Niagara Association Annual Meeting
August 24, 2025
Roberts Wesleyan College

The Annual Meeting of the Niagara Association was called to order by President Don Lawrence at 11:03 am EST. The following members were present virtually: Karen Ocque, Christine and Paul Phillips, Brett Shelton, Mickey Piscitelli, Pat Janiga, Lezi Lattimore, Danielle Anderson, Colleen Newman, Kelsey Ryan, Karen Larkin and Rozanne Redlinski. The following members attending in person: Jim Glinsky, Cathy Vonderneide, Kathy McLymond, Jacky Mendes, Matt Merrill, Mike Nier, Sonja Robinson, Chris Cummings, Terry Eason, Eric Boyce, Mike Brannigan and Don Lawrence.

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2025 Annual Meeting Kickoff

The meeting officially started at 11 o'clock, with Don introducing the annual meeting for 2025, encouraging participants to share uplifting reports celebrating the highlights of the past year.

USATF Niagara Athlete Achievements

The meeting began with a moment of silence for Russ Ebbets, a past president of USATF Niagara who is currently in hospice care in Ithaca.
The board discussed recent achievements, including a young athlete from Niagara who won the New York State meet and placed second in the U.S. Nationals, and plans to reach out to Angelina Napoleon upon her return. They also highlighted the success of master's athlete Tomaris Bell, who won two gold medals at the World Masters Championships, and celebrated Edna Heyer's American record-breaking performances at the Oak Tree meet and USATF Niagara championships.

USATF Niagara Association Growth Highlights

The meeting highlighted significant growth in USATF Niagara Association, with membership and club numbers at their highest since 2015. The association has seen increased participation in youth programs, social media engagement, and LDR Runner of the Year Series events, with Eric Boyce receiving recognition for his leadership in organizing these events. The association has also surpassed its $100,000 revenue threshold and is actively pursuing USATF grants and sponsorships to further grow the organization.

Recognizing Excellence and Promoting Growth

The meeting highlighted the contributions of Jacky Mendes, who was recognized for her exceptional work as treasurer and her handling of IRS-related nonprofit status issues. Don Lawrence gave Jacky Mendes the ‘President’s award for her work at Treasurer.

VP reports:

Danielle presented a professionally crafted sponsorship proposal document, which aims to secure funding for hosting better meets and promoting the association's mission.

Kelsey, a relatively new board member, praised the Niagara Association for setting a model example in organizing track and field events, particularly highlighting the success of the LDR series and the emphasis on team-based competitions. She encouraged other associations to adopt similar practices to enhance the sport's appeal and community involvement. The board discussed several key updates, including Kelsey's report on regional coordination and a potential Zoom call with national youth leaders

Treasurer's report:

Jacky Mendes provided a treasurer's update, noting that USATF Niagara's financial position is strong with over $100,000 in reserves for the first time, and reported on sanctions which are expected to exceed $16,000 for 2025. Jacky's full report can be seen at the send of these minutes.

High Performance and LDR:

Matt Merrill shared insights about the indoor championships, highlighting increased athlete participation and the positive impact of Para movement partnerships, while Eric Boyce reflected on the association's growth over his 15-year tenure and discussed the success of the LDR series, which has seen 34% adult membership participation in championships this year.

Official Updates

The meeting covered updates on youth participation in track and field events, with Brett highlighting a successful year of competitions and growth in participation. Kathy McLymond provided a detailed report on officials' certifications, noting a slight decrease in the number of certified officials and increased postal costs for mailing the recertifications. The meeting also included the presentation of awards to officials for their outstanding contributions, with Dan Lawrence receiving the Official of the Year Award for his exceptional work as a meet director. The discussion concluded with a reminder about the importance of accurate certification processes and the need for younger officials in the sport.

USATF Membership

Jim Glinsky presented a report on USATF membership trends, noting that membership increased from 900-1000 pre-COVID to 1,333 currently, a 40% increase since 2020. He attributed the growth to Eric Boyce's LDR series and incentives, while highlighting that youth membership (46% of total) has grown significantly with the help of youth chair Brent Shelton and high school coaches forming clubs for year-round practices. The report also showed that while men make up two-thirds of open/masters membership, youth membership is nearly equal between boys and girls, with new specialty clubs and youth-focused initiatives contributing to the overall increase in membership and club numbers.

Youth Chair Appointment and Updates

Don announced his intention to appoint Sonia Robinson as interim youth chair, pending board approval, citing her extensive experience in track and field and her current role as para chair. Sonia introduced herself, expressing her desire to contribute to the Niagara Association and her commitment to fostering the growth of the next generation of athletes and coaches.

