

## HMRRC Annual Report to Members

September 20, 2019

Good evening, everyone!

The first thing we should cover is why we are all here tonight...why we combined the Annual Meeting with the Banquet.

A few reasons, really. First, we need the attendance by members at our annual meeting and election of officers, and combining the two events supports that. Second, we were having scheduling problems for the Banquet, combined with reduced attendance, with some of that due to sending out Grand Prix awards prior to the Banquet. The Board felt it was worth trying to combine both events and see how it worked out. **Thanks for being here!**

HMRRC continues to be in excellent shape financially. We continue to put on a significant number of well-organized and popular running events. And we also continue to give back to our community, which is part of our Mission Statement.

As Ray told you last year, the club was undertaking two major initiatives, and I want to bring you up to date on them. At last year's annual meeting, it was reported that we had undertaken a full **audit** of the club's finances. We engaged the accounting firm Marvin and Company for this task. As of October 18<sup>th</sup> of last year, the audit report for 2017 was finalized. It included some recommendations on record keeping, but overall found the club's finances and reporting to be sound. The audit report is posted on the website. For the year ending December 31, 2018, Marvin and Company performed an Independent Accountant's Review, which was completed in March, and is also posted to the website. The review was done rather than a full audit, which is not needed every year, in the opinion of the Board.

The other major administrative initiative undertaken was the hiring of an administrative assistant and a bookkeeping service.

The administrative assistant position is part-time, but we may see growth to full-time in the future. The objective was to relieve race directors of some of their administrative responsibilities -- tasks like applying for applications and permits for municipalities and responding to runner inquiries – so that we could make RD's jobs easier. And that, in turn, might make it easier for us to recruit race directors. We've expanded the job description to include helping with the administrative tasks of other club officers and leaders. I'd like to report that it seems successful on all of these, and things are running smoothly. **Thank you, Marcia!**

In addition to expanding the role of the Administrative Assistant, the club is now employing a bookkeeper to assist our financial officers with their tasks. Laura Keyes of Common Cents Accounting has taken on this role as a contractor. Many of the tasks now performed by our club treasurers are being performed by Laura.

Financially, the club remains on very solid footing. We continue to have significant cash in the bank, thanks to the continuing profitability of our major events, the Workforce Team Challenge, the Mohawk Hudson River Marathon and Half Marathon, and, to a lesser extent, the Stock-adeathon. In 2018, the board determined that a reserve of \$300,000 would be appropriate for the club, and to use of our surplus – that is, the amount of money we have in excess of the reserve -- to employ the administrative assistant and to hire the bookkeeper. That is the plan we used in preparing the 2019 budget.

Over time, this will certainly result in a decline of our surplus. Other factors may also contribute to this decline. For example, our major events will likely see declines in their profitability and our second tier events see larger losses in upcoming years, as expenses increase and participation levels decline. The Board will continue to review during our Budget process and make adjustments as needed.

With respect to races, we have some challenges. Participation in running events has been declining nationally for several years. Our experience is no different. Many of our smaller and mid-sized events have seen sizable drop-offs in the number of runners. And, while our major events continue to draw well, we need to keep an eye on this.

Should we preserve our race schedule? What changes should we make? We need to consider elimination of an event when participation declines to a certain level. Using club resources – financial and personnel – to keep events going after they have outlived their popularity makes little sense to me. This is something that the race committee has kept in front of them, as they determine the schedule for each year. The Dynamic Duo was discontinued in 2019, after a long and popular run, as attendance had dropped off, and others will be similarly looked at.

Another race-related challenge is the recruitment and retention of qualified race directors. The directors of some of our major events have large jobs requiring a good deal of work. Our move forward with the hiring of an administrative assistant has helped, as many of the tasks undertaken by our RDs may be assumed by Marcia and the burden on RDs is reduced. We also divided some of responsibilities of the Workforce Team Challenge in order to make the job more manageable.

Ray Newkirk has volunteered to serve as interim committee chair for the Public Relations Committee. Theresa Bourgeois is a member who is working with Ray to promote the club among our own members and to the general public. The focus will be on the Scholarship and Grants program and our three big running events. Two sets of press releases were sent out, on the Scholarships and Just Run. Channel 6 was present at the start of Just Run.

I mentioned earlier that HMRRC gives back to the community. Our Mission Statement begins:

The Hudson-Mohawk Road Runners Club (HMRRC) is dedicated to promoting the sport of distance running through education and training to promote running as a part of a healthy lifestyle, promoting personal fitness and community through organizing and managing running events...

Sally Drake wrote an article for the Pacesetter in March of this year, which many of you have read, but it is worth hearing.

For over 40 years, the HMRRC has been the bedrock of the Capital District running community. With a race calendar of nearly 30 events ranging from the mile to the marathon, the club offers its 2,400 members and many thousands more in the region a diverse range of opportunities to race and train.

The club has an equally impressive and long-standing commitment to community service. Significant club revenues from membership and race events are invested directly back into its members and the broader community through a range of programs aimed at supporting the next generation of runners, student athletes, and our neighbors in the areas in which we race and run.

The HMRCC **Grant Program** provides funding to eligible organizations that support running through projects like trail building and maintenance, the Junior Olympics and the Strong Through Every Mile organization. These grants not only help runners but improve access to outdoor spaces, recreational areas and outreach programs for all area residents. Grant applications are accepted by February 1 and July 1 annually.

The **Shrader Scholarship** program encourages and supports young runners in their efforts to make running a lifelong part of a healthy lifestyle. On an annual basis, \$3,000 non-renewable scholarships are awarded to six runners from Section II planning to attend a college, university or community college on a full-time basis. We are now in our 20th year of the Shrader Scholarship program and have awarded in excess of \$175,000 to 73 student athletes from 34 different schools. **We gave out \$18,000 in Shrader Scholarships, this year, We met the recipients at our July meeting, and it was an impressive group of students.**

In 2010, we started the **Just Run** program. This program supports elementary school running programs and provides financial support to teachers who oversee the implementation of the program in their schools and t-shirts to the kids who participate. HMRRC's Just Run has focused on supporting schools in underserved areas with fewer after-school opportunities.

We also put on a track meet in the spring and a cross-country meet in the fall for the participating schools. Each year more than 25 schools and nearly 3,000 students participate, making our program one of the largest in the nation.

HMRRC also leverages the generous spirit of runners by partnering with

the Food Pantries of the Capital District to collect donations at the Winter Series races, which is free to all HMRRC members, and several club events throughout the year. Over 70 pounds of food was donated at the last Winter Series this year. And, since 2004 the CDPHP Workforce Team Challenge has selected one or more **Charities of Choice** annually. The program selects non-profit organizations in the Capital Region to receive a donation from CDPHP and HMRRC, as well as direct contributions from race participants, in support of local projects. Over the last 16 years, 27 charities have been selected. In 2018, two charities, the Albany Public Library Foundation and Regional Foodbank of Northeast New York shared more than \$44,000. The 2019 Charities of Choice were Family Promise of the Capital Region and the Albany Damien Center. These two charities split over \$47,000 this year.

All of these efforts give me great pride, and as HMRRC members, you should be proud, as well.

I'm happy to answer -- or try to answer -- any questions from the floor.