Executive Committee Meeting
March 16, 2026

Don Lawrence called the March meeting of the Niagara Association Executive Committee at 8:03pm EST. The following EC members were present: Don Lawrence, Jacky Mendes, Rozanne Redlinski, Kathy McLymond, Matt Merrill, Jim Glinski, Eric Boyce, Danielle Anderson, Lexi Landimer and Sharon Gruttadauro. Excused and/or absent were Sonja Robinson, Terry Eason, Mi ke Nier, Kelsey Ryan and Rayvon Sample.

Quick recap

The USATF Niagara Association held their monthly meeting to discuss various updates and topics related to track and field activities. Key discussions included the success of recent indoor track meets, including the New York State meet at Ocean Breeze, and the setup of a USATF booth at the Rochester Running Company event. The association's financial status was reviewed, with Jackie reporting they were $10,000 ahead in revenue compared to the previous year. Officials' numbers were discussed, with Kathy noting they had around 45 officials. Eric provided updates on recent meets and upcoming events, including the Syracuse Mountain Goat meet on May 3rd. The group also discussed the new USATF National Club portal and its potential benefits for clubs. Various scheduling conflicts and challenges were addressed, particularly regarding the Junior Olympics and other national championship events.

Meeting summary:

Don discussed the attendance of various team members at different events, including Danielle's visit to Ocean Breeze in New York. Danielle shared her positive experience at the meet. They discussed the crowded conditions at the facility and potential future expansions. Don encouraged Danielle to move forward with sponsorship outreach, as long as it doesn't conflict with existing partnerships

Financial Updates and Membership Progress:

Jacky reported that the 2026 budget was posted on the website and that they were $10,000 ahead in revenue compared to the same time last year, largely due to January renewals.

Jacky also stated that the Association's CD account rate dropped significantly to near zero, leading them to close it and transfer the funds to savings, where the rate is similarly low. They are exploring options to potentially increase returns in the coming months. Jacky also provided updates on membership and sanctions, noting they are halfway to last year's totals, and mentioned ongoing work on tax paperwork to avoid year-end stress. Don confirmed that Dave Reinhardt is handling sanctions processing, which is running smoothly with quick turnarounds. Kathy reported they have around 45 officials. With several from Western New York expressing interest, and Don shared that they have received 8-9 official applications from Niagara for the Huntsmen Meet, scheduled for October in Utah.

USATF Race Series Update

The group discussed the successful first race of the series, held in challenging weather conditions, with Jonathan Griffith of Rochester Running Company expressing gratitude for the USATF booth setup. Eric highlighted the strong performance of local athletes, including the Geneseo boys' success at the DMR national championships. The team also addressed the need for clubs to use the new USATF National Club portal for managing youth athletes.

Track and Field Organizational Updates

The meeting covered several key topics related to track and field activities and organizational updates. Jim reported that membership is slightly behind last year's numbers but expects growth with upcoming events, including two national championships in April and the Mountain Goat event in May. Lexi confirmed she received permission for a clinic event on April 25th at Strider Field, Jamestown, NY. She discussed the insurance requirements, while Don noted he would handle USATF insurance needs. The group also discussed concerns about new USOPC mandates limiting support staff for race walkers to only full-time USATF

employees. Both Sharon and Don criticized this mandate as problematic for supporting elite athletes effectively.

Half Marathon Misdirection Resolution Discussion

Don discussed the misdirection issue in the half marathon and emphasized the importance of the lead vehicle or cyclist in ensuring fair treatment of athletes. Don also talked about the upcoming Buffalo Marathon and the opportunity to have a booth there. He mentioned that Joey Whalen, who has qualified for the Olympic trials, is willing to pace individuals for a sub-2:15 marathon. Eric suggested doing something more formal next year for elite athletes.

