

New Orleans Track Club, Inc.



General Membership Meeting Minutes

6254 Vicksburg St.
New Orleans, LA 70124
Monday, January 12th, 2015, 2014– 6:30 p.m.

*Member sign-in available in hard copies of meeting notes at NOTC Offices.

The meeting was called to order by Don Quintana, President, at 6:37 P.M.

John Wilson, Vice President, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

J. Wilson acknowledged all the board members and volunteers for helping make the club work. He noted that the board has worked cohesively to create great events for our members.

He also highlighted new and upcoming events this year including the NOLA Blue Doo Run, which will be celebrating its 2nd year in September 2015, and the Big Easy Big Heart Run for the New Orleans Mission in May. J. Wilson also mentioned the race coming up for LLS in April and the Resilience Run 5k commemorating the 10th Anniversary of Hurricane Katrina.

Tim Priest, Treasurer, gave the treasurer's report. Net assets balance at 12/31/14 was \$685,173. For the 6-months ending at 12/31/14, net loss was \$11,244. This is consistent with our budget. Budget loss was \$10,412. Expect the net profit at fiscal year end to be approximately \$80,000.

Lauren Jewett, Secretary, gave a brief overview of the work being done by the communications committee. She explained that we are in a much better spot this year because our communications committee has increased in size. She thanked the members of the communications committee for their work thus far: Nicole Muriithi, Fred Ruckert, Kim Broadbridge, James Street, Allison Briede, Amany Ishaq, and Alex Lebow. She said that much of the work we have been doing has come from input from an annual survey that has been administered the past two years. We will be doing another survey probably coming out after Mardi Gras.

Fred Ruckert spoke about social media updates including Facebook (events, give-aways). He said we have streamlined our Constant Contact emails in order to include more informative details to our subscribers. He said that we have increased our presence on Twitter, which Nicole Muriithi is handling, and Instagram.

Allison Briede, Member-At-Large, said that Footprints will be coming out towards January and will be a yearbook anthology format covering all of our races and events during the past calendar year (2014). She explained that it will be in a digital format.

Jennifer Neil, Race Director, said that 2014 was a positive year for the New Orleans Track Club. She highlighted the money we raised through the NOLA Blue Doo Run. She mentioned that all of our races have grown, and noted that the Ole Man River was the RRCA state half-marathon championship and we have secured that again for 2015. She also highlighted our support of Youth Run NOLA.

J. Neil said we have added 3 new races to our calendar for 2015: Bursting with Speed (supporting LLS) on April 11 with , Big Easy Big Heart in the French Quarter on May 2nd, and the Resilience Run 5k on Aug. 29th, 2015 which is benefiting 10 local charities/organizations

J. Neil gave a brief report on Grand Prix 2015 (Matt Greco, chair of Grand Prix 2015 arrived late). She said that we will once again be doing different give-aways for the races, including a beer mug at Al Briede Gold Cup, shirt at Great St. Charles, and sunglasses at one of other races.

Pat Driscoll, Member-at-Large, introduced herself as the Racewalking Coordinator. She said we need to encourage people to start with a walking program. She mentioned plans for possible partnerships with the Gulf Coast Running Club including race-walking clinics. P. Driscoll covered the new policy for having racewalkers start 5-10 minutes earlier for larger events like Greek Fest and Turkey Day to prevent any hazards to racewalkers and runners on the course. She also explained to members that for any race, we have a 30 minute early start for any racewalkers or run/walkers at our races.

Ross Shales, Member-at-Large gave an update on the partnership program that was started about 9 months ago. He said we currently have seven partners: 4-D Supplements, All American Chiropractic, Esplanade Dental, Voltz Lightning, Lyte Stix, Baudry/BRIO, and Bicycle World. He said we are trying to create a fair atmosphere at our races for our members to access different businesses. He said that we will have to make a few adjustments with the program including pricing and terms now that we are approaching the close of some of these yearly agreements. He said we are also exploring the idea of company membership through the club.

R. Shales also spoke about the interest in the cross country course and partnering with City Park to develop a plan about how to best support the course.

