President Bill Roe, CEO Craig Masback and IAAF President Lamine Diack spoke on Wednesday evening at the Opening General Session at the 2005 USATF Annual Meeting in Jacksonville, Florida.

Celebrating a theme of “Our Time,” the 2005 Annual Meeting brings together more than 1,000 of the sport’s officials, coaches, administrators, athletes and supporters, who come together to chart the future of the sport.

During his address, Roe unveiled USATF’s new Mission Statement and Purposes:

**Mission:**
To lead the sport of Athletics in the United States and maintain the primacy of USA Track and Field in global athletics.

**Purposes:**
1) Champion the rights, privileges, opportunities, and well being of athletes throughout our sport;
2) Achieve the sustained excellence of our professional athletes and their coaches;
3) Promote and practice diversity in all aspects of our operations;
4) Eliminate performance enhancing drug use in Athletics;
5) Develop interest and participation in the sport of Athletics at all levels and ages;
6) Generate public awareness, appreciation, and support for Athletics and for USATF;
7) Create opportunities for athletes and Athletics events; and
8) Generate sponsorships to aid this corporation in fulfilling its purposes and duties.

Roe also encouraged his audience to contribute to the leadership of the sport in the U.S. “Leadership is essential to our movement forward as a sport and an organization,” said Roe. “I know many of you are leaders at your local level. The key is being a..."

Track & field legends Roger Kingdom and Mike Powell, and University of Arkansas head coach John McDonnell headline an impressive group of inductees for the National Track & Field Hall of Fame Class of 2005 set to be honored tonight at the Jesse Owens Awards and Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. The inductees, announced on November 3 by USA Track & Field, also include veteran athletes Wes Santee, Earlene Brown, Jim Fuchs and Fred Wolcott.

USATF announced the inductees in New York, site of the National Track & Field Hall of Fame and host of New York City Marathon.

"I take great pride in welcoming the Class of 2005 into the National Track & Field Hall of Fame," said USATF President Bill Roe. "These remarkable individuals have made tremendous contributions to the legacy of USA Track & Field, and I congratulate them for all their accomplishments."

"All of us at USA Track & Field look forward to these all-time greats taking their rightful places in the National Track & Field Hall of Fame," said USATF CEO Craig Masback. "All seven made indelible and unique contributions to the heritage of our sport, and they couldn’t be more deserving of this honor."

As a two-time Olympic gold medalist (1984, ’88) and former world record holder, Roger Kingdom’s achievements in the 110-meter hurdles set the standard for others to aspire to. A five-time USA Outdoor champion, Kingdom won gold medals at the Pan..."

In what many consider the greatest head-to-head competition in track and field history, Mike Powell won the 1991 World Outdoor Championships men’s long jump gold medal over fellow Hall of Famer Carl Lewis by setting the world record of 8.95 meters/29 feet, 4.50 inches, in Tokyo, Japan. The mark broke the previous standard set by Bob Beamon in 1968. Powell, who also won the World Outdoor Championships gold medal in 1993, was a two-time Olympic silver medalist and six-time USA Outdoor champion. Ranked #1 in the world on four occasions, he won 34 consecutive competitions in 1993 and 1994.

During his long and distinguished career, John McDonnell’s University of Arkansas Razorbacks have set a standard in collegiate sports that may never be equaled. To date, McDonnell-led squads have won 41 NCAA national team championships and produced five seasons in which they won national titles in indoor track, outdoor track and cross country in the same year, known as the “triple crown.” Arkansas athletes have won 105 NCAA event championships under McDonnell’s guidance, and he has produced 161 All-Americans. On 28 occasions he has been named the NCAA coach of the year.

One of America’s finest middle distance runners ever, Wes Santee competed in the 1952 Olympics in the 5,000 meters, although he is best remembered for his success in the mile and 1,500 meters. During his career, Santee owned the world indoor 1,500m record on two occasions and set the outdoor 1,500m world record at the 1956 Compton Invitational. The three-time U.S. outdoor champion also was a key contender in the legendary chase to run the first sub-four-minute mile.

