

U.S.A. PLOWING ORGANIZATION

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

USAPO Newsletter: The 2024 National Plow Meet and Directors' Meeting Minutes of March 18th, 2024

Well, the USAPO BOD met in March to discuss the upcoming 2024 National Plow Meet and the 2024 World Meet in Estonia. 2024 National Plowing Contest will be held in Arlington SD. This newsletter is to remind everyone to mark their calendars, start making your plans and make sure you get a room as there is limited hotel accommodations. The USAPO National meet is to be held July 12th and 13th a bit N-NW of Sioux Falls. More information below.

In CT we've had a fairly mild winter. Only used the snow blower once and didn't move any snow with my 1938 JD A with the Horn trip loader. We did have more rain than normal and have had flooding on the Connecticut river valley. As far as I can tell the ground never froze and the ground temperature yesterday was 42 F, too cold to plant corn yet. I did get manure spread and oat field plowed, but too wet and cold for anything else. Kevin tells me oats like a little frost after planting. When the ground dries up again, I'll disk and get my oats in with the Brillion seeder.

I also watch the Midwest weather and there has been significant snow where I had some growing up years SW of Sioux Falls and Belmond IA.

Kevin and I got our plows and tractors back from Latvia earlier this year. I put my steel boards back on and adjusted the plow to get ready to practice. I hope to get to the PA states in May and then on to SD.

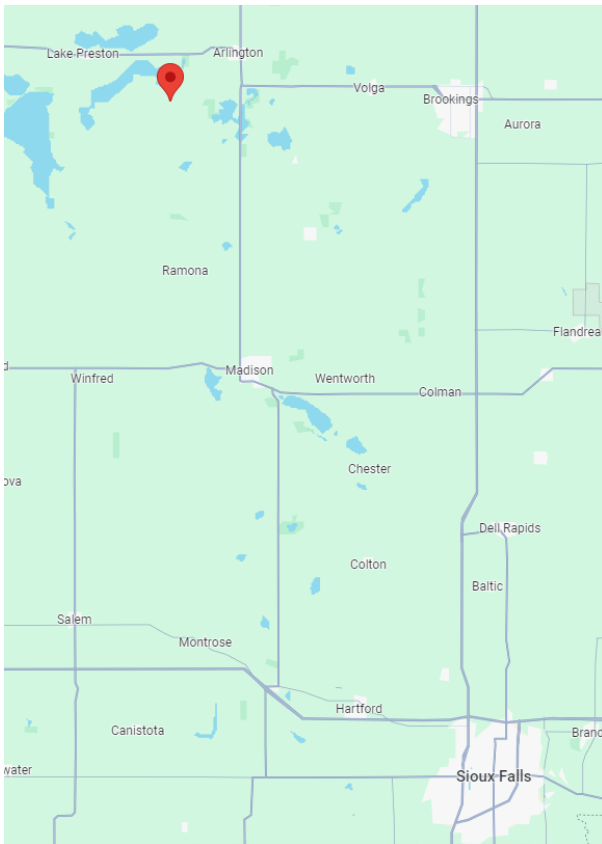
Just so you can all plan your summer; PA in May, SD in early July, OH in early August, World Ploughing in mid-August, MN in late August, IA in September, and then pheasant hunting in Oct-DEC.

Please see USAPO National Contest information below followed by the meeting minutes of the USAPO BOD.

2024 National Plowing Contest

This year's National Plowing Contest is hosted by South Dakota Ploughing Association with kind permission of Brian Erickson and David and Elva Gaard. The street address of the contest site:

44855 212th Street
Arlington, SD 57212



Directions from Arlington, SD: 4 miles west on HWY 14, 3 ½ miles south on 449th Ave, and ½ mile west on 212th Street.

The plow site consists of 72 acres of oat-hay stubble and may not be as heavy as the ground south of Sioux Falls!

The USAPO Nation Plowing Contest Schedule:

Tuesday, July 9	Lay out plots
Wednesday, July 10	Practice and lay out plots 8:00 pm: USAPO director meeting Location TBD
Thursday, July 11	All day: practice 9:00 am: State Antique NOON: State Small Plow/Kverneland Challenge 6:00 pm: Banquet
Friday, July 12	9:00 am: National Small Plow, Vintage Small Plow, and Reversible 2:00 pm: National Antique 4:00 pm: National Garden Tractor and National Junior
Saturday, July 13	9:00 am: National Small Plow, Vintage Small Plow, and Reversible 2:00 pm: National Open 5:00 pm: Awards Ceremony

Hotels:

Arlington Inn
402 S. Highway 81
Arlington, SD 57212
605-983-4609

This hotel only has 21 rooms total and 2 are already booked!

