

April 2025



USATF Lake Erie Newsletter

News and information

Several of our members participated in the World Masters Athletics Indoor Championships, held Mar. 23-30 at the Alachua County Sports and Event Center in Gainesville, Fla. Congratulations to **Brittan Berry, Jonathan Franklin, Donald Groubert, Sheri Liebschner, Belinda McCoy, Charles Novak, Phil Pillin., Donald Porz, Kelly Reblin, Jeannie Rice, Bill Stross, Penny Ward-Wilson, and Rodney Wilson** for some fine performances!

Results here: <https://wmaci2025.com/results/>



Penny Ward-Wilson throwing the shot. (photo by Sheri Liebschner)

Sheri Liebschner takes flight in the long jump. (photo by Amy Knieriem of the Potomac valley Track Club.)



Donald Porz (left) and **Phil Pillin** . battle for supremacy in the 3000-meter run. (photo by Sheri Liebschner)

Results and Information—Juniors

The USATF Lake Erie Association would like to congratulate our participants in the 2024 USATF National Junior Olympic Cross Country Championships, held Dec. 14, 2024, at Shelbyville, Ind.

Some fine performances, both club and unattached, were recorded:

Cleveland Youth Running Club

Hope Geletka	Lisa Kaufmann	Evan Thomas
Judah Geletka	Audrey Miller	Lucas Thomas
Claire Jenkins	Nadija Mrva	Brinn Waters
Hannah Kaufman	Beatrice Snyder	

McDonald Lava

Lily Rogers
Brynnley Edwards
Francesca Marinelli

Oberlin Spikes

Jack Fezcko	Kennedy Wiles
Makenzie Gerbick	Henry Wooten
Preston Himes	Oliver Wooten
Harper Lyon	

Unattached

Elyse Edelman	Natalie Reynolds
Maximus Marino	Amme Wilson
Moses Marino	

Complete results can be found [here](#).

The athletes qualified for nationals at the Lake Erie Junior Olympics Cross Country Championships, held November 9, 2024 at Columbiana High School. Complete results for that meet are [here](#).

Coming up: Lake Erie Association Junior Olympics Championship, Saturday, June 21, 2025 at SPIRE Institute, Geneva, Ohio. Details to follow.



Results and Information—Open/Masters

Open/Masters

Lake Erie Association held its cross-country championship on November 9, 2024, at Columbiana High School in conjunction with the Junior Olympics championships. Results [here](#).

Congratulations to **Jeannie Rice**, who was named the 2024 USATF W75-79 Road Runner of the year and also Road Racer of the Year.

Congratulations to **Joann Kitchen**, USATF Midwest Region Volunteer of the Year 2024, and to **Phil Pillin** for receiving the David Pain award for contributions to USATF Masters Track and field in 2024

Congratulations to the winners of the 2024 Road Race Series!

Women—Open **Alyssa Thomas** (T1), **Becca Schulte** (T1), **Ashton Swinford** (T1)

Men—Open **James Mooney** (T1), **Luke Hickman** (T1), **Jacob Ondash** (T1), **Mark Grogan** (T1)

Women—Masters **Jennifer Simmerman** (T1), **Jeannie Rice** (T1), **Cindy Wildman** (T1), **Sheri Liebschner** (T1)

Men—Masters **Donald Porz** (1), **Patrick Dillon** (2), **Richard Hart** (3)

Richard Hart, **Sheri Liebschner**, and **Phil Pillin** participated in the Lake Erie Association Cross Country Series.

We held our LEA Indoor Track and Field championship at SPIRE Institute on Feb. 8, 2025. Results [here](#).



***Adam Eibling** throwing the shot in the Midwest Masters (photo by Sheri Liebschner)*



***Don Groubert** prepares to throw the javelin at Worlds. (photo by Sheri Liebschner)*

Some of our masters athletes were using this meet as a tune-up for the USATF 2025 Indoor Masters Championships presented by Prevagen, held Feb. 20-23 in Gainesville, Fla. Congratulations to **Brittan Berry**, **Dorian Green**, **Jonathan Franklin**, **Barry Kline**, and **Charles Novak**. Complete results [here](#).

Other masters athletes participated in the Midwest Masters, held on Mar. 9 at Taylor University in Uplands, Indiana. Congratulations to **Adam Eibling**, **Donald Groubert**, **Sheri Liebschner**, **Michael Mason**, **Phil Pillin Sr.**, **Donald Porz**, **Rodney Wilson**, and **Rich Workman**. Complete results [here](#).