One of the greatest American women throwers of all time, Earlene Brown had top ten finishes in both the shot put and discus at the 1956 Olympic Games - when she set American records in both events - and 1960 Olympics, with her highlight being her Olympic bronze medal shot put performance. She was an eight-time national champion in the shot and a three-time champion in the discus, becoming the first American to break the 50-foot barrier in the shot put in 1958, when she was #1 world ranked.

A former world record holder in the men’s shot put, Jim Fuchs between 1949-51 won an incredible 88 consecutive competitions and broke the world record four times. That remarkable period was book ended by Olympic bronze medals in 1948 and 1952. A two-time NCAA shot put champion while competing for Yale and three-time national champion, Fuchs also was proficient in the discus, winning the gold medal in that event, along with the shot put, at the 1951 Pan American Games.

Fred Wolcott dominated the men’s hurdles during World War II, a period of time when there was no Olympic Games for him to showcase his talent. That unfortunate coincidence did not keep him from setting world records on seven occasions and becoming the first man ever to possess the world records in the low and high hurdles at the same time. A collegiate star at Rice University, Wolcott won five NCAA Outdoor titles and won seven National AAU Outdoor championships.

2005 President's Award Winners

USATF President Bill Roe honored 12 USATF contributors with President's Awards during Wednesday night's 2005 Annual Meeting Opening Session. Below are the honorees.

Reggie Lewis Track & Field Center in Boston, Massachusetts – Host of the USA Indoor Track & Field Championships and the annual Reebok Boston Indoor Games.

Winnie Eggers – Track & field official.

Alan Kolling – Law & Legislation Committee member.

Vince Peters - athlete, youth and race walk coach, official, USATF Board member and committee leader.

Jo Ann Grissom – Two-time Olympian, masters athlete, track & field official, member of national team staffs, high school coach.

Larry and Nancy Siefert – Youth Athletics advocates.

Dr. Norbert Sander – President, New Balance Track & Field Center in New York City.

The Colgate Women’s Games - The nation’s largest amateur track series open to all girls from elementary school through college. The event is held annually at the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, N.Y. Finalists compete for trophies and educational grants-in-aid from Colgate-Palmolive Company at New York’s Madison Square Garden in February.

Elizabeth Phillips – USATF Women’s Long Distance Running Chair.

Erica Baxter – Youth Athletics, USATF Associations and cultural exchange advocate, and event organizer.

Cedric Walker – USATF High Performance Division Manager, member of USATF Niagara Association, member of National Team staffs.

Fred Finke – USATF Long Distance Running Chair, event organizer.
Emil Pawlik of Jackson, Miss., on Wednesday was named 2005 Masters Athlete of the Year by USA Track & Field. Pawlik will receive his award December 1 at the 2005 Jesse Owens Awards and Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, held in conjunction with the USATF Annual Meeting in Jacksonville, Florida.

A 66-year-old amiable oilman Pawlik had great success on the masters scene in 2005. He won the men’s decathlon (M65) with a world-record 7,909 points and posted an American record in the 100 meters, clocking 15.81 seconds to win a gold medal at the World Masters Outdoor Championships in San Sebastian, Spain.

Earlier at the USA Masters Outdoor Championships in Hawaii, Pawlik grabbed four titles in the M65 age division. He scored the most points in all of the age divisions to win the pentathlon with 4,023 points. He won the 100m hurdles in 16.19 seconds, the long jump with a leap of 4.84 meters/15 feet, 10.5 inches and cleared 1.50m/6 feet, 5 inches to win the high jump. During the indoor season, Pawlik won the titles in the M65 high jump (1.40m/4-7), the long jump (4.76m/15-7.5), 60m hurdles (9.86) and he scored the most points (4,401) by any male in the pentathlon.

"Emil has been consistently outstanding over the years in masters track & field," USATF Masters Track & Field Chair George Matthews said. "His enthusiasm, sportsmanship, and competitive spirit are a motivation to master’s athletes in all the age divisions."

GOT NEWS?

Please help us out in our efforts to report the Annual Meeting goings-on by submitting your group’s latest news for use in USATF Today. Just follow the maze and stop by the Media Room (Room 4158 on the fourth floor) with your news item by 3 p.m each day, and we will include it in the newsletter.

