

U.S.A. PLOWING ORGANIZATION

Pres: Michael Rhoades
8572 Fisher Dangler Rd., Union City, OH 45390
Phone: 937-423-0668

Vice-Pres: Mike Penas
18282 Lace Ave., Hutchinson, MN 55350
Phone: 320-296-9592

Sec'y-Treas: Joel Wagner
203 Clearfield Rd., Wethersfield, CT 06109
Phone: 860-882-9731

Director: Kevin Albrecht
44565 277th St., Marion, SD 57043
Phone: 605-941-0650



Director: Robert Miller
548 Miller Rd., Millersburg, PA 17061
Phone: 717-692-2443

Director: Michael Fitz
2071 290th Str., Melbourne IA, 50116
Phone: 641-751-9500

Director: Don Klehm
13543 N 2700 E Rd., Forrest, IL 61741
Phone: 815-832-4449

WPO Rep: Conrad Gruber
33009 Co. Rd. 14, Paynesville, MN 56362
Phone: 320-249-9310

WEB SITE FOR USAPO: <http://usapo.org>

Hello friends. Hope you all had a great summer. I'm writing most of this before going to Czech Republic with Kevin and Ray but will be mailing out when I get back. Hopefully by then I've received pictures from the 2025 National Plowing Contest will be held in Ansonia, OH. There are many things to report including 1) our 2025 USAPO National results in OH, 2) a USAPO Director's meeting, and 3) the USAPO General membership meeting. Let's get into it.

USAPO National Plowing Competition in Ansonia OH August 7th through the 9th, 2025

The 2025 USAPO National meet was held August 7th through the 9th in Ansonia, OH. That is a bit North North West of Greenville. The OH State match was held before the National with concurrent USAPO National practice times. The weather was sunny and I would say on the hot side. The National was held on Dale Dirksen's land in Ansonia with what looked like oat or wheat stubble cover. Mike Rhoades had fabricated a scratch machine that threw the scratch dirt about 10 ft from the scratch so no raking by the plowpersons was needed. The soil conditions were good. Seemed a bit dry in the top 2 inches or so but there was good moisture underneath for good plowing. I would venture that plowing was good whether one had steel boards or plastics. At no time did I see any sticking to the boards. There was plenty of available land for practicing including some space for the Kverneland Challenge. Thanks to Dale and Karen for hosting the USAPO National plow match. Lastly, we had guest plowpersons from Ontario; Brian Davenport, Barry DeGreer, and Tom Evans. Our Ontario friends helped with some of the judging (thanks also to Daryll from Ontario) for which we are very grateful for their expertise.

Standard classes were offered for the USAPO National, namely, Antique, Open, Small Plow, Vintage Small Plow, and Reversible for senior and junior participation. Again, Ohio had a good contingent of plowpersons making up about half of the national contestants (18 of the 34 total plowpersons). The OH Plowing Organization did a super job pulling off the event with a banquet tent, a fully catered banquet, readily available facilities, and on-site food vendor.

The 2025 USAPO National Match was organized by the Ohio State Plowing Association with special thanks to Mike Rhoades and Linda Rhoades and the rest of the Ohio Organization. The food truck had great pulled pork sandwiches plus other items and I especially was thankful for the ice cream sandwiches. The banquet was held at the plowsite and was a tremendous meal.

The top placings of the results are listed below.

National Open

1 st	Jacob Loehr	MN (230pts)
2 nd	Nick Ollinger	IA (228pts)
3 rd	Mike Chouanard	MN (220pts)

National Antique

1 st	Eric Kuck	OH (190pts)
2 nd	Andrew Kuck	OH (188pts)
3 rd	Lyle Grimm	IA (185pts)

National Small Plow

1 st	Gene Gruber	MN (285+293=578pts)
2 nd	Hailey Gruber	MN (277+286=563pts)
3 rd	Ray Elsberry	IA (258+250=508pts)

National Vintage Small Plow

1 st	Joe Loehr	MN (261+252=513pts)
2 nd	John Gaard	SD (261+236=497pts)
3 rd	Mike Penas	MN (245+242=487pts)

National Reversible

1 st	Kevin Albrecht	SD (121+123=244pts)
2 nd	Dale Dirksen	OH (122+106=228pts)