Region 2 Cross-Country Meet Planning

The group discussed hosting the Region 2 cross-country meet, with a decision needed by the end of May. They also talked about the Open and Masters meet scheduled for November 1st at Center Park in Fairport, which conflicts with Section 6's meet. The group agreed to work on setting a calendar for upcoming events, including the Junior Olympics. Additionally, they discussed creating a new QR code for an event and the placement of signage at a recent event.

Youth Track Scheduling and Officials

Don and Matt discussed scheduling challenges for youth indoor track events They discussed the Junior Olympics being scheduled for June 28th despite Region 2 and National requirements, with Don noting conflicts with Father's Day and other national championship events. This topic ended with a discussion of the challenges of training new officials, who have track knowledge but need to understand meet management aspects.

LDR report: Eric Boyce

The first race in the UASTF Niagara LDR runner of the year and Grand Prix series was held on 3/14/26. This was our Association's 5 mile championship hosted by the Runnin' of the Green 5mile.

Stats: 144 total members finished. (77 masters 67 open runners). Last year wehad 143 total members finished. 166 members registered for the race this year.

If the weather wasn't so horrendous I would have anticipated 155-160 members finishing. Despite the weather and strong winds we had 7 men run sub 25 minutes. Charlie Wilson was the overall winner with a time of 24:14. Not saying there's a changing of the guard but when a 2:09 marathoner (Joe Whelan) finishes third, this shows how talented our Open Elites in this association are!
Ellie Orie, once again, captured the woman's title with a time of 28:40. Trisha Byler finished 2nd with a time of 29:38, and captured the top age grading performance for masters age grading.
John McMahon, 59 edged out Mike Nier 61, for the best masters men's age grading performance. Open Men: Bergen Elite, Open women Roadkill had dominate team performance to capture the team titles. GVH for Masters men and Checkers AC for Masters women ran great to pickup master team titles. I have to thank Jonathan Griffith for being the Race Director for a great race and Don Lawrence for coming out helping and being the official. Thanks to Matt Merrill for the LDR series back drop. The recent surge in membership can be linked to this recent championship.

Next championships: 5/3/26 Mountain Goat 10mile in Syracuse, NY.

Membership report: Jim Glinsky

Niagara Membership as of 14 March 2026

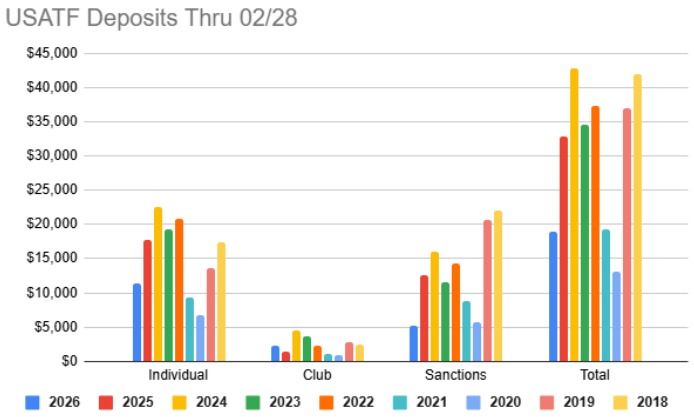
	Male	Female		Total	%
Youth	84	78	162	21%	
Open	130	73	203	26%	
Masters		273	138	411	53%
Total	487	289	776		

We increased by 85 individual and 3 club members since the last report.

On 13 March 2025 we had 834 individual and 42 club members.

Individuals and clubs will renew their memberships as we get closer to Association and National Championships.

Treasurer's report: Jacky Mendes



Summary of all deposits				
	Individual	Club	Sanctions	Total
2026	$11,414	$2,340	$5,213	$18,967
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

Sanctions:

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
08/01/2025	12	3	0	2	0	$0	$895
09/01/2025	14	0	0	4	0	$0	$726
10/01/2025	8	1	0	1	0	$0	$461
11/01/2025	4	11	0	3	0	$0	$859
12/01/2025	20	0	0	4	1	$0	$1,436