

Minutes from 2021 NOTC General Membership and Election Meeting June 14, 2021 at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 6254 Vicksburg St, in New Orleans, Louisiana, (6pm) via in-person and videoconference.

Board members present: Patrick Morrison, Geoff Rose, Kristin Braud, Pat Driscoll, Jason Joubert, Ashley Rosenberry, Heidi Lovett, Fred Ruckert, Joey Yanosky, Sylvia Kamp, J.J. Waguespack, Mary White

Also present: Randy Schmidt, Fred Ruckert

Not present: Roy Lissarague, Lori Gaston, Tony Margherio, Amanda Tinney Villemarette

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance (lead by President, Patrick Morrison)

Correspondence – Madison Slayton (letter of thanks for scholarship in conjunction with The 2019 New Orleans Pride Run+Walk benefits PFLAG. The PFLAG New Orleans Scholarship Program recognizes outstanding GLBT students from Louisiana, encourages continuing education for self-identified GLBT students and allies, and fosters a positive image of GLBT individuals in society.)

Brief introduction by Patrick Morrison, thanking all members for attending meeting to see the new Board of Directors and to find out what the new year with NOTC will present. He explained of Casey Urschel's recent resignation as President of NOTC due to the start of his own running company 4 weeks prior, how C. Urschel stepped down from the position for this reason. C. Urschel was wished well on his future success by all in NOTC, President Patrick Morrison advised this was the reason he moved into position of President as a result of this resignation. Additionally, noted was the absence of board member Roy Lissarague due to car accident a day prior for his daughter who was hospitalized locally.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

Treasurer's Report (provided by Treasurer, Geoff Rose) Before providing the report, G. Rose offered thanks to both Tim Priest and Liz Lotz for their assistance. G. Rose reported the following figures: Bank balance at the end of last month = \$1.104 million (this comes from the leasing of Mardi Gras Marathon to Rock and Roll, with this deal being over now) Fiscal year ends June 30, 2021. Loss for the 11 months = \$43,712 (obvious reasons no revenue if any from small races in December 2020, Ole Man River, January 2021, Jackson Day, and May 2021, Crawfish Fest 5K). We are still carrying out obligations including the Scholarship Program, High School grass cutting, Free For All Series (for all of our NOTC members). It costs a few thousand to run for each Free For All (not free) due to leasing, ambulance, and permits. Concluded with request for any questions, none proposed.

President's Report (provided by President, Patrick Morrison)– President discussed the celebration of lives lost including Jack Hayes, Dan Fuselier, Randy Thibodeaux, Matt Greco's mother, Beryl, and a member/audience member noted additionally, Dudley Stadler. He

welcomed and thanked all in attendance noting our race calendar is “turned on,” with our Summer Series races and other proposed races for the 2021 season. President advised these Free For All races are an important part of the organization and although costs are involved here, the NOTC membership needs it. 2 percent growth of membership just from this first Summer Series race and goal for future growth with regard to membership will be a focus. Additionally, President advised his focus will be on the NOTC membership experience, making them proud to be in the organization and offering more for them (also with a “NOTC Membership Spotlight” throughout the year). Finally, a focus on enhancing the NOTC race experience (let’s make them fun). President advised he and Race Director have been meeting with other race directors as well as other organizations that support the running community to “put out hands” to focus towards not just NOTC, but on running. He advised that he is excited about the next year and moving in the right direction with the help and assistance of our NOTC members and volunteers advising on input to move forward. President advised he was going to cover what R. Lissarague was going to discuss in his report, as we have some new races on the horizon with exciting partnerships in the city. We have a return to safe racing where we will continue to provide a safe environment for all our races. Father’s Day is our next race. Concluded with request for any questions, none proposed.

