



2025 POWERLIFTING AMERICA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

AGENDA

The General Assembly will be conducted in hybrid form. Those that cannot attend in person can participate and vote in the elections and proposed amendments on-line. The link will be sent to members that have applied and met the accreditation standards closer to the General Assembly Meeting.

The Reno Ballroom
401 N Center St, Reno, NV 89501

Friday, May 30, 2025
5:00pm

AGENDA

Introductions

1. Roll Call of Delegates
2. Accept the Agenda
3. Approve the Minutes from 2024 General Assembly
4. Executive Committee Reports
 - President
 - Vice President
 - Secretary General
 - Treasurer
 - Law and Legislation Chair
 - Executive Director
5. Regional Director reports
 - Region 1 Northeast, Steve Mann
 - Region 2 Southeast, Mark Leebrick

- Region 3 Central, Rick Fowler
- Region 4 Southwest, Marty Agoes
- Region 5 West, Tim Mercer
- 6. Committee reports
 - Technical Committee
 - Athletes' Committee
- 7. Unfinished Business
- 8. Proposals and Amendments
- 9. Elections
 - Regional Director Candidates
 - Northeast Region - Steve Mann
 - Southeast Region - Mark Leebrick
 - Athlete Committee Co-Chair Candidates
 - Andrew (Drew) Cargill
 - Barbara Beaudin
 - Bonica Brown
 - Ian Bell
 - LS McClain
- 10. New Business

Memorandum of Understanding Signing with Special Olympics North America

Message from USADA

- 11. Adjournment



2025 GENERAL ASSEMBLY MINUTES

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The Reno Ballroom

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Friday, May 30, 2025

5:00pm

AGENDA

ROLL CALL - Board Members

President	Robert Keller
Acting Vice President	Bill Clayton
Secretary General	Miryam Gutier-Elm
Treasurer	Tamara Lopes

Regional Directors

Southeast Region	Mark Leebrick
Northeast Region	Steve Mann
Central Region	Rick Fowler
Southwest Region	Marty Agoes
West Region	Tim Mercer

Committee Chairs

Technical Committee	Bill Clayton
Law and Legislation Committee	Maura Shuttleworth
Athlete Committee Co-Chair	Melissa Copeland

Athlete Committee Co-Chair LS McClain

ROLL CALL Voting Delegates

Minutes for 2024 GA Meeting

Motion to accept the Minutes of 2024 General Assembly [2024 General Assembly Minutes](#)

Approve Minutes

Accept 48

Not Accept 0

Abstentions 3

ACCEPT THE AGENDA

Approve Agenda

Accept 45

Not Accept 0

Abstentions 0

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

President, Robert Keller

Thank You to our Staff, Championship Directors, Coaches, and Volunteers!

To begin this year's report, I want to send a huge thank you to the entire Powerlifting America staff – Miryam Gutier-Elm, Secretary General, Bill Clayton – Interim Vice President/Technical Committee Chairman, Tamara Lopes – Treasurer, Mike Zawilinski – Executive Director, Luke Mellon – Operations Manager, John Helmich – Office Assistant, Maura Shuttleworth – EC Member/Law and Legislation Chairman. These people direct our day-to-day operations with an ever-growing and thriving organization with our sites to 10,000 members this year. Your hard work, dedication, and professionalism do not go unnoticed. Additionally, I want to thank our Regional Directors for their steady and professional work in developing Powerlifting America in their assigned States – Steve Mann, Mark Leebrick, Rick Fowler, Martin Agoes, and Tim Mercer.

I want to take this opportunity to also thank our dynamic Athlete Representatives – Melissa Copeland and LS McClain. Your athletes' representatives ensure your "voice" is heard loud and clear. Next, I want to personally thank our National Team Coaches – Bench Press, Steve Petrencak, and Dana Rosenzweig; Classic Open – Mike Zawilinski and Rodney Elm. I also want to note the additional important work provided by Matt

Gary and Sioux-z Gary last year. Sub-Junior and Junior Team – John Burford, Thomas Beale, and Casey Calderone; Masters Team– Tamara and Robert Lopes, and our University Team coaches, Rich Wenner, and Diana Hernandez. I also want to thank Dr. Trey Cunningham, the Director of Strategic Partnerships, as well as Marshall and Megan Powell, and their team, for overseeing media relations. And to every referee, volunteer, and team manager — you are the silent heroes that make all of this happen. We see you. We thank you.

From organizing seamless events to creating a welcoming and supportive environment for athletes, coaches, and spectators alike, you are the backbone of this sport in America. Thank you for all that you do to keep powerlifting thriving in the U.S.

In Memoriam – William “Bill” Helmich, Vice-President, Powerlifting America

It is with great sadness that I share with you the recent passing of Mr. William “Bill” Helmich, the Vice-President of Powerlifting America.

Helmich had an extensive competitive career, securing numerous National and World Masters titles and records across various age divisions. Notably, he clinched gold medals at the IPF World Masters Powerlifting Championships in 2013, 2014, and 2018, and achieved a personal best total of 1,556.4 lb. total.

Helmich's legacy is marked by his unwavering dedication and passion for the sport of powerlifting and his significant impact on the community, world-wide. His contributions as an athlete, International Category I referee, and US National Team Coach have left an indelible mark on the sport, and more importantly the athletes. As one of the original founders of Powerlifting America, he will be remembered not only for his achievements, but also for his dedication to the growth and integrity of powerlifting.