USATF Meeting and Hosting Plans

Rozanne Redlinski provided an update on the upcoming annual meeting, which will be a hybrid two-day event in Orlando, with a reduced schedule and no Legends or Hall of Fame dinners. She discussed the new format for future meetings, including potential locations in Indianapolis.
The meeting discussed plans for attending the USATF annual meeting in Orlando, with a budget of $7,000 allocated for travel expenses. The group decided to have 4 members attend in person and potentially 4 more via Zoom, with registration fees of $350 for in-person attendance and $150 for virtual participation. They also discussed a proposal to host the 2028 USATF Masters Outdoor Track and Field Championships, but decided against it due to potential conflicts with the Olympics and Paralympics. The group agreed to form a committee to evaluate future hosting opportunities and assess the resources needed to successfully organize such events.

Rozanne Redlinski and Mike Neir made and seconded, respectively, a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed at 12:20 pm EST.

Submitted: Rozanne Redlinski, Secretary

Addendum:
Since the minutes of the 2024 Annual Meeting were not approved during the 2025 meeting, Rozanne Redlinski polled the attendees to either approve or disapprove the minutes during the following week. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer's report:

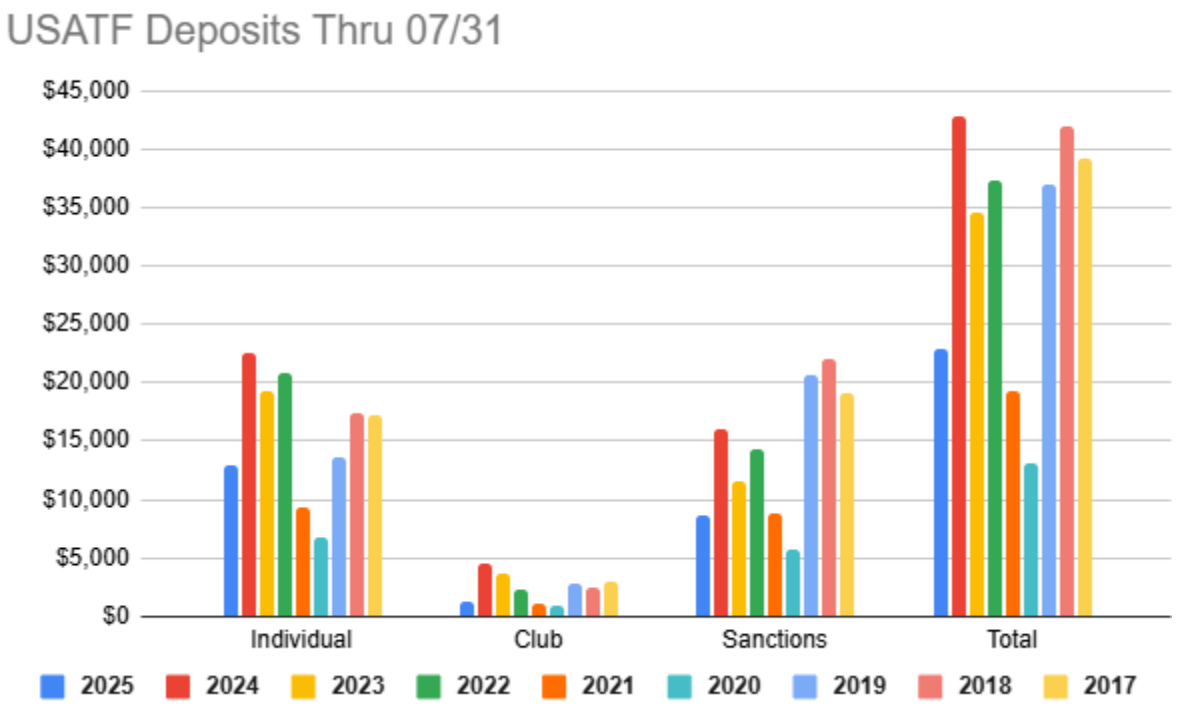
1. USATF Indoor Championship will be Sunday, January 18 in Barton Hall, Cornell University.
2. We are roughly $1,200 behind in revenue compared to this time last year and $2,000 ahead compared to 2023.
3. Working with CPAs on 2024 filing, getting things correct in Quickbooks. Filing CHAR 500 soon.
4. This month we made $148 in interest on CD, last month we made $12 in interest on Savings

