Niagara Association Executive Committee
Meeting
November 24, 2025

President Don Lawrence called the meeting to order with the following Committee members being present: Don Lawrence, Jacky Mendes, Matt Merrill, Terry Eason, Kathy McLymond, Kelsey Ryan, Daniell Anderson, Lexi Lindamer, Sonya Robinson, Sharon Gruttadauro, Eric Boyce and Jim Glinsky. Absent were Rozanne Redlinski and Mike Nier.

The meeting then began with a discussion of previous meeting minutes, which everyone agreed to approve without corrections.

USATF Operations and Facility Updates

Don discussed the acceptance of meeting minutes and highlighted the successful management of the USATF Junior Olympics. Twelve officials ensured smooth operations despite adverse weather conditions. He expressed gratitude to Kathy for her efforts in training rookie officials and praised Jim Glinsky for his contributions. Don also shared exciting news about a new indoor facility at the University of Buffalo, which will feature a 200-meter banked track and is expected to open in 2027-28. He mentioned the formation of a DRAC committee to oversee its development. He concluded by reminding attendees about the upcoming annual meeting, which will be held in person next year with a yet-to-be-determined location. Don informed Terry that he had been added as an eighth delegate for an upcoming meeting, with a $150 expense allowance.

Orlando Annual Meeting Planning Update

Don discussed the upcoming annual meeting in Orlando on December 5-6, where Niagara delegates will attend. He mentioned that forms and stipends for meeting summaries will be sent out after the turkey trot, with reports due by December 14th.

Regional Track Meet Planning Discussion

The group discussed hosting a regional track meet next year, with Kelsey presenting photos and videos of a similar meet to demonstrate its feasibility. Sonja raised concerns about potential challenges due to the World Cup and other events; but, the board expressed interest in pursuing the idea. The group agreed to consult with the youth committee and local clubs before making a final decision. Kelsey also shared her experience at a recent meet, highlighting both its successes and areas for improvement.

Sponsorship Proposals and Technical Issues

Don expressed frustration with the delay in finalizing sponsorship proposals, emphasizing the need to move forward quickly. Sonja explained that they are waiting for guidance from Jackie regarding the accounting and tax implications of sponsorship wording. Danielle highlighted the importance of having the necessary infrastructure in place before accepting sponsorships. The group discussed the status of the JO Region 2 meet results, which are not yet loaded to the national site due to a technical issue with the Region 2 link. Sonja agreed to follow up on this and keep Brett and Kelsey informed.

Financial Updates and Budget Management

Jacky reported that the 990 and CHAR 500 filings were completed after resolving issues from 2023, and she is now able to manage the 2026 budget in real-time using QuickBooks. She noted that revenue is slightly behind last year but significantly ahead of 2023, with total deposits over $26,000. Jacky mentioned that she will contact Debbie to inquire about setting up sponsorship tracking and will work on reclassifying officials' pay as a training expense, using Kathy's unused budget. Don expressed appreciation for Jacky's efforts in managing finances and keeping the organization afloat.

Cornell Indoor Track Meet Preview

The group discussed the upcoming indoor track meet at Cornell on January 18th, which will start at 10 AM with potential prize money and official cooperation with Adirondack.

They noted that officials need proper outerwear for future events, and Terry and Don were named as finalists for the Grace Walking Award. Eric reported on recent successes including NXR Fed Meet performances and discussed plans for 2026, while highlighting Joe Whalen's impressive 2.12:28 time at Indianapolis and the strong showing of Niagara athletes in national championships.

PR, Marketing, and Event Planning

Don and Eric discussed their PR and marketing efforts, with Eric staying on top of Andy's work to ensure accuracy. They also talked about the upcoming Buffalo Marathon project and a potential meeting with Al Longo, the operations manager. Matt provided an update on the indoor meet preparations and mentioned that Adirondack had expressed interest in participating. Don planned to set up a Zoom meeting with Matt, Jackie, and Adirondack representatives to discuss communication and logistics for the event. Jim reported that things were going well in Florida, with a steady stream of members needing help with the USATF Connect system.

