

Spring 2026



From the President

This is a landmark year for the USATF Lake Erie Association, as we are proud to host three major USATF National Championships. These include the **2026 USATF Women's 6 km Championship** on July 11 in Canton, the **2026 USATF Masters Outdoor Championships** from July 16–19 in Geneva, and the **2026–27 USATF Club Cross Country National Championships** on December 12 in Norton.

These national events come in addition to our full slate of local Junior Olympic, Open, and Masters Track & Field and Cross Country Championships. As preparations are already underway, we will be relying on the support of volunteers to help make these meets a success. Volunteer sign-up information will be shared with all USATF Lake Erie Association members as it becomes available, and any assistance you can provide is greatly appreciated.

Thank you to all of our athletes, officials, parents, and supporters for your continued dedication and involvement. We look forward to an exciting and successful year ahead.

Dave Woytek
President
USATF Lake Erie Association



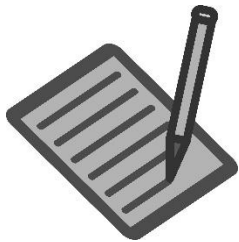
Association News



Association Treasurer Doug Glass has provided a 2025 Financial Report and Audit, and a 2026 Proposed Budget. See those reports [here](#).



USATF Lake Erie is looking for a Medical Services Chair. This person is appointed by the President. All certified trainers/therapists, and medical personnel, (i.e. physicians, nurses, pharmacologists, paramedics, and allied health professionals who are members of the Association and interested in volunteering their services are eligible. Duties include coordinating and providing medical services to Association Championships and, if possible, to other Association sponsored events. For more information and to apply, contact Dave Woytek at president@lakeerie.usatf.org.



Board members and committee chairs attended the USATF Annual Meeting, both virtually and online, in December, 2025. Their reports are [here](#).

Results and Information—Cross Country

If you missed seeing the cross-country edition of the newsletter on the website, or just want to see some athletes running in the snow, click [here](#).

Also, be sure to check out the President's Message on page 1—we're excited to be hosting the **2026–27 USATF Club Cross Country National Championships** here in Northeast Ohio this winter. More details, including how to register and how to volunteer, coming later this year.



Upcoming Lake Erie Events

Here are the events currently scheduled. We may have some more distance running championships to announce at a later date.

2026 Memorial Mile/USATF Lake Erie Association One Mile Road
Race Championships

Date 5/25/26

Location: Boardman, Ohio

2026 Lake Erie Association JO Championships

Date: 6/20/26

Location: SPIRE Academy

2026 USATF Region V JO Championships

Date, location TBD

2026 Lake Erie Association Open & Masters Championship

Date: 6/21/26

Location: SPIRE Academy

2026 Midwest Masters Meet

Date: 6/26-27/26

Location: Hillsdale College

2026 USATF Women's 6K Championships

Date: 7/11/26

Location: Canton

2026 USATF Outdoor Master Championships

Date: 7/16-7/19/26

Location: SPIRE Academy

2026 Lake Erie Association Throws Championships

Date: 9/12/26

Location: SPIRE Academy

2026 Lake Erie Association Cross Country Championships

Date: 11/14/26

Location: Silver Creek Metro Park, Norton

2026 USATF National Cross Country Championships

Date 12/12/26

Location: Silver Creek Metro Park, Norton

Contact USATF Lake Erie Secretary Sheri Liebschner for more
information sheriliebschner@gmail.com

More Upcoming Events



Lake Erie Association is proud to host the **2026 USATF Women's 6km Championship** on July 11 in Canton, as part of the Women's 6K Festival. The elite runners will start at 8:00 a.m. and there will be a race for non-elite women and girls starting at 8:05. Lake Erie Association will have a table at the event. Come by and say hello! More information [here](#).

The **Road Race Series** is back! We encourage you to run in these races at distances from one mile to half-marathon (schedule [here](#)), and there are cash prizes for points winners at the end of the year. Bring your friends! They just need to be a Lake Erie Association member, and can join USATF [here](#). USATF assigns athletes to associations based on residence.

Youth athletes – don't forget to enter the Lake Erie Association Junior Olympics championship. It'll be on June 20 at SPIRE Institute, and you can find the details [here](#).

