

U.S.A. PLOWING ORGANIZATION

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Phone: 937-423-0668

Vice-Pres: Mike Penas
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Phone: 320-296-9592

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Phone: 605-941-0650



Director: Robert Miller
548 Miller Rd., Millersburg, PA 17061
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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
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WEB SITE FOR USAPO: <http://usapo.org>

USAPO Newsletter: The 2025 National Plow Meet and Directors' Meeting Minutes of January 12th, 2025

The USAPO BOD met in March to discuss the upcoming 2025 National Plow Meet, some rule change updates, and election of officers. 2025 National Plowing Contest will be held in Greenville, OH. 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 August 8th and 9th near Greenville, OH. 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 about 50 F. When the ground dries up again, I'll disk and get my corn in and the 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.

Just so you can all plan your summer; PA in May, OH and USAPO National in early August, IA in late August, World Ploughing in early September, and then pheasant hunting in Oct-Dec.

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

2025 USAPO National Plow Match Greenville, OH Information

- The USAPO National Banquet would be held at the plowsite
- The Banquet will be served wedding-style with 2 meats
- For reservations for the banquet, call Mike Rhoades 937-423-0668
- For equipment, contact Mike Rhoades 937-423-0668
- Hotel accommodations for national contest near Greenville;

Quality Inn

937 569 0970

\$114/ nightly

1190 E Russ Rd, Greenville, Ohio 45331

Holiday Express

937 548 1328

\$153/nightly

1195 E Russ Rd, Greenville, Ohio 45331

Greenville Inn

937 547 0363

\$120/nightly

851 Martin Street, Greenville, Ohio 45331

- Banquet@ plow site Thursday night at 7pm \$15 per person (price includes fried chicken, beef ,mash potatoes ,green beans and assorted pop or water) .
- Banquet reservations need to be to Mike Rhoades 937-423-0668 by July 12
- Contestant information needs be to Mike Rhoades 937-423-0668 by July 12
- Equipment needs call Mike Rhoades 937-423-0668
- Plow site address is 2802 Beamsville/Union City Rd Ansonia Ohio
- There will be food vendors available for breakfast and lunch at the show site.
- For all other questions call Mike Rhoades 937-423-0668
- The Schedule is
 - Wed August 6th Prepractice for both USAPO National and the Ohio State contestants
 - Wed August 6th Afternoon Kverneland Challenge
 - Wed August 6th Evening USAPO Director's Meeting at the plow site
 - Thurs August 7th Ohio State Contest
 - Thurs August 7th evening USAPO National Banquet/Plot Draw
 - Fri August 8th 9am National Antique
 - Fri August 8th noon National Small Plow/Vintage Small Plow/Reversible

- Fri August 8th 4pm National Juniors Plow
- Sat August 9th 9am National Open
- Sat August 9th noon National Small Plow/Vintage Small Plow/Reversible
- Sat August 9th Awards following

USAPO Directors Meeting January 25th, 2025

A USAPO board of directors meeting was held at Don Klehm's home in Illinois. Called to order by Pres. John Gaard at 9:04am Central time on January 25th, 2025. Directors present were: John Gaard-SD, Michael Fitz-IA, Don Klehm-IL, Mike Penas-MN, Michael Rhoades-OH, and Conrad Gruber-WPO. Robert Miller-PA and Joel Wagner-CT were on the phone. Kevin Albrecht and Dale Dirksen were also present.

The minutes of the last director's meeting from July 10th, 2024 were summarized by Joel Wagner. The minutes were corrected in that a vote on changes to the rules was only for clarifying how to break ties. Mike Fitz moved to approve the last director's meeting minutes, Don Klehm seconded, passed.

The financial report for activities from the last director's meeting to present was presented.

USAPO Financial Report from July 10th, 2024 to January 25th, 2025

Checking Balance from July 11, 2024	\$10021.93
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Income:

Dues	\$1230.00
2024 National Fee Collected	\$4000.00
2024 National Entry Fees	\$725.00
Uncashed Checks from 2024 as of 12/31/2024	\$200.00
Donations to USAPO	\$160.00
Sale of Pins	\$12.00
Total	\$16348.93

Expenses:

Phelan Insurance	\$500.00
Returned Entry Fees	\$50.00

Cost of Newsletters Plus Purchase of New USAPO Pins	\$631.08
Bank Fees	\$36.78
Estonia Apparel	\$593.00
2024 USAPO National Cash Awards	\$750.00
Total	\$2560.86

Net Bank Balance as of 12/31/2024 \$13788.07

Outstanding Bills:

WPO Dues	2300.00 GBP
Flowers Sent	\$224.00
Newsletter Costs	\$307.84

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

Director's Reports:

CT – Joel Wagner – Nothing to report.

