

# U.S.A. PLOWING ORGANIZATION

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Director: Robert Miller  
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Director: Michael Fitz  
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Director: Don Klehm  
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WEB SITE FOR USAPO: <http://usapo.org>

## USAPO National Plow Competition in Marshalltown IA October 25, 2021

Well, the 2021 National Plowing Contest was a resounding success. The USAPO National meet was held August 11-14, 2021 in Conrad, IA on Kevin Holl's farm. The IA State Championships were held on Wednesday August 11. The land used for practice and competition appeared to be seeded to in rye grass after the recent harvest. Standard classes were offered; Antique, Open, Small Plow, and Reversible for Senior and Junior participation. There was no significant rain in the area but recent moisture made the land perfect for plowing. The match was organized by the Iowa State Plowing Association with special thanks to Kevin Holl, Mike Fitz, Brianna Williams, and Ray Elsberry, plus many others in the club.

There was more than just plowing in IA this week. The IA club sponsored an agriculture expo of sorts with displays and invited organizations. I personally visited with the ISU team about the benefits of minimum tillage and soil conservation efforts. I've mixed feelings on this being from an older generation and not having to make a living farming. I also enjoyed the farm equipment displays and the ability to buy fuel onsite supplied by the Farm Service. I also cannot say enough about the Tama County Pork Producers BBQ Pork sandwiches, the Pie Lady, and the rootbeer floats. Smokin' G's Barbeque catered the National Plowmen's Banquet on Thursday night.

From my point of view the 2021 National Match was very well organized with good plowing conditions. The soil conditions were excellent for the competition.

The top placings of the results are listed below.

#### National Open

1<sup>st</sup> Mike Winkler IL (203pts)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Ron Kremer OH (201pts)  
3<sup>rd</sup> John Gaard SD (198pts)

#### National Antique

1<sup>st</sup> Nick Ollinger IA (237pts)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Erick Kuck OH (230pts)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Rick Wolf IL (222pts)

#### National Junior Open

1<sup>st</sup> Trent Iburg IA (117pts)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Patyn Heistand OH (106pts)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Gage Schaffer OH (100pts)

#### National Junior Antique

1<sup>st</sup> Zane Hissong OH (105pts)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Kaleb Krogman OH (97pts)

#### National Junior Small Plow

1<sup>st</sup> Thomas Gower OH (98pts)

#### National Small Plow

1<sup>st</sup> Gene Gruber MN (305+301=606pts)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Hailey Gruber MN (235+264=499pts)  
3<sup>rd</sup> John O'Brien CA (246+250=496pts)

#### National Reversible

1<sup>st</sup> Kevin Albrecht SD (200+131=331pts)

#### 2021 Spirit Award goes to Marian Miller

I want to personally thank Marian for working the USAPO main desk. The value of her help is immeasurable. Without her you all would have to deal with me and she is so much more organized. I can't tell you enough how much I appreciate her and Bob helping out.

#### 2021 Sportsmanship Award goes to Kevin Holl

A special thanks to Kevin for allowing us to play on his farm. I know there was a tremendous amount of work preparing the land and the plow sites. I know he had a number of hardworking helpers including Mike Fitz, Ray Elsberry, and Brianna Williams in organizing the food, the fuel, and the displays. I know there were many more that helped as well and I want to thank you all. Congratulations Kevin.

Joel Wagner, Sec-Treasurer

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# USAPO Annual General Membership Meeting Minutes

## August 12, 2021

Meeting called to order at 7:40pm

President's comments:

Members are encouraged to checkout the Facebook page for plowing.  
The USAPO recognizes legacy plowman Dick Pedersen.  
Thanks to all for helping in Baudette MN.

Minutes of last General Membership meeting reviewed.

Lyle Grimm moved to approve. Mike Rhoades seconded. Passed.

Treasurer's report was presented:

Starting Balance from last meeting on 7/30/2020	\$10398.50
Income:	
Dues collected	\$2790.00
2020 National Entry Fees	\$675.00
2020 National Pin Sales	\$39.00
2020 National Fee	\$4000.00
2021 National Fee	\$4500.00
Donations to USAPO	\$145.00
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	\$22547.50
Expenditures:	
Newsletter Costs	-\$889.38
USAPO Insurance (Phelan Ins.)	-\$535.00
2020 National Awards	-\$925.00
2021 National Trophies	-\$908.50
WPO Dues for 2020	-\$3251.74
WPO Dues for 2021	-\$1679.69
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	-\$8189.31
Net Bank Balance	\$14358.19
Outstanding Debts for Office Costs and Newsletters	\$694.08

Mike Rhoades moved to accept. Dave Postlethwait seconded. Passed.