Professionally, through his private consulting firm, Bill provided training for many of the Indian tribal organizations throughout the United States. Helmich's work involved collaborations with federal agencies like the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Bureau of Reclamation, focusing on professional services and training for tribal employees. His consulting services have been instrumental in supporting tribal organizations in navigating federal regulations and improving internal operations.

Lastly, Bill Helmich was a military veteran and was a graduate of the United States Air Force Academy (USAFA). Interestingly, his graduation ceremony featured General Curtis E. LeMay, then Chief of Staff of the U.S. Air Force, as the speaker. Lt. Gen. James Ferguson presented the commissions, while General LeMay also presented the diplomas. The Class of 1964 is recognized for its distinguished service, with many

members of the class receiving commendations. Their legacy is celebrated through their reunions and memorials, reflecting their significant contributions to the Air Force and to our nation. Bill graduated with advanced degrees in both Nuclear Physics from the University of California – Davis, and an MBA from the University of New Mexico.

For those wishing to honor Bill's memory, we request that you support the powerlifting community, which he cherished so much. This would be a fitting tribute to honor Bill.

On behalf of the Powerlifting America Executive Committee and the Board of Directors, our sincerest condolences go out to Bill's family and friends. Bill, rest in peace – We shall forever miss you.

Special thanks to our Strategic Partners

Our growth and success would not have been possible without the generous contributions from our strategic partners. They are:

Eleiko USA
SBD USA
Avancus
Evolve

They're outstanding companies and I respectfully request that you support each one. Thank you!

United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA)

During 2024, we expanded our testing program to include Education, local events, and the establishment of and Out of Competition testing that went into effect during 2025. Once more, I want to send a heartfelt thank you to Mr. Travis Tygart, the CEO of USADA, and to Ms. Victoria Patterson, our Program Director, for your guidance in creating one of the most robust testing programs in the US. Thank you for your unwavering commitment to ensuring fairness, integrity, and clean sport. Your work ensures that athletes can compete on a level playing field and the values of honesty and hard work remain at the heart of competition. Your efforts are truly appreciated!

IPF Leadership Change

Gaston Parage for personal and professional reasons resigned as president of the International Powerlifting Federation (IPF) on March 11, 2025, after serving for over 13 years. His departure marked the end of one of the longest presidencies in the federation's history. The reasons for his departure were of significant disappointment.

Nevertheless, following his resignation, Sigurjon Petursson of Iceland was appointed as the interim acting president. Dietmar Wolf became the acting VP and will continue as the Treasurer as well. I will remain as the Secretary General for another two years, until my term is complete. Overall, Gaston Parage's tenure was marked by significant growth and development within the IPF, including efforts toward IOC recognition and the expansion of global competitions. Elections will be held on June 11, 2025, in Chemnitz, Germany, prior to the start of the General Assembly to fill the vacant position.

On behalf of the athletes, I want to close by sending a sincere thank you to IPF President Sigurjon Petursson and the entire IPF Executive Committee for both their encouragement and support of Powerlifting America.

Powerlifting America Elections

National Governing Body (NGB) elections are crucial for the governance and future direction of sports organizations. They play a significant role in ensuring that sports bodies are run effectively, transparently, and in the best interests of the athletes, coaches, and stakeholders. Powerlifting America held its first set of elections last year. I'm very proud to have been elected your president for a four-year term.

My congratulations to Miryam Gutier-Elm for being elected as your Secretary General for an additional 4 years. My congratulations to Arian Khamesi for running an excellent campaign, and I wish him continued success in the future. Most importantly, I want to thank Ms. Maura Shuttleworth for her exceptional work in directing a seamless election – extremely well done, and thank you.

This year, we shall have an election for one of our Athlete Representative positions. Once more, a huge thank you goes out to Maura, and her team of volunteers for their exceptional work in organizing the election, which included an online forum for the candidates to present themselves to the membership.

As promised, this year, the membership will be able to vote for their candidate electronically.

Key and important, this will be the first time in the history of our sport, in the United States, a powerlifting federation will vote online.

Overall, NGB elections, where the members vote directly for their candidates, ensure that various stakeholders (athletes, coaches, officials, etc.) have a voice in the governance of their sport. It ensures that the decisions made by the governing body

reflect the needs and concerns of those who are directly impacted by sport, making it more democratic and inclusive.

Sport for All

A special thank you to the Special Olympics Powerlifting — your devotion, commitment, and spirit truly inspire us all. Powerlifting America is proud to support such an amazing organization and group of athletes.

Last year, Powerlifting America worked with the Special Olympics to send 19 athletes to the 21st Annual IPF/NAPF North American Regional Powerlifting Championships, which was held in Scottsdale, Arizona. We also worked with the Special Olympics to send 8 athletes to Iceland for the IPF World Equipped Open Powerlifting Championships.

Powerlifting America volunteers are continuously working to develop Special Olympic Powerlifting in the states of Alabama, Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Tennessee, Indiana and Texas.

Based on our work together, Powerlifting America and Special Olympics shall sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) today, outlining our mutual commitment to develop Special Olympic Powerlifting in the United States.

Another historic and landmark event for the sport of powerlifting in America.

Special thanks to Miryam Gutier-Elm, Craig Pippert, Billy and Claire Keel, Richard Frazier, and Chip Hultquist for making this a reality. Congratulations!