IA – Mike Fitz – The 2025 IA State Match will be 3rd weekend in Aug in Belmond. The 2024 match was held on Ken Smith's farm. Ray Elsberry agreed to be Coach/Judge in Czech Republic this coming Sept.

MN – Mike Penas – Upcoming MN Board meeting will be used to plan the state match. Discussion about possible 2027 USAPO National match near Austin.

PA – Bob Miller – PA is tentatively planning the PA State Championship meet for May 16 at Jay Wickard's farm.

SD – John Gaard – Since the USAPO National, Aaron Egeberg is the new SD State Plowing Association President and Kevin Albrecht will be the new SD USAPO Director. The 2024 SD State match was held at Prairie Village in Madison.

OH – Mike Rhoades – A plow site at the Dale Dircksen farm has been selected for the 2025 OH State Championship and USAPO National Match scheduled for August 8th and 9th. Hope to put scratch furrows in early. Ample amount of ground to plow: 106 acres. Wheat stubble. Straw will be chopped and spread, not baled. The USAPO National Banquet and Plot Draws will be the evening of August 7th. The plan is to hold the banquet in a tent located at the plow site in Greenville, OH. Hotels in Greenville. 7 miles NW of Greenville on state route 49, turn left on Beamsville-Union City Rd, go ½ west: 2802 street address, north side of the road. Currently dry. See additional information in the Appendix at the end of the newsletter.

IL – Don Klehm – Nothing to report.

WPO – Conrad Gruber – Jeremy Nietfeld and Gene Gruber plowed well in Estonia: Gene 6th overall, Jeremy 12th overall. The WPO is contemplating having a 23-year-old and below award: not a "separate class", more of a rookie award or a separate award for competitors under 23 years old. Participants will be competing for overall results

but could get additional trophies for the younger “class”. Re. the Church service, the Flag Ceremony was held in the center of the town and then all walked to the Church. Spectators stopped and asked plowperson questions about the event. There was a small organizing group in Estonia. WPO may bring up a 3-time competition maximum. WPO board created a committee to improve the finances of the WPO.

The directors approved the 2025 Czech Republic team from USA – Kevin Albrecht (reversible), Joel Wagner (conventional), Ray Elsberry (coach/judge), Conrad Gruber (USA rep to WPO). Mike Rhoades moved to accept, Mike Fitz 2nd, passed.

Kevin preparing to load container to Czech Republic



Discussion on helping KA, JW, RE and CG with expenses to Czech Republic. Mike Rhoades moved to get apparel for JW and RE, Mike Fitz 2nd, passed. USAPO will pay for 2 new jerseys and 2 new light jackets of similar style as used in Estonia.

Old Business:

Rule Changes – Discussion: We need a statement in the Junior's Rules indicating that the junior plowperson must have a supervising adult. Remove the >12" requirement. Clarify when coaching allowed for a junior.

Mike Fitz moves, Mike Rhoades 2nd, to accept the rules revisions as discussed. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote. Changes include: retyping and adding previously adopted revisions, plus the following revisions:

- Junior classes require adult supervision.
- Minimum frame width removed from Small Plow, Vintage Small Plow, and Reversible classes.

- “Competitor must place their sighting poles on the plot numbers” added to Sighting and Setting Out section.
- “All land plowed between the crown and the neighbors plot...” replaced with “The final 12 furrows plowed...” under Method of Plowing.
- Plot diagrams added.
- “(packing plowed ground)” added to “Rolling the plot...” under Penalties.
- “Coaching or assistance from an individual other than the competitor by any means, including by “signal”, radio contact, or mobile phone. This penalty does not apply to the Junior classes.” added to Penalties and Deductions.

New Business:

Approve Directors –

Two-Year Appointments of 3 USAPO Directors: Mike Fitz moved to accept Kevin Albrecht (SD), Mike Penas (MN), and Robert Miller (PA) for another 2 years as directors, seconded by Don Klehm, passed.

Election of Officers:

- Don Klehm moves, Mike Fitz 2nd, to approve Joel Wagner as Sec/Treas. Passes.
- Don Klehm moves, Mike Fitz 2nd, to approve Mike Penas as VP. Passes
- Don Klehm nominates Mike Rhoades for President. Mike Penas moves, Mike Fitz 2nd to close nominations and approve Mike Rhoades by unanimous consent. Passes.

Mike Rhoades assumed the duties of the chair.

Joel Wagner would like directors to let Joel know when members pass away so he can send a memorial.

Adjourn -

Mike Penas moves to adjourn, Fitz 2nd,. Motion passes.

Meeting adjourned 11:34 am Central Time.

Joel Wagner, Sec-Treasurer

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)_____