National Junior Open

1 st	Colton Hiestand	OH (111pts)
2 nd	Colton Weimer	OH (78pts)
3 rd	Forrest Fourman	OH (58pts)

National Junior Small Plow

1 st	Brennan Gower	OH (123pts)
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Competition notes – Good showing for OH with 7 trophy winners. I was glad to see lots of juniors competing this year. It's a long trip to make from the other states but I am so glad the sport is still very active. Competition was fierce in the Open and Antique classes as the scores were pretty tight. MN came for business with Joe Loehr and Mike Penas both getting good trophy positions. The Grubers swept the top two spots on Small Plow. Our Ontario friends also did very well with Brian Davenport getting a 558 and Barry DeGreer putting up a 535. Tom Evans came to town with a brand new reversible plow and was still sorting some things out but I was very impressed with his plowing using standard equipment,

2025 Spirit Award goes to Linda Rhoades

Linda works very hard for the Ohio organization and certainly worked very hard with her team at the USAPO National.

2025 Sportsmanship Award goes to Mike Rhoades

Mike did a fantastic job organizing the 2025 USAPO National Meet with his Ohio team. The grounds supplied by Dale Dirksen were in good shape and all appreciated the tent for resting and the banquet. Congratulations Mike.

Here are pictures of some of the USAPO National Plowpersons followed by your 2025 USAPO winners. I'm sorry I cannot include all the pictures I've received and hope you understand.



Mike Rhoades invested a lot of personal time that resulted in these unique and special awards that were handed to the winners. Please forgive me for not having an image for the 2025 USAPO Junior Open Class winners. Maybe we can get that in the next newsletter.



2025 Small Plow



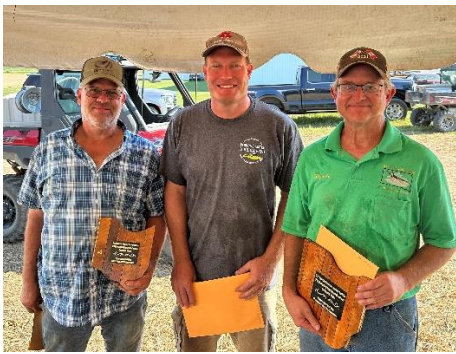
2025 Junior Small Plow



2025 Open



2025 Antique



2025 Reversible + Tom Evans



2025 Vintage Small Plow



2025 Competition Land Hosts



2025 Spirit and Sportsmanship



2025 WPO
Opening Ceremony

WPO Ploughing in Czech Republic –

As late incoming news, Kevin, Ray, and Conrad and I are back from the Czech Republic and the WPO world plowing match. We went over for a pre-practice week of plowing. Conditions were very challenging, hard dry ground that plowed up in large junks of soil. Often the size of large water melons. Many plow persons were struggling as we were. We practiced stubble first and we are convinced our 1st stubble plot ground was packed like a feed lot would be. We moved from the end of the field and found some better ground. After a day of plowing grass we hoped for rain. And it rained and rained. All previous plowing notes were now useless and I had to revert to notes from Latvia. The competition soil was good and had retained the moisture that was needed. Kevin did some excellent reversible plowing with him getting 5th overall. I am proud of my general plowing in stubble but am not so proud of my finish. I probably did the best grass plowing I have ever done but with combined scores ended up 24th overall, not a proud finish for USA in the conventional class.

As a final USAPO note, I need to remind everyone that the directors passed a resolution for a Life Membership. If you are 80 years of age or older or have served USAPO in a leadership role for 10 years, you are eligible. Please call, send me a text, or send me a note to let me know if you would like the Life Membership and I'll get it into the membership record.

On a personal note, I need to let you all know that this is my last newsletter as your USAPO Sec/Treas. I have so enjoyed working with you all over these past few years and will miss these times. I encourage you all to think about who might be able to pick up the efforts for being the USAPO Sec/Treas. I know there are very qualified USAPO members that can do the job and hopefully someone will volunteer for the position.

Sincerely,

Joel H Wagner

Joel Wagner, your USAPO Sec-Treasurer

860 882 9731 cell

jwagsfarm@aol.com

USAPO Directors Meeting Minutes

August 6th 2025

A USAPO board of directors meeting was held in Ansonia OH at the Dale Dirksen farm just prior to the 2025 National Meet. Called to order by Pres. Mike Rhoades-OH at 6:51pm on August 6th 2025. Directors present were: Kevin Albrecht-SD, Robert Miller-PA, Joel Wagner-CT, Mike Fitz-IA, Gene Gruber for Mike Penas-MN, and Don Klehm-IL.

