

Kanawha Valley Track & Field Officials Association
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Dear Prospective Contributor:

The KVT & FOA comes requesting possible donations to help replace our track building at Laidley Field in Charleston, WV. Our previous building was destroyed this past summer by a micro-burst/tornado. The building was lifted off the ground and thrown across the track. Laidley Field sustained other damage, but the KVT & FOA was told the building was not covered under the KCS insurance policy. The original building, constructed of wood, was built and funded by the KVT & FOA. During track season the building serves as our timing shack and equipment storage. We are wanting to replace the old building with a larger block building that would allow for a more secure location. Most of our computer equipment and important electronic equipment is stored inside Laidley Field the structure. Lucky for us most of this equipment was safe, but we lost other valuable equipment. (printers, networking equipment, batons, flags, measuring tapes and field event equipment, and much more) So we are in a financial bind and we need help.

We would like to share a little information with you regarding the KVT & FOA a 501(c)(6) non-profit organization. Track officials for many years officiated without any compensation. Over the course of the last twenty years we have gone from five dollars per meet to fifteen dollars for each track meet we work. Most track meets will last about six hours. We do what we do for the student athletes in the surrounding area. As an association, we work several non-scholastic events to fundraise for our annual scholarship program. Since 1995 the KVT & FOA has provided college scholarships to athletes of Kanawha/Putnam Counties that participated in high school track & field. We have awarded a total of \$84,000 since 1995. This happened through the volunteer work of many KVT & FOA members. We wish to continue this fine tradition of assisting student athletes in college.

Since 2007 the KVT & FOA had provided Laidley Field with over \$99,000 in various equipment purchases. These purchases have led to the safety of competitors and enjoyment of spectators. Laidley Field is the only eight lane all-weather surface track in Kanawha County. Also, many schools don't have safe field event venues. Most of the high schools and middle schools have hosted track & field meets at Laidley Field over the years. We have even had out of county teams host meets at Laidley due to their school/county not having an all-weather track and safe field event venues.

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So, as you can see the Kanawha Valley Track & Field Officials Association needs your help. We want to continue the tradition of providing college scholarships to Kanawha/Putnam County track & field athletes. We want to continue providing athletes the safest environment for participating in track & field. We want to continue providing athletes and parents the best experience at track & field events hosted at Laidley Field. As far as we know, there is no other group of sport officials in WV that provides the things that the KVT & FOA has done over the years.

I am looking forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Kanawha Valley Track & Field Officials Association
Marshall Cavender, President