NEW USATF MERCHANDISE ARRIVING FRIDAY!

CHECK OUT THE USATF MERCHANDISE SALES AREA 2nd FLOOR, NEAR REGISTRATION
leader, not what level you operate at. Leadership is a skill, and a good leader can be a leader in almost any environment. By being here, most of you are leaders in some manner. As our leadership initiatives grow, through our Diversity and Leadership Committee, we need you to step forward and share your leadership with us.”

**State of the Sport**

During his annual State of the Sport address, Masback emphasized the Annual Meeting theme, “Our Time.” “It’s Our Time to celebrate that our financial challenges are behind us and we’ve begun to rebuild our investment fund,” said Masback.

“It’s Our Time to celebrate our champion athletes of all ages who made us proud in 2005 and will have a big year ahead in 2006.

“Most importantly, this is Our Time to begin to operate like the organization we want to be, not the organization we have to be in response to one crisis or another.”

Masback noted that USATF flourished in many areas in 2005, pointing out that Team USA athletes achieved record medal totals at multiple championship events, and that the organization’s inaugural Visa Championship Series of network televised track and field events was the organization’s best TV series ever in a post-Olympic year. He also mentioned that USATF’s highly successful “Be A Champion” program has given elite athletes a vehicle to demonstrate their “unparalleled commitment to the community.”

“This is the time for us to seize the time to revolutionize our sport by remaking our organization, refocusing our mission and marshalling our resources as never before,” said Masback. To that end, Masback put forth the following objectives for the coming year.

“In the year ahead, we will build the USATF brand by promoting the sport and its stars. I will be working with our marketing department and Sandra Farmer Patrick to create a bigger and better Visa Championship Series with a more significant, more promotable payoff at the end for our athletes.”

“In the year ahead, we will identify and support the stars of the future. It is time to take our high performance development efforts to a new level by creating a strategic plan for every event, holding ourselves accountable for how well we are serving our athletes and finding new sources of funding for critical high performance programs.”

“In the year ahead, we will promote excellence in coaching. Our new relationships with Connor Sport Court and Gill will allow us to take our Coaching Education Program, already the world’s best, to a whole new level.

In the year ahead, we will grow USATF resources. Our progress in 2005 was remarkable for a post-Olympic year and 2006 promises to be even bigger…and better.

“We will promote youth fitness and physical education. We have pledged to support the continued expansion of the “Be A Champion” program, which is already recognized as a leader in the youth fitness and anti-obesity effort in America. Our role in the National Coalition for Promoting Physical Activity, gives us an immediate opportunity to influence federal legislation and work with other organizations on the fitness issue.

“In looking at the year ahead, we will continue to do the right thing with respect to the issue of performance enhancing drugs in sports. The Board had an enlightening presentation from USADA earlier today and we will continue to work with USADA and the IAAF to remain a leader in this area.

“Finally, in looking ahead to 2006, we will redouble our efforts, started one year ago, to strengthen our relationships with the IAAF, the USOC, the school and college community and the Indianapolis community.”

**Diack praises USATF success**

In his second appearance at a USATF Annual Meeting, IAAF President Lamine Diack, who attended the 1999 Annual Meeting in Los Angeles, spoke at the Opening Session.

“I would like to take this opportunity to personally congratulate you all on the excellent work you have done to make track and field a thriving sport in the USA,” said Diack. “In other visits to this country, I have been able to see with my own eyes that this country has an excellent system for discovering and encouraging young athletes, and that the U.S. high school and colleges offer a tough competitive environment, which encourages world class talent to emerge. As we could all see in Helsinki earlier this year – a great new generation of U.S. athletes have now become world stars.

“As President of the IAAF, rest assured that I share your delight in the achievements of American athletes, because the future of the sport depends, primarily, on this essential human resource.”

“Finally, I would also like to pay a special tribute to your CEO Craig Masback, who has worked very hard to raise sponsor revenues to record levels, and to create competition circuits which are now attracting record numbers of TV viewers.”