State Reports:

SD – John Gaard. Next two weekends for SD meets.

IA - Mike Fitz. No additional reporting.

OH – Mike Rhoades. 30+ plowpersons competed in the OH State Championship.

MN – Mike Penas. August 26, 27 for MN State Contest. Planning on Farmfest for 2022 USAPO National.

CT – Joel Wagner. No report.

IL – Don Klehm. No report.

PA – Bob Miller. May PA State Meet.

WPO Report – Conrad Gruber. Russia scheduled for 8/2022. Ireland scheduled for 2023.

New Business:

Floor open to discussion –

Don Kehm suggested that the Small Plow Class be split into a Small Plow Match Class and a Small Plow Open Class. This would provide for a 2-day plowing opportunity for those without match (competition plows) wanting to do an opening split but would not be competing against the competition-plow competitors. It was suggested that the overall winner of the Small Plow Class, regardless of Small Plow Division Class, would represent the USAPO at the next WPO meet.

Don also suggested that maybe all classes should do an opening split.

[JHW suggests that the State Representatives get feedback from their organizations on these suggestions. I've heard from one state already and the general response was not to increase plowing time for the Open and Antique Classes. Additional feedback was that the winner of the proposed Small Plow Match Class should represent the USAPO at the next WPO meet.]

Don Klehm moved to adjourn. Mike Fitz seconded. Passed.  
Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

Joel Wagner, Sec-Treasurer

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# USAPO Directors Meeting Minutes

## August 11, 2021

A USAPO board of directors was held in Marshalltown, IA. Called to order by Pres. John Gaard at 8:29pm Central time on August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Directors present were: John Gaard-SD, Robert Miller-PA, Joel Wagner-CT, Michael Fitz-IA, Mike Penas-MN, Don Klehm-IL, and Michael Rhoades-OH.

Previous Minutes - Previous meeting minutes from February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021 were reviewed. There were questions about the 2021 WPO dues as there were no WPO meets in 2020 and 2021. There was a suggestion of an audit of the WPO financials.

Don Klehm moved to approve the minutes, Mike Fitz seconded. Passed

Financial Report - The financial report from the last director's meeting of February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021 till the present was read.

Treasurer's report was presented:

Starting Balance from last meeting on 2/13/2021	\$14258.18
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Income:

Dues collected	\$1740.00
2021 National Fee	\$4500.00
Donations to USAPO	\$145.00
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	\$20643.18

Expenditures:

Newsletter Costs	-\$445.06
2021 National Trophies	-\$908.50
WPO Dues for 2020	-\$3251.74
WPO Dues for 2021	-\$1679.69
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	-\$6284.99

Net Bank Balance	\$14358.19
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Outstanding Debts for Office Costs and Newsletters	\$694.08
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Mike Rhoades moved to accept the financial report and the payment of bills outlined in the financial report. Seconded by Mike Fitz. Passed.

Old Business:

Discussion to update USAPO bylaws. JHW to send out bylaws to directors.

New Business:

WPO Report – Conrad Gruber. Nothing outstanding at this time. Possibly 25% of regular WPO dues for 2022.

State Reports –

SD – John Gaard. Land for 2024 may be available.

OH – Mike Rhoades. 37 competitors at the 2021 OH State Championship.

CT – Joel Wagner. Nothing to report.

PA – Bob Miller. PA States in May had a good turnout and went well (JHW missed this one, 1<sup>st</sup> time in many years). There will be no PW participation at the 2021 USAPO National. Regarding PA holding the National in 2023, no official meeting yet to discuss. Williams Grove field was purchased by the local show and flea market organizers. They are looking for PA to hold the 2023 National there. Bob to check out.

MN – Mike Penas. MN State Match in a couple of weeks. 2022 USAPO National may have to move to another venue. Stay tuned.

IL – Don Klehm. No report.

IA – Mike Fitz. 2021 IA State match completed. 2021 National ongoing. IA to conduct special ceremonies at the banquet at 6:30pm.

Open discussion –

Mike discussion of a Small Plow Open Class and a Small Plow Match Class (or World Class). Directors to take back to states to discuss and get feedback.

Adjourn –

Mike Fitz moved to adjourn. Don Klehm seconded. Passed.

Adjourned.

Joel Wagner, Sec-Treasurer

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**Make Check Payable to USAPO Dues \$30.00 for year(s)**\_\_\_\_\_

**Name**\_\_\_\_\_

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**Discontinue membership (sign)**\_\_\_\_\_

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**Discontinue membership (sign)**\_\_\_\_\_

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**Discontinue membership (sign)**\_\_\_\_\_

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