USOPC Recognition

The USOPC (United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee) recognition process shall be one of the organization's major priorities during the remainder of 2024 and into 2025. Our organization, and more importantly, the athletes, deserve this opportunity and recognition for their hard work and successes. The sport of powerlifting in the United States needs to take this major step forward to secure our future.

The USOPC recognition shall provide us with greater opportunities for strategic partnerships with sponsors, corporations, and other organizations that support the Olympic and Paralympic movements through sponsorships, marketing, and other initiatives. More to come!

The Use of Social Media in the Sport of Powerlifting

The use of social media in the sport of powerlifting has become a significant tool for athletes, coaches, and fans to connect, share knowledge, brand, and promote the sport. Powerlifting has seen a rise in visibility and popularity thanks to platforms like Instagram, YouTube, TikTok, and Facebook.

Social media has become an integral part of our daily lives, but it also carries a range of dangers that can affect our athletes. Unfortunately, there are a very small number of members who have chosen to weaponize social media for their agendas and have attempted to harm the volunteers of our organization.

Cyberbullying is a legitimate concern. Social media platforms provide an anonymous space for people to harass, bully, and intimidate others. Social media can be a source of misinformation as well. This can have serious psychological effects, especially for our youth, sub-junior and junior athletes who may feel vulnerable to online attacks. In short, this will not be tolerated at all, and if necessary, it shall be reported to Law Enforcement.

Overall, social media plays an integral role in the growth and development of the sport of powerlifting. It serves as a platform for personal branding, education, community engagement, and marketing. The use of social media has made the sport more accessible, allowing athletes to connect with one another and showcase their passion and dedication to a world-wide audience. While challenges exist, the benefits of social media for the sport of powerlifting far outweigh the drawbacks, creating a space where athletes can thrive both in and out of the gym.

Closing Remark

I want to thank everyone joining us today and wish everyone continued success during 2025.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Robert Keller
President
Powerlifting America
Reno, Nevada
Friday, May 30, 2025

Accept Presidents Report
Accept 42

Not Accept 0
Abstentions 0

Acting Vice President Report, Bill Clayton

Since being asked to fill in for Bill Helmich, I've attended the majority of the Executive Committee weekly conference calls and worked on getting up to speed on the issues being discussed. I've tried to comment/contribute/be involved on issues I had an opinion or thought I could help. I've learned the EC group deals with a large volume of information, decisions, etc. Each of them has different skills but all work very hard on behalf of Powerlifting America. Sometimes there is disagreement amongst the EC & making the best decision for all PA members is difficult at times. The group does work hard to make this organization, for the lifters.

Accept Vice President Report

Accept 45
Not Accept 1
Abstentions 1

Secretary General, Miryam Gutier-Elm

First, thank you to everyone that formally elected me as Secretary General in the election at the 2024 General Assembly Meeting. My priority is to always put the athlete first in every decision and plan, as we continue to grow. This position handles the official communications of the organization and is a very busy volunteer position.

Our Executive Committee meets weekly and many of us speak regularly as we collaborate on projects, policies and decisions that need to be made.

Assisting Technical Chairman Bill Clayton with referee exams and practicals is always a pleasure as growth in the number of our referees able to officiate at meets is valuable in growing events at all levels throughout the U.S. Over the past couple of years I've worked many sessions at National events training Referees on lifting cast, filling out the speaker cards, and scoring rules to ensure we have referees able to fulfill this role at National events.

My days are filled with daily communications with members regarding processes, nationals team questions, nominations, meet specific questions, transferring athletes from other IPF Affiliates, TUE questions, IPF Article 14 questions, member concerns, and many things in between that I address or direct to Executive Director, staff or the person that can address it. I receive substantial communications to and from the IPF much of which are related to information for national teams, policy revisions that are necessary to share with our membership and rule changes in addition to requests from the IPF for information. Lastly, I work to coordinate projects with President Robert Keller and to ensure we are prioritizing policies, projects and tasks with the EC and Board at our regular meetings. Addressing member questions, concerns or complaints throughout the year is a priority and we have worked to ensure all members are heard and that we respond accordingly to resolve issues that may arise.

Given my role includes official communications, I am also tasked with alerting athletes, referees and coaches about the IPF Article 14 and must notify of ineligibility status when it is learned there has been an Article 14 infraction. It is often a difficult reach out to members however, unfortunately, it's a part of being in this role. I responded to many questions throughout the year related to specific scenarios with IPF Constitution Article 14 and have found that education regarding specific scenarios has been a successful tool in sharing awareness regarding this rule. Lastly, thank you to the Athlete Committee who drafted an FAQ for Article 14 along with President Robert Keller. Together we worked to have a Questions and Answers (FAQ) for the most frequent questions I often receive related to IPF Article 14 and these were finalized in an FAQ's document early in 2025. I hope this helps answer many of the questions athletes, referees and coaches have.

I drafted an outline of important deadline dates listed in the PA Constitution related to elections and the communications that are required to go out to members to assist our leadership team in keeping track of important due dates. An adhoc elections committee was created to help ensure that all deadlines were met and additional persons were involved to help draft communications and help keep us on track. The collaboration made a significant difference in the election process and thus far, feedback on the elections has been positive. Thank you to Joah Iannotta and Lilyann Jackson for joining Maura Shuttleworth, Tamara Lopes, Bill Clayton and myself in collaborating on the best methods to communicate and drafting the communications for our membership. We appreciate your dedication to our members in this effort. President Keller ensured that every EC meeting and every Board Meeting listed this topic on the agenda so that the leadership team was on top of this throughout the election period. I look forward to seeing more of these collaborative efforts brought forward to advance communication initiatives.