Charlene Brinkman, Member-at-Large, gave an update on membership. She handles the mail-ins for membership and she said that renewals through emails goes through Fred and Constant Contact. She said the club has been working hard to make sure memberships get renewed so we keep our membership numbers up. C. Brinkman also said that she handles all of the volunteers and mentioned that we always need help, especially with set-up and break-down. She said volunteers just have to let Jennifer Neil or her know, and sign in that they have read the waiver at all races. She also said the sign-in is important so we can reward our volunteers for the Volunteer Appreciation Parties. C. Brinkman emphasized that volunteers are what make our races good, and also explained that all of the board members are also volunteers.

Brendan Minihan, Appointed Board Member, spoke about the NOTC Hall of Fame. He said last year, we inducted 5 members, and we are looking to induct 5 more members this year. He said that we are looking to honor people who have been part of NOTC for a very long time- the legends, long-time contributors, etc. B. Minihan said that J. Wilson will be the chair of the committee, and he told membership that we are looking for help with serving on this committee with himself, J. Wilson, and J. Marsalis. J. Marsalis said that we are also looking for submissions for people to induct to help create a list of names.

D. Quintana said that we are also going to be looking for members for our nominations and scholarship committees this spring. He told members to reach out to the club if they are interested in helping with these committees. He also mentioned that renewing our by-laws about every 5 years is recommended according to RRCA guidelines. We last updated our by-laws in 2011 and Charlene Brinkman will be spearheading the committee for amending and editing the by-laws.

Don Brinkman, member, explained that it would be wise to solicit feedback about the by-laws and have hard copies available at races. D. Quintana said we would keep this in mind as this committee gets rolling and mentioned that the by-laws are currently posted on our website.

D. Quintana thanked everyone for what they do to make the club unique and successful. He said that it has been great to serve and give back to the club. He said we have been working on driving membership and this has really shown through communications across several different channels (especially with attention from press, thanks to Fred Ruckert) as well as turn-out at the elections. He said that the survey has been extremely important for identifying high priority needs. We have also been working on strengthening partnerships and bringing the experts to our members. D. Quintana said we have improved the dialogue with other race directors to avoid conflicts and make the running landscape best for runners. He also highlighted the club's support of Youth Run NOLA and mentioned that it helped the club give back to the community. D. Quintana also praised J. Neil's growth as Race Director.

Questions/Comments:

*Richard Briede explained that at the Al Briede Gold Cup, there will be a raffle for a B-number at the Crescent City Classic. He also said that a 10k has been added to fill the void of Elmwood.

**Janel Mumme, member, asked a few questions about Grand Prix. She asked about the races that will be on the Grand Prix schedule. Matt Greco explained that it will likely be the same races as last year and it will be finalized later this week or next. She asked about having the names of the completionists on the t-shirts. J. Mumme also expressed concerns about the elimination of seniors and legends awards. M. Greco mentioned that this happened last year because of what our sponsors were able to commit to in terms of awards.*

**Janel Mumme and Joy Cohen, also a member, asked about the 5-year age groups awards. J. Mumme said that we should post on the fliers and not have on TBA. Don Quintana mentioned that it has been a tough decision and we have gone back and forth because it has been costly when many people do not claim or pick-up awards.*

**J. Cohen praised the club's inclusiveness of families and the family memberships that we offer. She said that she has seen more families out there and says that she hopes the club continues to fulfill its mission of making our events family-friendly.*

**J. Cohen asked about if we do registrations at a race for upcoming races. C. Brinkman mentioned that it is usually at the tent area, "NOTC Information."*

**D. Brinkman asked if the board has discussed anything regarding what will come of the marathon race after the Rock'n'Roll contract is up.*

**L. Garrett, member, asked about a person taking pictures at Larry Fuselier and Jackson Day and why are these pictures not posted on Facebook. F. Ruckert mentioned that these aren't posted because the person is trying to do this for profit.*

**A member asked about automatic renewals for membership. D. Quintana and J. Wilson said this is feasible.*

D. Quintana made a motion to adjourn. J. Wilson seconded. The meeting adjourned at 7:44 P.M.

Meeting Minutes submitted by Lauren Jewett on June 19th, 2015.

Meeting minutes approved by general membership on June 23rd, 2015.