Niagara Association Executive Board meeting

June 22, 2026

Don Lawrence opened this meeting at 8:02pm EST. The following Executive Committee members were present: Don Lawrence, Rozanne Redlinski, Jacky Mendes, Eric Boyce, Mike Nier, Kelsey Ryan, Jim Glinsky, Matt Merrill, Sharon Gruttadauro, Lexi Lindamer and Danielle Anderson.

Quick recap

This was a USATF Niagara board meeting focused on preparations for an upcoming Masters and Junior Olympics track meet. Don reported on his recent experience managing the Empire State Senior Games and discussed his upcoming role as meet manager for the weekend's events, noting he would have assistance with setup and breakdown due to his medical restrictions. Matt provided an update on registrations, reporting 95 entries for the Open Masters event with heavy participation in the 3,000 meter run and throws events, though pole vault and high jump numbers were lower than expected. The board discussed various operational details including age verification issues for late registrants, SafeSport requirements for reunification areas, and the need for additional volunteers for the event. Don also raised concerns about potentially hosting the Region 2 cross-country championships next year, as his commitment to the World Masters Games in Tulsa in July would conflict with typical Region 2 dates.

USATF Event Participation Discussion

Don explained that to become an active athlete and delegate, participants need to sign up for a sanctioned USATF event, suggesting the cheapest and shortest option available. Rozanne expressed uncertainty about finding an event in Tennessee. Don recommended the Menden Mile as an affordable and accessible choice, for those in WNY.

Senior Games Meet Management Updates

Don reported on his recent involvement as meet manager for the Empire State Senior Games, which included approximately 200 athletes across various track and field events. He mentioned a specific competitor who will be participating in both pole vault and throws events at the upcoming outdoor championships.

Registration and Setup Planning Updates

The team discussed registration updates, with Matt reporting 95 entries as of the afternoon and noting that the final week has been promising with 4 days remaining for registration. Don raised concerns about age verification requirements and deadlines, with Kelsey confirming that any late age verifications could still be processed if submitted promptly. The discussion concluded with Don requesting volunteers for Roberts area to help with hurdle setup, noting concerns about weather conditions and tent security based on recent windy events in Philadelphia and Cortland.

Meet Registration and Schedule Updates

The discussion revealed that bronze medals will be awarded in Masters age groups due to direct competition in hammer, discus, and possibly shot put events. Don and Eric clarified that most participants are USATF members, though some are members of other associations. The meet schedule was adjusted to start field events at 9:30 AM with “weighing in” from 11 AM to 12 PM, followed by Junior Olympics at 12 PM Race Event Planning Discussion

Race Event Planning Discussion

The group discussed scheduling for an upcoming race event, with November 14th identified as a potential date for state championships. Kelsey suggested that USATF events should not be required to accommodate high school cross-country schedules since high school runners are already participating in the sport. Kelsey recommended the emphasis be put on the younger athletes. Lexi provided updates on SafeSport requirements, including the need for proper signage and a designated reunification area for young athletes, which Don confirmed would be set up in a tent near the finish line.

Track Event Planning Updates

The part of the meeting focused on preparations for an upcoming track and field event, including registration updates and logistics.. The group discussed scheduling conflicts for November events, including Pennsylvania high school cross-country on November 15th and potential JO Nationals on December 12th in Louisiana

Track Maintenance and Financial Updates

Don and Matt discussed checking for goose poop on the track. Matt noted that the rain will most likely wash it away. Jacky updated the group on moving $60,000 into a CD at Key Bank with a rate over 3%, and informed the EC that there would be a delay in processing checks while she is in the UK from July 8. Don mentioned having 15 officials to pay and discussed the timing of payments with Jacky.

Membership and Championship Planning Updates

Don reported that membership numbers showed a decline of about 150 members compared to the same period last year. He considered this a normal progression rather than a cause for concern. Don also expressed concerns about the lack of community support for the upcoming Region 2 championship event in Rochester and requested additional volunteers for the weekend. The conversation ended with Don announcing an opportunity for delegates to attend the USATF annual meeting in December, suggesting the Menden Mile event as a way to qualify as an active athlete.

The meeting adjourned at 8:38 pm EST.

Treasurer's report: Jacky Mendes

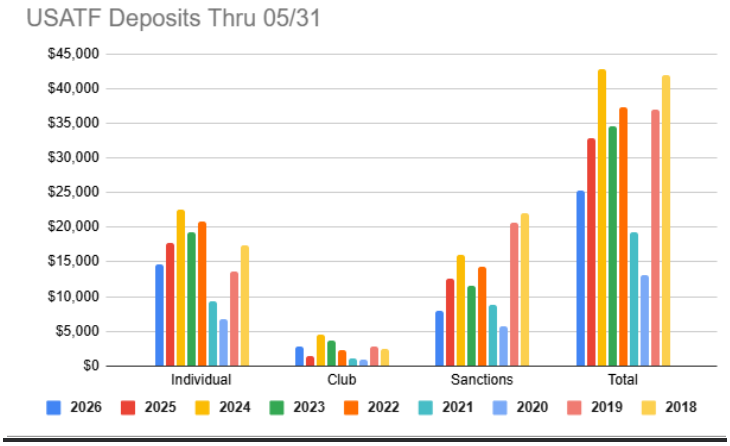
1. We are roughly $9,000 ahead in revenue compared to this time in 2025, and roughly $7,000 ahead compared to 2024

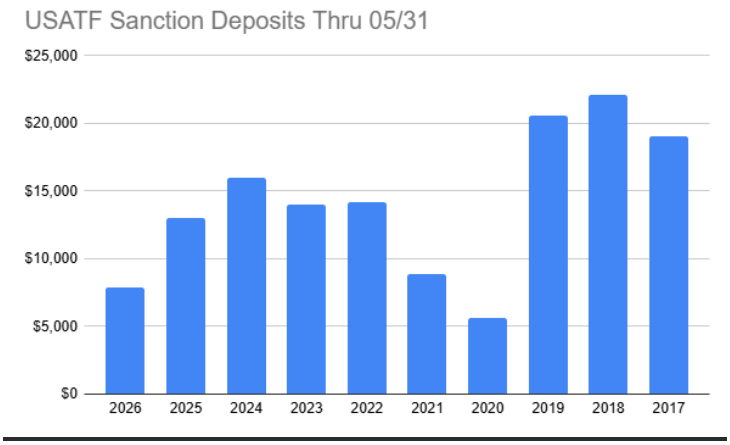
2. As of 06.22.2026 our financial standing is:

Checking:	10,526.48
Savings:	29,342.98
CD:	60,000.00
Total:	99,869.46

3. Summary of all deposits

	Individual	Club	Sanctions	Total
2026	$14,637	$2,795	$7,912	$25,344
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





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LDR Report: Eric Boyce

One of our own members, Mason Coppi won the USATF Mountain championships on 6/7/26 which was hosted by Sunapee scramble. Next LDR event is this weekend (3k track meet),

Numbers appear to be slightly down. As of now 52 members signed up to race that event. Last year we had 72 finishers. After this weekend, the next LDR event will be 7/17 in Buffalo Subaru 4mile.