This past year I participated in the following IPF/NAPF and Powerlifting America National Events::

- IPF General Assembly in Lithuania in June 2024. Officiated at the IPF Classic Open Worlds.
- Directed the 21st Annual NAPF Championships held in Scottsdale AZ, with my husband Rodney Elm, August 2024. 360 Athletes were nominated with 19 US Special Olympics Athletes, the largest SO International level event yet.
- Worked the majority of the National Championship events in 2024 and now in 2025.

National Teams

It's been a pleasure to assist National Team Head Coaches and the invited Athletes by assuring each has submitted the required items and to enter their nominations in the Goodlift System for NAPF and IPF World Championship Events. I believe there were well over 600 nominated athletes in 2024 and I worked with over 100 coaches to verify that requirements were met prior to entering their nomination.

Sport For All Adhoc Committee

Our members of the Sport For All Adhoc Committee (Robert Keller, Billy Keel, Chip Hultquist and myself) devoted many hours to increase participation of Special Olympic Athletes at local meets, nationals and to help send the largest contingency, nineteen of USA Special Olympic Athletes to the IPF / NAPF Championship Events in August and eight athletes to IPF Worlds in November 2024. We Worked extensively with Special Olympics North America and as a part of the Sport Resource Team with SONA, to develop processes and timelines for SO Athlete inclusion at Powerlifting America Age Division Nationals in 2025. We saw 23 Special Olympic Athletes compete in this first year. Our team is making strides on the development of workshops and coaching training clinics for those that work with SO Athletes and are working to recruit additional PA Referees to officiate at SO local level meets throughout the states that we are growing in. These are all areas we will continue to focus on in 2025 as we continue to grow Special Olympics in North America. Additional Sport For All Initiatives are in infancy stages.

Respectfully submitted,

Miryam Gutier-Elm

Secretary General,

Powerlifting America

Accept Secretary General Report

Accept 47

Not Accept 0

Abstentions 6

Treasurer, Tamara Lopes

Dear Members,

It is my privilege to present the Treasurer's Report for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2024. This report reflects the financial activity of Powerlifting America, a 501(c)(3) non-profit and the national governing body for powerlifting in the United States, operating under a cash accounting method.

Overview

Powerlifting America continued to experience meaningful growth and increased operational complexity in 2024, largely due to expanded event offerings, enhanced athlete services, and international commitments. While income was far above our projections and expectations, this year's most significant focus was immense investment into national and international operations, which ultimately resulted in a net operating loss.

Income

Total income for 2024 was \$1,366,206.61, with the three most significant revenue streams being:

- Membership Dues: \$1,016,384.22
- Sales (Merchandise and Product Revenue): \$191,452.20
- Services and Event Registrations: \$158,370.19

Despite not receiving all the foundation grants we applied for, we did receive 100% giving from the executive committee and operational staff, our community-driven financial model through memberships and services remains a reliable base for revenue year after year.

Expenses

Total expenses for the year amounted to \$1,435,776.71, resulting in a net operating loss of \$84,320.35. Including foreign currency exchange losses, our total net income was -\$85,482.24.

Key expense categories included:

- Event Costs: \$795,916.35
 - Major investments in hosting the 2024 IPF World Bench Competition in the U.S., event travel, labor, venue, and referee support.
- Professional Fees & Governance: \$166,850.84
 - Legal, anti-doping, coaching, and operational fees.
- Office and Administrative: \$272,581.79
 - Software, national team fees paid to the IPF, subscriptions, supplies, and services.
- Travel & Vehicle Use: \$44,851.80
 - Rental vehicles (including transport vans to support national operations), plane tickets for staff, spotters/loaders, world team coaches, etc.
- Payroll & Taxes: \$53,160.33

We consciously prioritized investment in athlete experience, technical operations, and infrastructure—areas critical for long-term development and international credibility.

Balance Sheet Highlights (as of December 31, 2024)

- Total Assets: \$170,476.81
 - Includes \$141,466.28 in cash and \$29,010.53 in inventory.
- Total Liabilities: \$37,792.95
 - Includes a loan payable of \$45,457.73 offset by a negative credit card balance.
- Total Equity: \$132,683.86

Despite a deficit year, the organization remains financially solvent and structurally sound. Our cash reserves and sustained membership growth position Powerlifting America well for continued national expansion and international representation in 2025 and beyond.

Looking Ahead

We enter 2025 with renewed focus on:

- Strengthening revenue diversification.
- Pursuing more extensive strategic partnerships and grants.
- Improving operational efficiencies to reduce fixed costs.
- Maintaining our commitment to athlete support, integrity, and international excellence.

In closing, I want to thank our members, volunteers, and partners for your continued trust and dedication. Together, we are building not only a world-class federation but a community that reflects the values and strength of our sport.

Respectfully submitted,

Tamara Lopes

Treasurer, Powerlifting America

Accept Treasurer Report

Accept 53

Not Accept 1

Abstentions 4

Powerlifting America Inc.

Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2024

	TOTAL
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
1000 Wells Fargo SM (2335)	132,022.15
1020 Stripe account	9,444.13
Total Bank Accounts	\$141,466.28
Other Current Assets	
Inventory	29,010.53
Total Other Current Assets	\$29,010.53
Total Current Assets	\$170,476.81
TOTAL ASSETS	\$170,476.81
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Credit Cards	
1010 Amex Platinum x11004	-7,837.61
Total Credit Cards	\$ -7,837.61
Other Current Liabilities	
Florida Department of Revenue Payable	172.83
Loan	45,457.73
Total Other Current Liabilities	\$45,630.56
Total Current Liabilities	\$37,792.95
Total Liabilities	\$37,792.95
Equity	
Owner's Equity	180,789.14
Retained Earnings	37,376.96
Net Income	-85,482.24
Total Equity	\$132,683.86
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$170,476.81

Powerlifting America Inc.

Profit and Loss

January - December 2024

	TOTAL
Income	
Contributed income	
Unrestricted Donation	0.00
Total Contributed income	0.00
Membership Dues	1,016,384.22
Sales	49,996.46
Sales of Product Income	141,325.24
Sales of Product Revenue	130.50
Services	157,470.19
Event Registration	900.00
Total Services	158,370.19
Total Income	\$1,366,206.61
Cost of Goods Sold	
Cost of Goods Sold	8,250.25
Shipping	6,500.00
Total Cost of Goods Sold	\$14,750.25
GROSS PROFIT	\$1,351,456.36
Expenses	
Advertising & marketing	32,830.02
Contract & professional fees	
Accounting fees	1,250.00
Anti Doping Fees	75,000.00
Coaching Fees	24,166.23
Legal fees	59,934.61
Operations	6,500.00
Total Contract & professional fees	166,850.84
Event Costs	
2024 IPF World Competition USA	133,284.84
Event Contract Labor	17,480.77
Event Fees	88,859.15
Event Travel & Lodging	112,393.76
Event Venue Costs	309,982.77
Misc Event Expenses	96,019.55
Referee Fees	17,624.18
Staff Meals	8,271.33
Uniforms	12,000.00
Total Event Costs	795,916.35
Insurance	
Liability insurance	13,328.40
Total Insurance	13,328.40
Merchant Fees - Stripe	29,891.14

Powerlifting America Inc.

Profit and Loss

January - December 2024

	TOTAL
Occupancy	
Rent	2,132.00
Utilities	755.74
Total Occupancy	2,887.74
Office expenses	
Bank fees & service charges	4,987.13
Internet & TV services	2,838.32
Memberships & subscriptions	
Team Fees	139,179.40
Total Memberships & subscriptions	139,179.40
Office supplies	13,519.13
Printing & photocopying	898.15
Shipping & postage	7,609.21
Software & apps	103,550.45
Total Office expenses	272,581.79
Payroll expenses	
Taxes	3,103.67
Wages	49,606.08
Workers' compensation insurance	450.58
Total Payroll expenses	53,160.33
QuickBooks Payments Fees	3,228.90
Reimbursements	18,189.74
Repairs & maintenance	908.64
Supplies	
Supplies & materials	1,151.02
Total Supplies	1,151.02
Travel	
Airfare	14,848.14
Hotels	1,826.08
Taxis or shared rides	1,188.94
Travel Meals	649.83
Vehicle rental	24,091.68
Total Travel	42,604.67
Unapplied Cash Bill Payment Expenditure	0.00
Vehicle expenses	
Parking & tolls	689.02
Vehicle gas & fuel	1,558.11
Total Vehicle expenses	2,247.13
Total Expenses	\$1,435,776.71
NET OPERATING INCOME	\$ -84,320.35

Powerlifting America Inc.

Profit and Loss
January - December 2024

	TOTAL
Other Expenses	
Exchange Gain or Loss	1,161.89
Total Other Expenses	\$1,161.89
NET OTHER INCOME	\$ -1,161.89
NET INCOME	\$ -85,482.24

Law and Legislation,

In 2024, Powerlifting America held its first elections in Austin, Texas as part of Age Nationals/Equipped Nationals. I have been powerlifting since 1999 and this is the first time in my history of powerlifting that all members were able to vote to elect a powerlifting organization's officers. Powerlifting America has ushered in a new era in member participation. The Law and Legislation Committee played a critical role in the 2024 election cycle by credentialing delegates and screening candidates to ensure they met the required qualifications. The Law and Legislation Committee also hosted the first Powerlifting America candidate forum the evening before the General Assembly to offer an opportunity for voter education and to open up voting to those not able to stay for the General Assembly.

As part of the 2024 elections, three constitutional amendments were adopted by the delegates. One important amendment was to require a virtual voting option for those unable to attend the General Assembly. This year, Powerlifting America has procured the services of Election Buddy to run our election in which all delegates will be able to vote on Election Buddy's virtual platform whether they are in-person or virtual. This is a further step to ensuring all members can vote if they choose to participate. This year we have elections for Athlete Committee Co-Chair, as well as two regional directors. Next year, we will see elections for Vice President and Treasurer.

In addition to the virtual voting amendment, in the 2024 election, an amendment for an impeachment clause and an amendment to add the Chair of the Law and Legislation Committee to the Executive Committee were passed.

While Law and Legislation has been busy with elections, there are also confidential matters Law and Legislation has engaged on to ensure the safety of our athletes and health of Powerlifting America.

In the coming year, I will be seeking additional members of the Law and Legislation Committee to help us get some important work done, such as Powerlifting America policies.

Maura Shuttleworth
Law and Legislation Committee Chair

Accept Law and Legislation Committee Report
Accept 48
Not Accept 1
Abstentions 8

Executive Director - Michael Zawilinski

National Office Staff and Contractors

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated National Office Staff and Contractors for their outstanding contributions to Powerlifting America's 2025 season, including our National Championships and daily operations.

