Executive Committee Meeting

April 27, 2026

The April meeting of the Executive Committee for the Niagara Association USATF was called to order by Don Lawrence at 8:03 pm EST. The following members were present: Don Lawrence, Terry Eason, Eric Boyce, Mike Nier, Danielle Anderson, Kathy McLymond, Sonja Robinson, Rayvon Sample, Lexi Lindamer, Jacky Mendes, Matt Merrill and Rozanne Redlinski.

Spring Track Season Facility Updates

Don provided updates on the spring track and field season and shared details about the development of the 716 indoor track facility, which is expected to be completed by May 27-28. Rozanne inquired about the timeline for the indoor track's readiness and its potential to host NCAA championships, to which Don responded that while it's possible, they would need more experience first.

Email Delivery and Event Planning

The team discussed email delivery issues affecting multiple members, with Sonja noting delayed emails and Danielle experiencing missing notifications. Danielle reported completing sponsorship documents and being ready to reach out to potential sponsors once her Vice President email is set up, with Don offering to connect her with Elijah Lewis for association contacts. Sonja provided an update on the Region 2 youth meet scheduled for July 9-12 in Pennsylvania at Monrovian. She noted delays in finalizing hotel arrangements and official assignments, and requested an early conversation with Kathy about securing officials well in advance of the mid-May request deadline.

Medal Procurement and Registration Planning

Don and Sonja discussed plans for medals. Don noted that while they will proceed with medals, they should explore more cost-effective options than Ashworth's $3,800 quote. They agreed to pursue a regional bid for medals and ribbons in bulk to reduce costs. Sonja offered to set up the registration page if the need arose. The conversation also

touched on an upcoming race event and the potential for building USATF presence in Oswego County.

Running Events and Marathon Updates

Don and Eric discussed recent running events and challenges. Eric reported on two athletes qualifying for the 2028 trials and shared details about a course confusion incident at the Jersey City Marathon where a runner was misdirected, leading to a third-place finisher being incorrectly positioned. Don asked about Eric's conversation with operations person Al regarding the Buffalo Marathon and Olympic trials promotion.

Olympic Trials Qualification Publicity Strategy

The group discussed the need to publicize when Niagara Association members qualify for the Olympic Trials, particularly in track and field events. Eric explained that while he initially wanted to make the Buffalo Marathon a Niagara Championship, timing issues prevented this from happening in time. Sonja suggested creating a news release and using social media to highlight these achievements, noting that publicizing qualifications could help attract sponsors. The discussion also touched on challenges with the current website management and the limited number of expected qualifiers from their association.

Official Scheduling and Event Planning

Don and Kathy discussed officiating arrangements for an upcoming event, with 11 officials confirmed for the morning and 9 for the afternoon. The group also discussed the possibility of officiating at the World Senior Games in Utah, with Don noting that the selection process will start earlier next year to allow for better planning and cheaper travel arrangements.

Track Clinic and Club Expansion

Don and Lexi discussed Lexi's recent track clinic, where she taught children various techniques including starts and time trials. Lexi mentioned plans to expand her track club to include younger participants and will have tables at upcoming Invitationals in Faulkner and Jamestown. The group also discussed potential summer track meets, with Sonja offering to provide information about meets organized by Blaze Sports at Buffalo State and by Willie Price in Niagara Falls.

Track and Field Competition Planning

The group discussed upcoming track and field competitions, focusing on youth meets and Nationals. Lexi inquired about sanctioned youth meets, and Don suggested contacting Kelsey or Brett for information. They discussed the challenge of scheduling Nationals in California and the potential impact on families. Sonja raised concerns about multi-event athletes competing in a one-day meet and proposed a solution for future two-day events. The conversation also touched on the possibility of hosting Region 2 cross-country in the Buffalo area, with Don mentioning interest from the Cortland Sports Committee and potential opportunities at UB's facility.

Financial and Administrative Updates Meeting

The meeting covered financial updates and administrative matters. Jacky reported that the organization is approximately $10,000 ahead in revenue compared to 2025 and $8,000 ahead compared to 2024, with financial standing at just under $100,000. Don inquired about investing the savings in a CD to help offset expenses, but Jacky noted current interest rates are minimal. The group also discussed stipend payments for Lexi's work at a clinic weekend, with Lexi requesting one payment to Chautauqua Striders and another to a volunteer coach.