Previous Minutes and Financial Report - Previous Director's Meeting minutes from January 25th 2025 were reviewed including a financial report. MF moved to approve the minutes and financial report, DK seconded. Passed

USAPO Financial Report from January 25th 2025 to August 6th 2025

Checking Balance from January 25 th 2025	\$13788.07
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Income:

Dues	\$570.00
Donations to USAPO	\$100.00
Total	\$14458.07

Expenses:

Phelan Insurance	\$500.00
WPO Dues	\$3068.20
Cost of Newsletters mid 2024 to present	\$863.13
Czech Apparel	\$250.14
Total	\$4681.47

Net Bank Balance as of 12/31/2024	\$9776.60
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Current CD Value	\$10524.27
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Net USAPO Bank Balance	\$20300.87
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JHW informed that the current CD matured January 26 2026.

Old Business –
None

New Business –

Reminder that USAPO is a 501c(3) which makes less than \$50K a year and is there fore a nonprofit not needing to pay Fed tax.

JHW submitted a resignation letter for the Sec/Treas office in the USAPO.

There was significant discussion regarding a new Sec/Treas for USAPO.

There was a motion to change the bylaws that the Sec/Treas position doesn't have to be a director.

The Sec/Treas position would be considered and Officer of USAPO.

Mike and Linda are looking into a CPA of DARKE County OH.

JHW needs to make sure the rent for the USAPO containers in Germany is paid up.

The IA National in 2026 will be the 2nd weekend in August.

The 2026 WPO World Meet will be the 1st week of September.

Mike and Linda printed new USAPO rule books to be handed out by the state's directors.

KA moved to adjourn at 7:40pm. MF seconds. Passed

Joel Wagner, Sec-Treasurer

860 882 9731 cell

jwagsfarm@aol.com

p.s. JHW will remain the Sec/Treas through the 2025 year.

USAPO Annual General Membership Meeting Minutes August 7th 2025

The 2025 General Membership Meeting was called to order on 8/7/2025 by President Mike Rhoades.

Don't forget to register and pay your USAPO dues and vote for the Spirit and Sportsmanship Awards. I want to thank Marian and Bob Miller for dedicating their week for you helping to man the USAPO table.

Special Thanks to Mike and Linda Rhoades for their organization of the 2025 USAPO National Plow Match.

Minutes of last General Membership meeting were briefly discussed.
DK moved to approve. MF seconded. Passed

Financial Report - The financial report from the last general meeting of July 11th, 2024 till the present was read.

Starting Balance from last meeting on 7/11/2024	\$10021.93
Income:	
Dues collected	\$1800.00
2024 National Fee collected	\$4000.00
2024 National Entry Fees	\$725.00
Pin Sales	\$12.00
Uncashed Checks from 2023 as of 12/31/2023	\$200.00
Donations to USAPO	\$260.00
	\$17018.93
Expenditures:	
USAPO Newsletter Costs & Pins	-\$631.08
2024 Award Checks	-\$750.00
Phelan Insurance	-\$1000.00
WPO Dues	-\$3068.20
Estonia Apparel	-\$593.00
Czech Apparel	-\$250.14
Returned Entry Fees	-\$50.00
Bank Fee	-\$36.78
Newsletters mid 2024 to present	-\$863.13
	-\$7242.33
Net Bank Balance per Bank of America Report through July 2025	\$9776.60
Current CD Value	\$10524.27
Net USAPO Bank Balance	\$20300.87

MF moved to accept. DK seconded. Passed

New Business –

John Gaard gave a report of his work as the Social Media Representative of the USAPO. He asks that everyone send pictures from State Plowing Events. Also asks for input as to what media platforms we should be submitting information.

Commenced with drawing of plots.

MF moved to adjourn. Closed at 8:25.

Joel Wagner, Sec-Treasurer

860 882 9731 cell

jwagsfarm@aol.com

See that I'm sending a membership form below for you all to use. If you see a red dot on your address, you are behind in your dues.

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

Name_____

Street Address_____

City_____ **State**_____ **Zip**_____

Home Phone_____ **Cell Phone**_____

Email _____

Discontinue membership (sign)_____