- **Luke Mellon, Operations Manager:** Luke has spearheaded our event planning, forging partnerships with Convention and Visitor Bureaus nationwide to secure future venues and obtain city and state grants. He also manages daily operations, customer service, and local sanctioning processes with exceptional leadership.
- **John Helmich, Shipping Manager:** John ensures seamless fulfillment of all online merchandise orders, including our world team tracksuits. This year, he expanded his role by managing the Powerlifting America merchandise booth at our National Championships.
- **Rodney Herbison, Records Database Manager:** Rodney's meticulous attention to detail ensures accurate and timely posting of results and records at all levels, maintaining the integrity of our database.
- **Dr. Trey Cunningham, Director of Strategic Partnerships:** Joining us in 2025, Trey has excelled in securing valuable sponsorships for our organization and National Championships, strengthening our partnerships.

Special recognition goes to **Russ Marr** for transporting all event materials from New Mexico to Reno for the 2025 National Championships. We look forward to continuing our collaboration with Russ as our events grow.

Finally, I express deep appreciation to **Marshall and Megan Powell** and the **Top Set Media crew** for their exceptional management of our social media platforms and their role as Powerlifting America's official media provider for the 2025 Nationals Season.

Sport:80

I am thrilled to announce that our new membership database, developed in collaboration with Sport:80, is nearing completion after six months of development and testing. The platform is on track for a full launch to all members on August 1, 2025. My sincere thanks go to Jack Waddingham, Sport:80's Head of Business Development, and the entire Sport:80 team for their invaluable support in bringing this project to fruition.

Upon launch, the Sport:80 platform will enable us to shift focus to several promised programs and initiatives, all seamlessly integrated into the system. I am particularly excited about introducing our club program, coach certification program, and additional membership benefits, which will enhance the value and experience for our members.

USA Hosted IPF World Championships

In 2024, Powerlifting America proudly hosted the IPF World Bench Press Championships in Austin, Texas, at St. Edward's University. This event set a new benchmark for World Championships both in the United States and globally, and we are committed to elevating this standard in the years ahead. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Rodney and Miryam Elm for organizing the largest-ever North American Regional Championship in Scottsdale, Arizona, which welcomed 12 countries from the region.

Looking forward, Powerlifting America has secured the bid to host the 2026 IPF Masters World Championships in Reno, Nevada, at the Reno Ballroom from October 11-18, 2026. I express my deepest gratitude to Shelli Fine and Nick Saccomanno of the Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority, as well as Elek Sebestyen of Caesars Entertainment, for their unwavering support since our inception. Their partnership has been instrumental in making our Reno events possible, including this year's Age Division Nationals and the upcoming 2026 Masters World Championships.

Communication

Effective communication with our members is a top priority for Powerlifting America. Recognizing past challenges in timely and transparent communication, the National

Office has made significant strides to improve in this area. Our goal is to provide clear, concise, and frequent updates to keep members informed and engaged.

Key initiatives include:

- **Dedicated Member Email:** In 2024, we launched membership@powerlifting-america.com, a distribution list managed by myself, Luke Mellon, and Miryam Elm, ensuring prompt responses to member inquiries.
- **Zendesk Customer Service System:** In partnership with Sport:80, we are implementing a new Zendesk platform to enhance efficiency in addressing member FAQs and correspondence. This system is expected to launch soon.
- **Enhanced Messaging:** The National Office is focused on delivering clearer, more concise communications for National Championships and our recurring newsletter, making information more accessible and digestible.
- **Instagram Updates Channel:** In February 2025, we introduced the Powerlifting America Updates Channel on Instagram, providing real-time updates to our followers. Visit the bio of our Instagram account to explore this feature.

These efforts reflect our commitment to fostering stronger connections with our members. We welcome your feedback to further refine our communication strategies.

Membership Data

- 2022: 1813 total unique members
- 2023: 3137 total unique members
- 2024: 5197 total unique members
- Currently for 2025: 4501 total unique members
 - Projected Members at the end of 2025: 7538

Local Sanctions

- 2022: 55 total events
- 2023: 89 total events
- 2024: 141 total events
- Currently for 2025: 154 total events

2026 Nationals Calendar

I am pleased to share that planning for the 2026 National Championships is well underway, with most events finalized or nearing completion. Official announcements for the 2026 season will be made in the coming weeks.

- **2026 Bench Press National Championship:** Scheduled for January 9-11, 2026, in Las Vegas, Nevada at the Rio

- **2026 University National Championship:** Set for April 9-12, 2026, in partnership with USA Weightlifting, as in 2025. The venue is secured, and we will announce the location soon in collaboration with USAW. Salt Lake City
- **2026 High School National Championship:** Tentatively planned for April 16-19, 2026. The location is still under consideration and will be announced as soon as possible.
- **2026 Age Division National Championships and Military/Police/Fire National Championships:** Tentatively scheduled for May 19-24, 2026, in a new Texas city not previously visited by Powerlifting America. We are finalizing details with our Convention and Visitors Bureau partner and will share updates once confirmed. Location in Texas
- **2026 Classic Open Nationals and Equipped Open Nationals:** Locations and dates are still being finalized. Announcements will be made as soon as arrangements are complete.

Stay tuned for updates via email and Powerlifting America's social media channels as we continue to prepare for an exciting 2026 season.