Executive Race Director’s Report (provided by Executive Race Director, Randy Schmidt) May 2021: Louisiana Crawfish Festival 5K (376 participants) We have races on our calendar including our Summer Series, Father’s Day, Summer Track Meets (continuing to assist the runners that will become future members of NOTC), Spillway is scheduled, Greek Fest (later in the year September-October 2021 pending details with a 2-day proposal TBA), and Al Briede scheduled for September 25, 2021. We are going to change some things and enhance value for what NOTC members get for their membership (\$10-\$20 gift cards for race participants with Crawfish Fest 5K) and drawings for Father’s Day, very good stuff. Concluded with a call to all volunteers, we need them. Please go to the website and sign up, we’ll put you on the list and you’ll be ready to go. Call me if you have any questions, I am always available. President advised we’re tracking Turkey Day as we have support except for 1 organization. Our calendar is back on track with Father’s Day (June 20) moving from Audubon Park to Bucktown (due to permits). There is a huge gap in race calendar February, March, April, as we are working hard to fill our calendar. We are working on longer runs like a 10K during this time where a lot of people will be training for CCC. We might be able to do strong training run.

Standing Committee Reports Scholarship Report (provided by President, Patrick Morrison for Roy Lissarague) Application has been developed and is posted. It has been posted and we are now looking for scholarships. We will be sending out an email very shortly letting people know. Due to the uniqueness of the last year, we are extending the amount of time for acceptance those scholarships. Jason Joubert is leading this committee. Requirements include that they are a high school senior, be a member of NOTC, run cross country or track, and run NOTC races.

Special Committee Reports (provided by Racewalking Coordinator, Pat Driscoll)

Spring Training Group 2021: We decided during COVID, last year, we are about fitness running and walking, we decided to get a clinic together, a Spring Training Plan and Clinic for Virtual CCC. 60 people registered for Spring Training Clinic, 30 people finished it. NOTC paid for several of us to be paid for training for us to become RRCA Level I coaches, with Mary White, Jason Joubert, and me using our expertise and getting a plan together here. We provided a training plan, giveaways, guest speakers, NOTC swag, and samples given to participants of the program. We want to continue this in the Fall and Spring next year for both walkers and runners. If you want to participate, we would like you to watch Facebook, the minutes from the meetings for updates. It is free and we would like you to participate. We could also use extra coaches, you don't need to be certified coach, and that would be a great help to keep the momentum going. Thank you again to all that participated in some way to make it a success.

Unfinished Business

General Election (introduction provided by President, Patrick Morrison) You received a ballot this evening with all of those running unopposed. Now is your turn to give your ballot to either Kristen or Ashley. The reason why we are doing ballots tonight is because our bylaws state a vote must be by ballot and does not provide for any alternate way of election. There is something called acclamation which is only allowed if bylaws don't specifically state that a vote must occur. Being a first timer, I did want to be better safe than sorry and follow our bylaws. I think it is title 7 section 3 that states "election must be by ballot." Therefore, we are having a ballot. I'm going to introduce a past NOTC President, Geoff Rose, to introduce other past Presidents with NOTC. Geoff Rose stepped up to the podium to introduce the following past NOTC Presidents present: Don Brinkman, Charlene Brinkman, Rick Montgomery, Casey Urschel, and Geoff Rose. President Patrick Morrison stepped back up to the podium to announce the results of the ballot vote with Geoff Rose reaffirming here do you need 1 vote to get elected. President advised he asked for someone to vote for everybody.

I will now introduce to you the 2021-2022 Board of Directors, as I am super excited to announce this tonight:

President, me: Patrick Morrison Vice President: Roy Lissarrague, Secretary: Lori Gaston, Treasurer: Geoff Rose

I also want to introduce the Board-At-Large:

David Cespedes, Pat Driscoll, Katelyn Fitzpatrick, Jason Joubert, Sylvia Kamp, Karah Lindbergh, Alan Rovira, J. J. Waguespack, and Joey Yanosky.

Congratulations to our 2021-2022 Board of Directors. I would also like to thank the previous board members who served from last year. Last year was tough on NOTC and on the world, but we made it through, and we are starting to roll downhill. I want to thank Ashley, Kristen, and Randy. Randy stepped down as a board member as he was hired as a

full-time employee (not being able to serve on the board as he is now the Executive Race Director). I also want to thank Amanda, Tony (who was head of the Election Committee), and Mike North (who stepped down as Secretary with Lori Gaston stepping into this position). I want to thank our old board members and our new board members of NOTC.

New Business: None

ADJOURNMENT