Results and Information

Upcoming Open/Masters Meets

June 28, 2025—Cleveland Track Classic, Spire Institute, Geneva, OH

July 5, 2025—LEA Open/Masters Championships, SPIRE Institute, Geneva, OH

July 17-20, 2025—USATF National Masters Outdoor Track & Field Championships, Huntsville, AL

Canton, OH, will once again host the USATF Women's 6K Championship on July 12, 2025. USATF Lake Erie is proud to be a part of this event once again. Both elite and non-elite women runners are welcome, and there are cash prizes in both categories. More information [here](#).

Lake Erie Association Financials

BALANCE AS OF 1-1-2024 \$51,438.52

INCOME

Registration - Individual and Clubs \$14,751.50

Sanctions \$3,168.33

Track Meets \$18,306.00

Road Racing Series \$0.00

Outdoor Track Championship Series \$0.00

Bank Interest \$971.41

Officials \$1,000.00

Other \$7,036.98

Total Income: \$45,234.22

EXPENSES

Office Expenses \$1,495.13

Track Meets \$12,583.86

Road Racing Series \$2,430.00

Outdoor Track Championship Series \$0.00

Annual Meeting USATF \$15,220.31

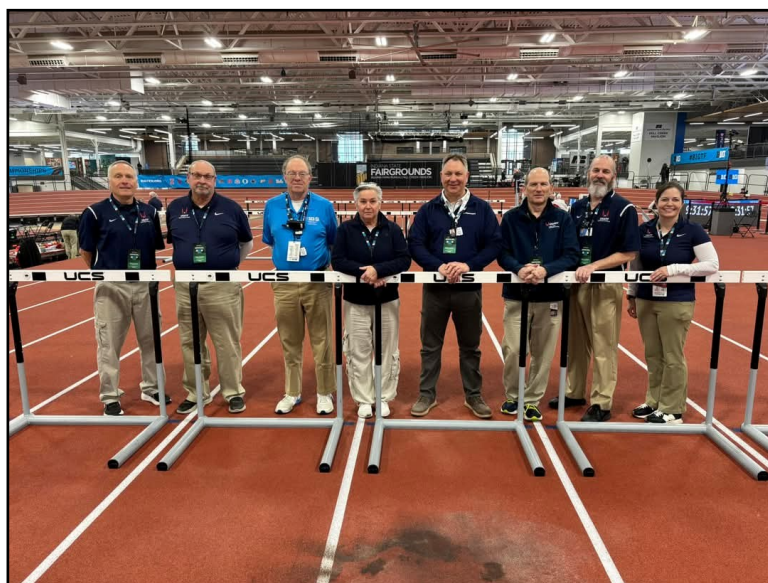
Officials \$3,229.24

Other \$8,165.04

Total Expenses: \$43,123.58

Net Income: \$2,110.64

BALANCE AS OF 12-31-2024 \$53,549.16



Officials at the Big 10 Indoor Championships in Indianapolis, Ind.: John Matune, Dale Smith, Doug Glass, Sue Pete, Dave Woytek, Don Porz, Glen Shelley, and Carmen Fontana. There is no truth to the rumor that John Matune started the fire which caused the big black mark in the foreground.

From the President

There have been numerous changes within our association since the start of the year, and I'd like to take a moment to share some important updates with you.

Most notably, we have revised our association bylaws to align with those of the National Office. I strongly encourage all members to review the updated bylaws and familiarize themselves with the expectations and standards of our association. You can access the bylaws on our website [here](#).

One significant change in the bylaws is the addition of three At-Large members to our Board of Directors. These individuals will serve alongside the Association's President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Please join me in welcoming **Julie Gauvreau**, **Matt Ludwig**, and **Michael "Charlie" Powell** to these new roles.

We also have new faces among our Association Officers. I'm pleased to welcome **James Henson** as our new Vice President and **Sheri Liebschner** as our new Secretary.

Additionally, updates have been made to our Sport and Non-Sport Committee Chairs. **A list of the current committee chairs is on the last page of this newsletter.** Please note that we're seeking a qualified individual—Athletic Trainer, Nurse, Doctor, EMT, Paramedic, etc.—to serve as **Medical Services Chair**.