USATF has scheduled its Youth Championship season events. The Youth Championship season continues with the **National Youth Outdoor Championships** from June 24–27 in Huntsville, AL. The **Junior Olympic Track & Field Championships** will follow July 27–August 2 at Cerritos College in Norwalk, CA, before the season closes with the **Junior Olympic Cross Country Championships** on December 12 in Lafayette, LA.

Para Athletics

Congratulations to **Brian Jones** and **Kenneth Vogt**, who were selected to train as National Technical Officials (NTOs) for the Para Athletics program. NTOs are USA USATF Para Certified Officials who can be the lead para official at a World Para Athletics (WPA) rule run Track & Field meet. For national meets, these officials would be the meet or event referee.

You can find more information about the need for Para Athletics officials and the NTO program [here](#).

2026 Para National Championships: Para National Championships will once again be combined with USATF Outdoor Championships in 2026. The competition will be held in New York City at Icahn Stadium.

Results and Information – Open/Masters

Lake Erie athletes were busy this winter!

First, there was the USATF-Lake Erie Indoor Track and Field Championships, held at SPIRE Institute in Geneva on February 8, 2026. You can see the results [here](#).

Adam Eibling not only competed (he finished second in the high jump, shot put, and weight throw), but he found time to put together [this video](#) of the action. He got most of the events.

Next, many of our athletes competed in the National Masters Indoor Championships, held in late February in Albuquerque, NM. **Barry Kline** (Over the Hill Track Club) finished first in the high jump, **Charles Novak** (unattached) finished first in the 800-meter run and first in the mile; and **Michael Resterhouse** (Amp Up Sports, an LEA club), finished first in the 3000-meter run. (Eastern Buckeye)



Chance DeWerth finished first in his age group in the shot put at the Lake Erie championships. (photo by Sheri Liebschner)



Lake Erie Treasurer Douglas Glass took some time away from his umpire duties to compete in the shot put. (photo by Sheri Liebschner)

Fine performances also were turned in by **Rachel Barnhart** (Amp Up), **Brittany Dorsey** (Amp Up), **Gretchen Etzel** (Amp Up), **Melinda Inks** (Amp Up), **Sheri Liebschner** (Eastern Buckeye), **Marjorie Ludwig** (Amp Up), **Rhonda Uttam** (Amp Up), **Todd Williams** (Amp Up), and **Scott Wisniewski** (Eastern Buckeye).

Several Lake Erie athletes also traveled to the Midwest Masters Indoor Championships, held in March at Taylor University in Upland, Indiana. I told you they were busy!

Congratulations to **Rachael Barnhart**, **Brittany Dorsey**, **Don Groubert**, **Melinda Inks**, **Marjorie Ludwig**, **Phil Pillin**, **Michael Resterhouse**, **Rhonda Uttam**, and **Todd Williams** on their performances.

News for Officials

We would welcome a few more umpires for the **Women's 6K Championships** on July 11 in Canton. Thanks to all who have already applied! If you still have the form in your inbox and haven't gotten around to submitting it, it's due May 15. If you need the form or have questions, contact Karen McKeehan at wldr@lakeerie.usatf.org.

Congratulations to all our officials who were selected for national meets this year!

2026 NCAA Division II Indoor Track & Field Championships

Virginia Beach Sports Complex – Virginia Beach, VA

Karen McKeehan, Umpire; David Woytek, Field Referee

2026 NCAA Division III Indoor Track & Field Championships

Michael Edelman, Umpire; John Matune, Pole Vault Lead; Susan Pete, Clerk;
Donald Porz, Horizontal Jumps; Kenneth Vogt, Umpire

2026 NCAA Division I Outdoor Track & Field Championships – West First Round

Douglas Glass, Umpire

2026 NCAA Division I Outdoor Track & Field Championships – Final Site

John Matune – Pole Vault

2026 NCAA Division III Outdoor Track & Field Championships

Michael Edelman, Umpire: Geoff Malcomson, High Jump; Karen McKeehan,
Umpire; Susan Pete, Combined Events Coordinator; Kerri Peterson-Davis,
Umpire

USATF Indoor Combined Events Championship

Julie Gauvreau, Long Jump, High Jump

USATF Indoor Championships

Douglas Glass, Lead Umpire; Donald
Porz, Horizontal Jumps

USATF U20 Championships

John Matune – Pole Vault

USATF Senior/Para Outdoor Championships

Julie Gauvreau, High Jump; John Matune,
Pole Vault; Donald Porz, Horizontal
Jumps; Christine Stancliff, Lead
Implements; David Woytek, EDM