Club Nationals and Membership Updates

The meeting covered several topics, including membership issues for Club Nationals, SafeSport updates, and event logistics. Jim explained that USATF members must manually renew their 2026 membership before January to enter Club Nationals, as auto-renewals won't activate until January 1. Kelsey agreed to spread this information to her club. Don mentioned the national membership closed at 119,574, with Jim noting a slight increase to 1,452 members locally. Lexi shared updates on SafeSport, including a newsletter and the possibility of nominating Kelsey for a SafeSport All-Star

Athlete Updates and Championship Planning

The meeting covered several topics, including updates on athletes' performances and plans. Sharon shared that Kyra Pellegrino, a former Niagara region athlete, placed in the top 27% at nationals and is now running for Oswego under Juan Martinez. Don suggested involving Kyra in future events to provide insights as an athlete. The group discussed the upcoming indoor championships at Cornell and Raven expressed interest in participating next year due to limited post-college meet options. Kelsey raised a concern about unclaimed medals from Region 2, and Don offered to help retrieve them. The conversation ended with Don and Matt discussing the logistics and financial aspects of hosting a championship event in collaboration with another organization.

Next steps

- Don: Forward link to new indoor facility to everyone
- Delegates: Submit Annual meeting reports by December 14th with receipts for stipends
- Sonja: Reach out to youth clubs about hosting Region 2 cross-country meet and report back by early next week
- Jackie: Call accountant Debbie about sponsorship package requirements and tax implications
- Don/Sonja/Danielle: Escalate sponsorship proposal development to get packages out by first of the year
- Kathy: Send out officials recruitment for Cornell indoor meet on January 18th
- Matt: Complete sanctioning for Cornell indoor meet this weekend
- Don: Set up Zoom meeting with Adirondack officials and Matt for early next week about cooperative indoor meet
- Eric: Finalize Runner of the Year series wrap-up including invoices and communicate with Jackie for check writing
- Jim: Follow up on Region 2 results not loading to national site for Junior Olympics qualification
- Sonja: Copy Brett and Ryan on communications about regional meet issues
- Don/Sonja: Follow up with LaTanya about missing medals for Kelsey's two athletes from Region 2
- Jackie: Move Junior Olympics officials payments to training/education budget category instead of event-specific.

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Treasurer's report

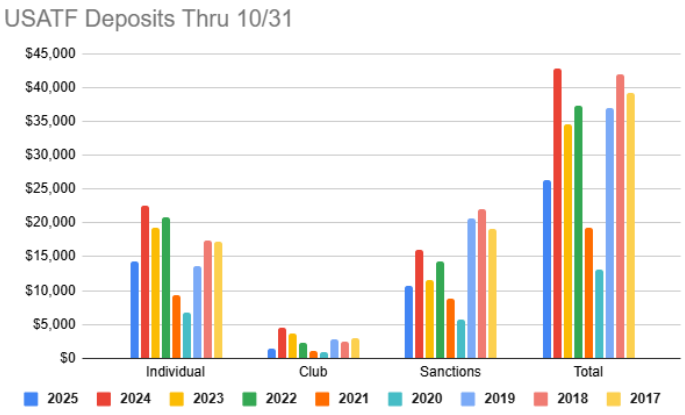
1. 990 and CHAR 500 have been filed.
2. Working on 2026 Budget Proposal now. Hoping to have things finalized by the next meeting.
3. We are roughly $800 behind in revenue compared to this time last year and $2,000 ahead compared to 2023.

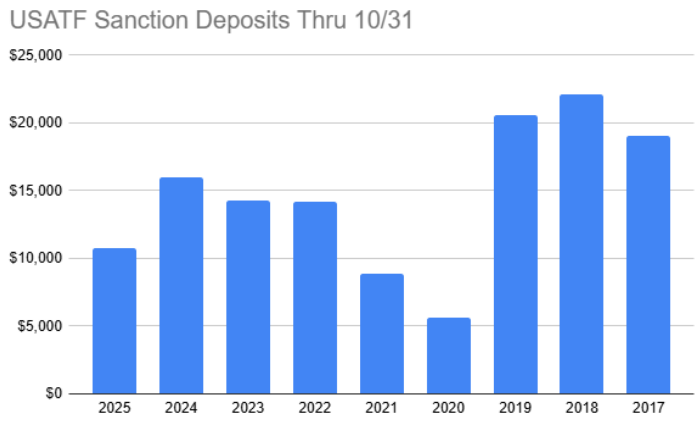
4. As of 10.31.2025 our financial standing is:

Checking:	10,690.76
Savings:	42,816.16
CD:	51,023.43
Total:	104,530.35

5. Summary of all deposits

	Individual	Club	Sanctions	Total
2025	$14,247	$1,366	$10,719	$26,332
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




USATF Sanction Deposits Thru 10/31
$25,000
$20,000
$15,000
$10,000
$5,000
$0
2025
2024
2023
2022
2021
2020
2019
2018
2017