REGIONAL DIRECTOR REPORTS

Region 1 Northeast, Steve Mann

Virginia to Canada on the East Coast is growing a lot in pockets that are working to improve and gain growth. The main focus is improving quality events to have sustainable growth and raise the level of quality for the events. Expectations from athletes, timely and quality events is where my focus is set. Expand area and scope in the Northeast.

Region 2 Southeast, Mark Leebrick

Thank you for being able to serve in this position the next four years.

Data as of 04/29/2025

Current Membership

1. Alabama-21 Members, 2 Referees
2. Arkansas-6 Members, 0 Referees
3. Florida-341 Members, 26 Referees
4. Georgia-212 Members, 14 Referees
5. Louisiana-265 Members, 36 Referees
6. Mississippi-12 Members, 3 Referees

7. North Carolina-121 Members, 11 Referees
8. South Carolina-41 Members, 3 Referees
9. Tennessee-78 Members, 6 Referees

1,097 Members 109 member increase since 05/05/2024, 101 Referees

2025 Competitions of 4/29/2025

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 1. Alabama- | 0 Competitions |
| 2. Arkansas- | 0 Competitions |
| 3. Florida- | 6 Competitions |
| 4. Georgia- | 5 Competitions, 1 National Competition |
| 5. Louisiana- | 5 Competitions, 1 National Competition |
| 6. Mississippi- | 0 Competitions |
| 7. North Carolina- | 1 Competitions |
| 8. South Carolina- | 2 Competitions |
| 9. Tennessee- | 3 Competitions |

25 Competitions as of 04/29/2025 and will continue to grow over the next 6 months.

Upcoming Competitions as of 4/29/2025 - 25 total

Alabama-1	Mississippi-1
Arkansas-0	North Carolina-2
Florida-12	South Carolina-3
Georgia-3	Tennessee-1
Louisiana-2	

The Southeast Region has experienced significant growth in both membership and referee staff. Since May of 2024, membership has increased by 109 individuals. The number of certified referees has also risen from 74 to 101, reflecting strong regional development and engagement.

The region successfully hosted 24 competitions to date, including two prestigious National Championships. Notably, the *Classic Open Nationals* received high praise and was widely regarded as the best nationals event to date.

Looking ahead, we anticipate a continued increase in sanctioned events. Members are encouraged to consider hosting competitions, particularly in states that have yet to hold one this year. Please reach out if you are interested in contributing to this effort.

Region 3 Central, Rick Fowler

Vacant till 2024, I filled the role in the interim basis but stepped in to lead this region Iowa, Dakotas, Wisconsin, Illinois, Missouri, Indiana, Michigan Wisconsin, held high school nationals and were big in supporting it. New meet directors getting ready to run their first meets. Scott Voyles in Greenville University started running meets and has the team concept team down. Thank you to Dana Rosenzweig who has helped officiate and to get referees qualified.

Region 4 Southwest, Marty Agoes

Southwest Region Overview

It has been a productive and momentum-building year for the Southwest Region as we continue to align with Powerlifting America's national mission: fostering drug-tested, integrity-driven powerlifting competition at every level. In 2024, we prioritized growth in grassroots participation, meet director development, referee recruitment, and cultivating opportunities of highschool athletes to compete internationally. We have been fortunate to have strong leadership at the local level especially in Arizona and Texas. A promising growth is also expected in Hawaii.

Sanctioned Events, Participation, and Referee Development.

In 2024, we hosted more than 20 local meets, including the far reach of Hawaii. We've had steady amounts of sanctions across Arizona and Texas, also with hosting NAPF in Arizona and World Bench Press Championships in Texas. Those meets have significantly increased our visibility as a federation on an international level, leading to more members switching over from other federations.

We saw a significant increase in members, especially in the younger categories with the pull of High School and University Nationals. We have had more local meets with more than 15 lifters signing up.

We developed a system of trusted national and international referees and proctors to reach more remote, under-represented areas, resulting in the certification of more than 10 new local referees and more than 5 national referees. We

will continue to provide opportunities for new referees in our federation to be involved in as many meets as possible and encourage more people from different gyms across the states to be involved in our federation.

Texas Members: 375 Referees: 38	Colorado Members:27 Referees:5
Hawaii Members: 41 Referees: 6	Utah Members:9 Referees:1
Arizona Members:157 Referees:18	Oklahoma Members:11 Referees: 0
New Mexico Members:52 Referees:7	

Challenges and Areas for Growth

- **Financial Limitations:** As much as we have grown on the local level, finding suitable venues, securing competition level equipment, and finding directors with the financial capabilities to do so. I recommend developing a national inventory or template agreement to help local meet directors negotiate better rates.
- **Volunteer Pipeline:** We've had great community engagement with volunteers with the help of local meet directors and gyms.
- **Youth & Adaptive Divisions:** While we are seeing a significant increase in the youth side, participation of the adaptive division underrepresented in our meets. We will plan to reach local and national organizations to develop an inviting program to be implemented.

Looking Ahead

For 2025, our focus will be on:

- Hosting at least 30 including a dedicated university/collegiate event. We are looking forward to host high-prize meets in 2025 with SBD Austin and Avancus in Houston
- Solidifying a timeline and with a concrete plan to implement Regionals
- Supporting national team qualification through competitive, well-officiated meets.
- Expanding educational offerings for coaches and officials to the local level with clinics and guest speakers the day before a local meet.

