gave a complete opposite ruling, all in the space of one week.

Nothing changed at meetings; hence, members in another duly called meeting moved a no confidence vote in the entire executives during a meeting where the true colors of the three impeached executives was seen by all present. This motion was unanimously accepted with one abstention.

This motion is a great call, because it gives the membership a chance to correct what seemed to be a grave mistake, although at first it looked like a genius planned it.

The motion tells executives that the membership purpose for electing them was to work for the best interest of the members and the Federation and not for their personal egos.

The motion gives the membership a chance to place persons in place that will work together for the advancement of the federation and continue with development which started years ago.

The motion says there is no problem with the council but there is a problem with certain executives who act as if the federation began with their election in 2012.

The motion says, so what if you were not made chairman of an LOC; why is this so important and how will it be advantageous to the federation? In other words who will gain or benefit?

The motion says you may not agree with those in charge and may strongly voice your disagreement, however, one must remember that you must show respect to leadership, be respectful to all by your actions and words and the voice of the majority must be respected.

And the unanimous passing of the motion demonstrates the frustration of members present, not affiliated with the -----, who also voted for the motion.

So let the truth be told and let the membership decide our fate again. Let us work together; let us show the members, the government, the country and our international affiliates that allowing.

The Bahamas to host the IAAF World Relays for two consecutive years was no mistake.

A lot of planning time has been lost, a lot of bad mouthing, by outsiders and insiders have caused us to lose creditability and funds; we have to go into 2014 as a TEAM.