USATF National Masters Championships

Terry Armstead; Marshal; Karen Dobbs,
Horizontals; Dennis Gauntner, Javelin;
Douglas Glass, Umpire; Jim Henson,
Javelin; Richard Hughes, Pole Vault; Brian
Jones, Finish Line; Bridgette Longino-
Thomas, Clerk; Tony Longino-Thomas,
Start Crew; Geoff Malcomson, Pole Vault;
John Matune, Pole Vault; Deb Molnar,
Start Crew; Chris Mullan, Shot Put; Tricia
Mullan, High Jump; Susan Pete, Clerk;
Phillip Pillin, Horizontals; Glenn Shelly,
Javelin; Lyle Shull, Discus; Christine
Stancliff, Implements,



*Many Lake Erie officials travel out of state for meets. Here, **Doug Smith, Christine Stancliff, Douglas Glass, and Phil Pillin** enjoy some sunshine in Myrtle Beach, SC.*

No qualifying marks needed!

Lace up your shoes and join us this summer.

*Many athletes do not believe that they are fast enough to compete, but I believe that once an athlete decides to compete in a Championship, he or she will be hooked! – **Phil Pillin**, runner*

Any USATF member in good standing who is 25 or older as of July 16, 2026, can compete in the **USATF Masters Outdoor Championships**, held from July 16-20 at SPIRE Institute in Geneva, Ohio. You can find all the details, including an application form and tentative schedule, [here](#). It's not just running – there also will be competition in the horizontal and vertical jumps, as well as shot put, javelin, discus, weight, and hammer.

*I had the opportunity to compete in last summer's USATF Masters Track and Field Championships in Huntsville, Alabama, and it was an incredibly rewarding experience. The competition was outstanding, but what stood out the most was the atmosphere – one built on mutual respect and genuine encouragement for every athlete. – **Pete Boyd**, runner*

*I loved the atmosphere at Nationals last year and couldn't wait until this past winter when I was able to start competing again. – **Jeannette Boyd**, runner*

Due to logistics, the 10K race will be run on the roads around Geneva. Bring your friends! If they're not already a USATF member, they can join [here](#).

*Nationals are usually pretty competitive and there is a lot of talent. But it is also a friendly meet for everyone. What kind of meet would it be anyway if only the people who figured they could medal would show up? It's also a terrific opportunity to see some pretty exciting competition. – **Sheri Liebschner**, sprinter, thrower, jumper*

The on-time deadline is Tuesday, June 16, at 11:50 p.m., and the late deadline is a week later, June 23.

*Okay, you all sold me. As soon as I decide between the 5K and 10K, I'll sign up. – **Karen McKeehan**, runner and soon-to-be-first-time Nationals competitor*

Want to test yourself before this meet? Come on out to the **USATF-Lake Erie Association Open & Masters Championships** on June 21 at SPIRE. Details [here](#).

*Competing at the USATF Lake Erie Track & Field Championships is always a great experience. The environment is incredibly welcoming and encouraging, with athletes supporting one another, regardless of ability level. Egos are checked at the gate – everyone is there to challenge themselves, enjoy the competition, and simply do their best. It's a reminder of what makes track and field special; effort, community, and a shared love of the sport. – **Pete Boyd***

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, Tony Longino-Thomas**, at asvc@lakeerie.usatf.org.

The Bell Lap



Joyce Prohaska competed in the 3000-meter race walk at the LEA championships. (photo by Sheri Liebschner).

We have teamed up with Final Score Sporting Goods in Parma to offer Lake Erie Association members USATF Lake Erie apparel (Shirts, jackets, hats, and pants). Items can be ordered on their website [here](#).

If you are a certified official "Certified Official" can be added to most items.

The National Officials' Committee puts out a great monthly newsletter for USATF officials. Anyone can subscribe [here](#).

With so many great events on our schedule this year, why not encourage your friends to join USATF? The events include throws, jumps, track and cross-country races, and distance races. They can join USATF [here](#).

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>

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: Julie Gauvreau

At-Large Member: Matt Ludwig

At-Large Member: 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: Tony Longino-Thomas

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

For email addresses, go [here](#) and click on a name.