

2019 USATF Masters Track and Field Chairman's Report

Rex Harvey, Chair

USATF MTF finished the year with very successful seasons, the details of which are available in the results lists online and in the Masters Track & Field (MTF) official publication: National Masters News (NMN)), the mastersrankings.com site, the records list and much other material found on usatfmasters.org, and on our various social media outlets.

I would like to point out and thank some of the people who support our sport. The quality of our NMN publication has, and is, improving all the time. Thank you Amanda Scotti for all your time and effort. Each issue contains stunning pictures, very interesting interviews, pertinent training and health advice, general and specific information about the administration of our Sport, and upcoming meets etc.

Thank you to Rob Jerome, too, who voluntarily photographs most of our major National and International Championships. There are others as well, who spectacularly photograph our athletes: like Dave Albo, Doug "Shaggy" Smith, and Michael Scott, they contribute a considerable amount of work at no cost.

For service to our Sport Community, I have to specifically mention John Seto who works 20 hours a day to make the Masters Rankings site the marvel that it is; the World source for information on our sport. The information Seto provides is vital. He is deeply involved in many aspects of MTF and without his direct help and data, our Awards, Hall of Fame, World #1 program, and the new upcoming WMA Age Grading update would struggle to compile the necessary information to succeed.

The 2019 Indoor Championships were well attended and conducted at the JDL facility in Greensboro, NC. It was a good warmup for the World Indoor Championships and the Local Organizing Committee provided complimentary pizza and soft drinks for our Athletes Meeting.

This turned out to be the Year of the Midwest. All but one of our national championships were held there. We do make a real effort to move our championships around the US to be fair. Both the indoor Heptathlon and the Decathlon/Heptathlon were held in Wisconsin, and the National Outdoor was held at the excellent T&F facility in Ames, Iowa. Especially pleasing was the very detailed and professional announcing of Blake Bolton, and John Wye; the Drake Relay's Director, and Assistant Announcer respectively. The season finished with the largest Weight Championships ever with over a hundred entrants. The event was excellently planned and conducted by Sue Hallen and Ruth Welding in the Chicago area.

I would like to point out an important Subcommittee, the MTF Historical Subcommittee. Jeff Davidson, and his subcommittee members are constantly at work seeking out, digitizing, and posting as much as possible of the huge paper records of our sport for posterity. All would be eventually lost without their efforts. The site can be found at: mastershistory.org.

The MTF Team USA competed at two international Championships this year and Team USATF Masters can be very proud of what they accomplished. The WMA World Championships in Torun, Poland was a success as our World Number One (W#1) program doubled the US entries numbers from the previous Indoor Championships in Korea. And those over 200 US athletes in attendance earned the second most Gold Medals at the meet. The meet had approximately 900 Polish, 600 German, and 400 English athletes entered.

The WMA Regional Championships for North, Central, and the Caribbean (NCC) Region was held in Toronto, Canada, the site of next years (2020) World Outdoor Championships. Our very fine team of US Athletes dominated the meet, winning almost too many medals to count. Even more importantly, Team USA did it in a friendly manner exhibiting good sportsmanship.

I like to say a special thanks to Phil Greenwald for being our MTF very experienced and hard working Team Manager. There is much more to that job than meets the eye. Phil is very involved in many other aspects of our Sport beyond MTF as well.

I am proud to have helped assemble, and somewhat guided, our USATF MTF Administrative Team that is making great strides in our Masters Sport. We are bringing more and more members into our ranks annually.