5. As of 08.23.2025 our financial standing is:

Checking:	10,785.98
Savings:	42,777.17
CD:	50,730.95
Total:	104,294.10

6. Summary of all deposits

	Individual	Club	Sanctions	Total
2025	$12,954	$1,301	$8,637	$22,892
2024	$22,499	$4,475	$15,986	$42,960
2023	$19,256	$3,700	$11,559	$34,569
2022	$20,754	$2,350	$14,221	$37,234
2021	$9,235	$1,100	$8,882	$19,217
2020	$6,664	$850	$5,640	$13,154
2019	$13,650	$2,725	$20,577	$36,952
2018	$17,455	$2,450	$22,101	$42,006
2017	$17,205	$3,000	$19,033	$39,238



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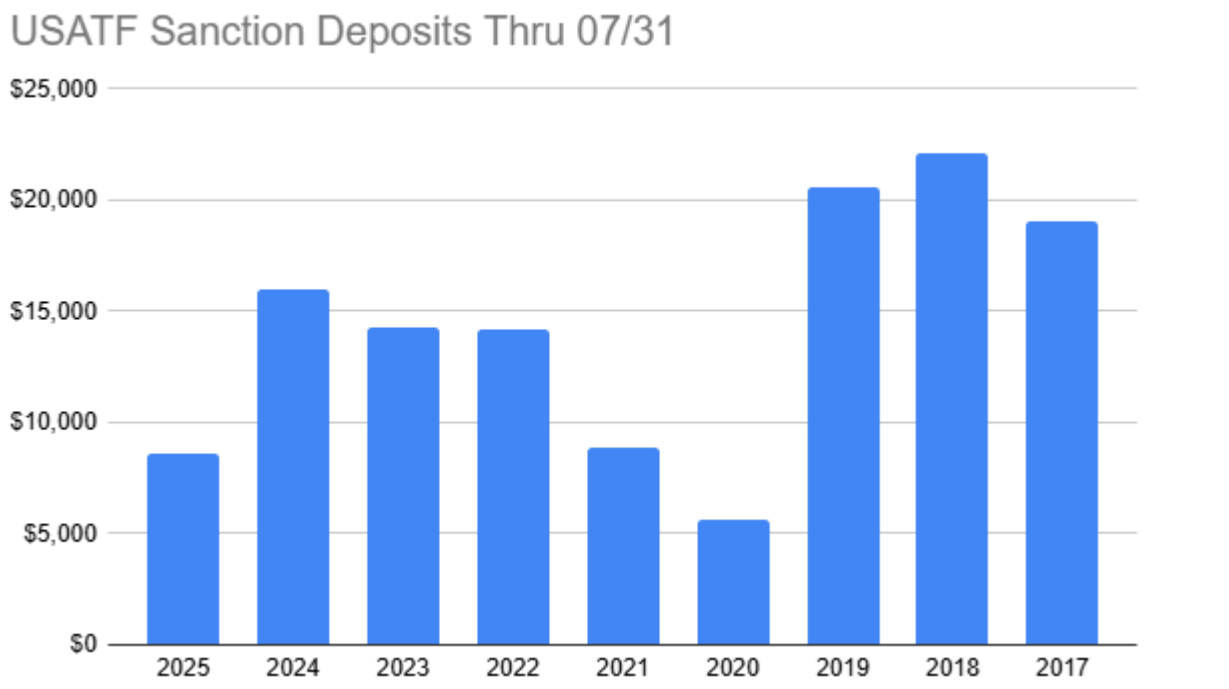
Month	Association Fees	Post Fees	Refunded	Refunded Post	National	Late Fee	Total
01/01/2024	48	1	4	0	0	0	$4,464
2/1/2024	17	0	6	0	0	0	$1,393
3/1/2024	13	1	1	1	0	0	$820
4/1/2024	10	1	1	0	0	0	$563
5/1/2024	19	4	0	0	1	1	$1,309
6/1/2024	8	4	0	2	0	$0	$160
7/1/2024	20	3	0	0	0	$0	$1,267
8/1/2024	12	1	0	1	0	$0	$581
9/1/2024	16	3	4	0	0	$0	$933
10/1/2024	10	1	0	0	0	$0	$653
11/01/2024	16	5	0	2	0	$0	$1,324
12/01/2024	37	2	0	2	0	$0	$2,519
1/1/2025	27	1	0	5	0	$0	$2,732
02/01/2025	18	2	3	0	0	$0	$1,407
03/01/2025	17	1	0	1	0	$0	$1,246
04/01/2025	16	1	0	2	0	$0	$872
05/01/2025	14	1	0	0	0	$0	$1,123
06/01/2025	10	1	0	3	0	$0	$493
07/01/2025	24	2	0	4	0	$0	$1,124