Looking ahead, this promises to be another exciting year for the Lake Erie Association. We're proud to announce that we will host the **NCAA Division III Outdoor Track & Field Championships** at SPIRE Academy from **May 22–24, 2025**. Additionally, preparations are underway for the **2026 USATF Masters Outdoor Track & Field Championships**, also to be held at SPIRE Academy in **August 2026**.

Thank you all for your continued support and involvement in our association. Here's to a successful year ahead!

Dave Woytek

President

USATF Lake Erie Association



News for Officials

Congratulations to our officials who were selected for national championship meets!

World Masters Championships—Doug Glass, John Matune, Chris Stancliff

USATF

Indoor Championships—**Doug Glass**

National Masters Indoors—**Michael Edelman, John Matune, Donald Porz**

U20 Outdoor Championships—**Lyle Shull, Ken Vogt**

Outdoor Championships—**John Matune, Chris Stancliff, David Woytek**

NCAA

Division II Indoors—**Karen McKeehan, John Matune, David Woytek**

Division III Indoors—**Richard Hughes, Susan Pete, Donald Porz, Ken Vogt**

Division I Outdoors East First Round—**Chris Stancliff, David Woytek**

Division I Final—**John Matune**

Division III Outdoors—**Emily Belovich, Michael Edelman, Dennis Gauntner, Doug Glass, Jim Henson, Richard Hughes, Michael Jankowski, Brian Jones, Stan Kasserman, Matt Ludwig, Geoff Malcomson, Frank Martinek, John Matune, Karen McKeehan, Brett Neff, Phil Pillin Sr., Glenn Shelley, Lyle Shull, Chris Stancliff, Ken Vogt, David Woytek**

Congratulations to **Karen Malafarina**, one of this year's recipients of USATF's Young Officials Grant.



Chris Stancliff, Doug Glass, and John Matune officiated the World Masters Championships. (photo by Sheri Liebschner)

Safe Sport

USATF is committed to working collectively with our members and supporters to strengthen a positive environment within our sport that promotes the safety, respect and prevention of abuse on all levels (emotional, physical, sexual, etc.) for all members of the national governing body.

Find out more about what USATF means by three-step compliance, who's required to be compliant, and how to get it [here](#)

You can find USATF members who are three-step compliant [here](#):

Are you a parent who wants to understand more about how Safe Sport keeps your child safe? [Here](#) are resources for parents.

For questions or comments about Safe Sport, please contact **Safe Sport Coordinator, Brian Jones**, at asvc@lakeerie.usatf.org.

The Bell Lap



Interested in joining a running club? Here is a list of the current USATF-affiliated clubs in the Lake Erie Association:

<https://usatf.sport80.com/public/widget/2>

The National Officials' Committee puts out a great monthly newsletter for USATF officials. Anyone can subscribe here:

<https://us2.list-manage.com/subscribe?>

Phil Pillin competed in cross country at the World Masters Championships in March. (photo by Sheri Liebschner).

Directory of Officers and Committee Chairs

Association Officers

President: Dave Woytek

Vice President: James Henson

Secretary: Sheri Liebschner

Treasurer: Douglas Glass

Board of Directors – At-Large Members

At-Large Member #1: Julie Gauvreau

At-Large Member #2: Matt Ludwig

At-Large Member #3: Charlie Powell

Non-Sport Committees

Associations Chair: Dave Woytek

Athletes Advisory Chair: Matt Ludwig

Athletics for the Disabled Chair: Brian Jones

Awards Chair: James Henson

Coaching Advisory Chair: Charlie Powell

Coaching Education Chair: Charlie Powell

Communications Chair: Donald Porz

Development Chair: Charlie Powell

Equipment Chair: Donald Porz

Law & Legislation/Rules Chair: Kelly Reblin

Marketing Chair: Sheri Liebschner

Medical Services Chair: TBD

Membership Chair: James Henson

Officials Chair: Dave Woytek

SafeSport Chair: Brian Jones

Women's Commission Representative: Kelly Reblin

Sport Committees

Cross Country Running Chair: Phil Pillin

Masters Long Distance Running Chair: Douglas Glass

Masters Track & Field Chair: Donald Porz

Men's Long Distance Running Chair: Luke Hickman

Men's Track & Field Chair: John Matune

Mountain, Ultramarathon, & Trail (MUT) Running Chair: Joe Jurczyk

Race Walking Chair: Emily Belovich

Women's Long Distance Running Chair: Karen McKeehan

Women's Track & Field Chair: Sue McGrath-Powell

Youth Athletics Chair: Brian Jones