Track Championship Registration Planning

The meeting focused on planning for upcoming track championships and registration processes. Michael Nier reported that GVH has already signed up 80 USATF members this year and plans to send teams to national championships and Niagara Series events. The group discussed registration details for Junior Olympics, Open, and Masters categories, including age requirements and whether to allow non-USATF members to participate. Don expressed a preference for keeping the championship exclusive to USATF members, while others preferred to allow non-members to compete without scoring or medals. The non-members would be encouraged to become a Niagara member to offset the higher non-member registration cost. The discussion also touched on allowing younger athletes to participate in the Open Masters category, with a proposed minimum age of 10 years old.

Track Meet Pricing and Scheduling

The group discussed pricing and membership requirements for an upcoming track meet. Sonja emphasized wanting to attract participants regardless of their membership

status, while Matt explained the $10 premium for non-USATF members and suggested offering incentives for new members. They also discussed the scheduling of field events, with Matt advocating for starting track events later (12:30 or 1:00 PM) to accommodate field events. Don raised concerns about safe sport regulations and the logistics of running separate meets, and agreed to send out an email to finalize the timing and involve additional stakeholders.

Para Team Integration Challenges

The group discussed challenges in connecting with the Rochester Rookies Para team, noting limited responsiveness and uncertainty about their active status despite having a social media presence. Sonya and Rayven observed cultural differences between para athletes who began in parasport versus those transitioning from able-bodied track and field, with the latter often being more socially integrated. The discussion highlighted improvements in treatment of para athletes since moving from USOPC to USATF, with better understanding of para athletes' needs and requirements.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 pm EST.

Treasurer's report:

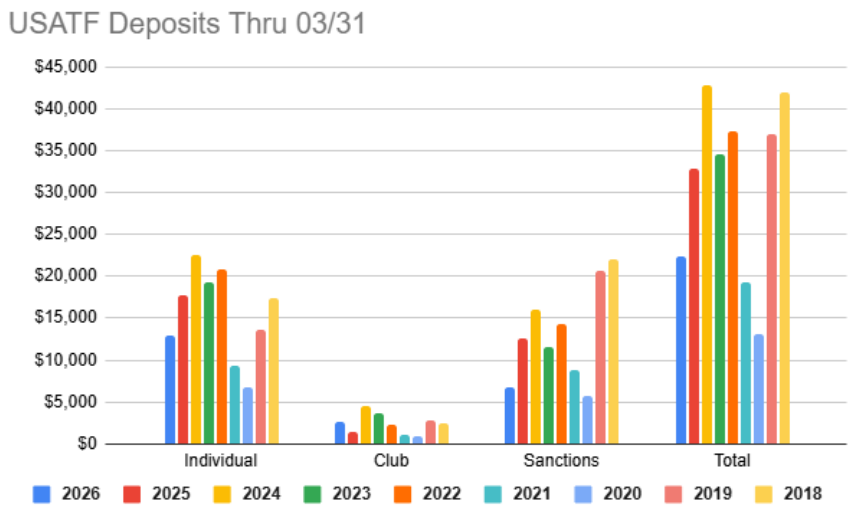
1. We are roughly $10,500 ahead in revenue compared to this time in 2025, and roughly $8,500 ahead compared to 2024.

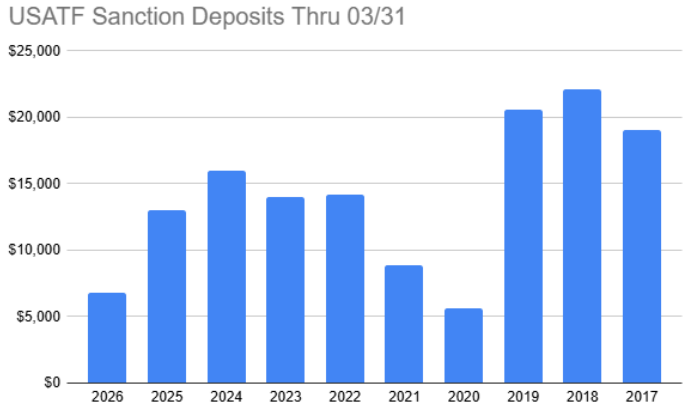
2. As of 03.31.2026 our financial standing is:

Checking:	25,910.06
Savings:	72,028.33
Total:	97,938.39

3. Summary of all deposits

	Individual	Club	Sanctions	Total
2026	$13,006	$2,535	$6,789	$22,330
2025	$17,755	$1,366	$13,014	$32,770
2024	$22,499	$4,475	$15,986	$42,760
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





Membership:

Niagara Membership as of 11 April 2026

	Male	Female	Total	%
Open	89	80	169	21%
Youth	134	76	210	26%
Masters	282	143	425	53%
Total	505	299	804	

Clubs 37

We increased by 28 individuals since the last report.

On 16 April 2025 we had 871 individual and 42 club members.