Pheasant Motel
410 East Ash Street
Arlington, SD 57212
605-983-9927

This motel only has 10 rooms! (they also have two 2-bedroom apartments for rent that can sleep 5-6 people)

Food:

Handi-Mart gas station, Arlington
1481 Grille, Arlington (right next to Arlington Inn)
Cardinal Tap, Arlington
Schmidty's Bar and Grille, Arlington

Banquet Location:

American Legion Post 63
103 Main Ave N,
Lake Preston, SD 57249

Equipment Contact:

Kevin Albrecht: 605-941-0650

All represented states need to get the list of plowpersons representing their state to John Gaard, 605-201-1857 or email jdgaard@gmail.com .

USAPO Directors Meeting Minutes

March 18, 2024

A USAPO board of directors meeting was held via telephone meeting. Called to order by Pres. John Gaard at 7:34pm Central time on March 18th, 2024. Directors represented were: John Gaard-SD, Robert Miller-PA, Joel Wagner-CT, Michael Fitz-IA, Mike Penas-MN, Don Klehm-IL, and Michael Rhoades-OH along with Conrad Gruber (USAPO WPO).

Previous Minutes - Previous meeting minutes from August 30th, 2023 were reviewed. Don Klehm moved to approve the minutes. Mike Fitz seconded. Passed

Financial Report - The financial report from the last director's meeting of August 30th, 2023 till the present was read.

Treasurer's report was presented:

Starting Balance from last meeting on 8/11/2021	\$18760.81
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Income:

Dues collected	\$1230.00
2021 National Entry Fees	\$775.00
2023 National Fee	\$4000.00
Donations to USAPO	\$310.00
	<hr/>
	\$6315.00

Expenditures:

Newsletter Costs	-\$717.57
2023 National Awards	-\$750.00
Container Storage for 2023, 2024	-\$397.62
WPO Dues (remainder of 2023 and 2024)	<hr/> -\$3376.34

-\$5241.53

Net Bank Balance as of 3/12/2022

\$19834.28

Don Klehm moved to approve the financial report. Mike Penas seconded. Passed

Joel Wagner recommends putting \$10000 in a CD at the BOA where the checking account is located. Mike Rhoades moved, Fitz seconded to move \$10,000 into a CD for 7 months to a year. Bob Miller – aye, Mike Rhoades – aye, Mike Penas – aye, Mike Fitz – aye, Don Klehm – aye, Joel Wagner – aye. Motion passes

John Gaard was approached by the USAPO representatives going to Estonia this year for procuring new jackets. I believe the old Jackets date back to 2015. Mike Fitz moved to authorize \$750 for updated apparel for the official 5-member USA team. Don Klehm seconds. Mike Fitz moves, Klehm, 2nd to authorize \$750 for apparel for 5 official team members of 2024. Bob Miller – aye, Mike Rhoades – aye, Mike Penas – aye, Mike Fitz – aye, Don Klehm – aye, Joel Wagner – aye. Motion passes

In addition, Joel Wagner still needs to send Mike Rhoades a list of what is in the containers. Mike Rhoades will look into the insurance question posed at the previous director's meeting.

Directors Reports:

Iowa: Looking forward to SD - good slate of competitors. IA State contest in Sept at waterworks in Marshalltown.

IL: Nothing to report.

MN: State contest planned for Lake Wilson, August 23-24 (to be confirmed).

OH: Fundraising Plowboy Dance fundraiser was a success, state contest planned for northern Mercer County the weekend after national contest.

SD: National Contest planning going well.

CT: Nothing to report.

PA: State match scheduled for May 17, close to location of National Contest in 2023.

WPO: WPO meeting recently, dues are up to date.

Estonia details: Aug 16-17, official days 10-18.

Four countries want to rejoin WPO: Lithuania, Macedonia, Slovenia, ...

Future WPO Meets:

2025: Czech Republic

2026: Croatia (end of September – October 3) northeast part

2027: Slovenia (to be confirmed, could be Kenya moved up)

2028: Kenya (or France if Kenya moves up)

2029: New Zealand, March 28-29 Queenstown (NZ will not move up)

World meets scheduled through 2036 Kosovo.

Norway, had a site, did not have finances

The USA plowmen will be shipping the container for Esonia in mid-May from Toronto. Currently it is proposed that the 2024 USA team is Jeremy Nietfeld and Gene Gruber as two conventional plowmen contestants with Kevin Albrecht as the Judge and Hailey Gruber as the Coach with Conrad Gruber as the USA WPO representative. Mike Fitz moved to accept the USA team. Don Klehm 2nd. Passed

Old Business:

No old business at this time.

New Business:

The 2024 USA team going to Estonia was approved by the BOD.

The 2024 USAPO National Contest was discussed and John will email information.

John Gaard to write up rule revisions including clarifying the Junior Class age limit: 18 is the age limit on the day of the contest.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:40pm Central.

Joel Wagner, Sec-Treasurer

860 721 8209 home

860 882 9731 cell

jwagsfarm@aol.com

If you have a question whether your dues are paid, please call me or email. If you get the newsletter by mail, if you have a red dot on your address, your dues are late for 2024.

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)_____

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)_____