Closing

It has been a pleasure to serve as Regional Director under Powerlifting America. I am so proud to see the growth with the federation. Thank you to our national leadership, technical staff, and volunteers who make this progress possible. I will continue to dedicate my time to our athletes.

Respectfully submitted,

Martin Agoes

Regional Director, Southwest
Powerlifting America

Region 5 West, Tim Mercer

We're beginning to gain a bit of momentum in the West Region. The West Region includes Alaska, Washington, Oregon, California, Nevada, Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming. California has had 5 meets this year, and has 3 more sanctioned for this year. Oregon has had 2 meets this year, and has a state championship sanctioned in the fall. Idaho is also online with multiple meets run already, and more are sanctioned.

The referee infrastructure is growing and we're working on bringing new meet directors onboard.

Referee's by state:

- Alaska: 0
- California: 18
- Hawaii: 6
- Idaho: 3
- Montana: 2
- Nevada: 20
- Oregon: 10
- Washington: 7
- Wyoming: 0
- Total: 66 (up from 29 last year)

Membership:

- Alaska: 3
- California: 396
- Hawaii: 57
- Idaho: 41
- Montana: 7
- Nevada: 105
- Oregon: 167
- Washington: 57
- Wyoming: 3
- Total: 836 (up from 405 last year)

Accept Regional Reports

Accept 41

Not Accept 0

Abstention 1

COMMITTEE REPORTS**Technical Committee**

I always like to start the technical report with thanks to all of the referees that volunteer their time to make our meets successful at all levels. I appreciate those of you that have helped to make PA's National Championships successful. I also want to thank the members of the Technical Committee (Billy Keel, Rodney Elm, Rodney Herbison, Nora Keller & Mike Steinmetz) for their help.

When I submitted my technical report in late April of last year we had approximately 120 referees. At the end of 2024, PA had approximately 360 referees. As of today, late March, we have approximately 336 referees with current memberships. I'm sure quite a few of the missing referees will renew their PA memberships during the year as more contests occur. We are still transferring referees credentials from other organizations. Most weekends we'll have several individuals take the state test and become new state referees.

In the upcoming year, I'd like to see us continue to expand the number of referees we have. I'd also like to work with the Technical Committee to work on creating additional policies/procedures to help referees & help meets run consistently across our nation.

As always, if any one has any questions or wants to reach out to me please feel free..

Athlete Committee

Athlete's Committee Report

Dear Members,

In the last year, the Athlete Committee worked to advocate for our members on a variety of issues, improve education around Article 14, and better understand the priorities of our athletes.

We released the annual membership survey. As in years past, the overall feedback was positive. There continues to be a desire for more local meets, especially in states and regions where we don't currently have a large number of members. There is also a continuing concern about more and better communication between the organization and our members.

Surveys were also sent to the members of our national teams. Again, the feedback was largely positive, but there is room for improvement in communication, especially around tasks that must be completed prior to final nominations and travel arrangements.

The Athlete Committee drafted the forthcoming Article 14 FAQ that will be posted to the website soon. It's our hope that this FAQ will help clarify the more common concerns about the application of this rule.

Additionally, we were involved in drafting and revising a proposed amendment to Article 14 to be voted on at the IPF General Assembly. If approved, this amendment would relax the application of Article 14 at the local and National level for all athletes, coaches and officials.

In the coming year, The Athlete Committee will focus on process improvement tasks to benefit our membership, especially better communication and education.

We are seeking additional committee members.

Advocating for all athletes in feeling heard. Trying to be a listening ear and let the powers be known, to help out.

24/7 calls emails with athletes, working from the same page and moving the same direction

We look forward to continuing to support all our members and serving our Powerlifting America community.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Copeland and LS McClain

Athlete Committee Co-Chairs, Powerlifting America

Accept Committee Reports

Accept 55

Not Accept 0

Abstentions 5

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

ELECTIONS

Proposals and Amendments - None

Regional Director Candidates

- Northeast Region - Steve Mann
- Southeast Region - Mark Leebrick

Athlete Committee Co-Chair Candidates

- Andrew (Drew) Cargill
- Barbara Beaudin
- Bonica Brown
- Ian Bell
- LS McClain

ELECTION RESULTS

Regional Director Candidates

Northeast Regional Director - Steve Mann

Votes Tallied 9

Abstention 5

Southeast Regional Director - Mark Leebrick

Votes Tallied 15

Abstention 3

Athlete Committee Co-Chair Candidates

The initial election results showed 66 votes were cast. This vote did produce a majority vote for a candidate. Top 2 candidates entered a runoff selection.

Runoff election for Andrew (Drew) Cargill and Ian Bell was held.

Votes Cast in the Runoff election

1. Vote - Ian Bell 27
 2. Vote - Drew Cargill 23
-

NEW BUSINESS

Memorandum of Understanding Signing with Special Olympics North America

Powerlifting America President Robert Keller and Craig Pippert, Special Olympics signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) outlining our mutual commitment to develop Special Olympic Powerlifting in the United States. This is a historic day!

Message from USADA

The Agreement with Powerlifting America outlines in its anti doping program our role in identifying and independently selecting athletes in the in competition program.

Additionally, working with athletes to file whereabouts and test 365 days per year. This program has a great deterrence level. Partnership has been going for several years now. Working with Powerlifting America for 4 years. This is an important movement and building integrity in the program. Part of IOC recognition program.

Thank you for your trust in us, for clean sport.

ADJOURNMENT