



## UTICA ROADRUNNERS BUSINESS MEETING

Monday, October 21, 2024 6:15 pm, Boilermaker Headquarters

Board Attendance: Andrew Rubino, Melissa Barlett, Rebecca LaPorte, Travis Olivera, Andrew Hartnett, Mason Hedeem, George Searles, Phil Trzcinski, Frank Vellone

Meeting called to order at: 6:20pm

Motion to accept minutes from last meeting: 1st M. Hedeem, 2nd F. Vellone

### INITIAL BUSINESS

- Elections - Updates, candidates, ect
  - We have 5 candidates with 4 returning and 1 new. There will possibly be a 6th candidate.
  - Information will be going to membership through RunSignUp and will also be in the SpliTimes.
  - Food is coming from Brooklyn Pickle - will order enough for 30-35 people for General Membership meeting on November
  - Meeting will be in the Boilermaker office

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Activities & Events – Erik Winberg**
  - **Races**
    - **The UR Four Pack** - Andrew Rubino
      - Contact USA Racing for 2025 designs - Andrew reports this is still in progress
      - set up virtual store to attach to Four Pack - will be renamed to Four Race Challenge
    - **Save Our Switchbacks** - Melissa Barlett & Sarah Harrison
      - April 12th, 2025
      - No additional updates
    - **Summer Sizzle** - Travis Olivera
      - Continuing on Father's Day: June 15, 2025
      - No additional updates
    - **Falling Leaves** - Andrew Rubino
      - Recap sent out in SpliTimes and runsignup
      - Working on keeping Hotel Utica for next year
      - Was everyone paid?
      - Things went well! Still some issues with people using the Marriott hotel bathrooms

- Travis will pick up check from Sneaker Store
- Suggestion for 200 fewer bagels next year, hot food was popular after the race
- **Skeleton Run - Rob Kapfer**
  - Riggie Run is Sunday, October 12, 2025 at SUNY Poly
  - Next year scheduled for Sunday October 19, 2025 to reduce conflicts with Riggie Run
  - 299 registered (last year had 315 total)
  - 25 fewer participants for 5k from 2023; 92 kids registered (40-50 participated)
  - Weather was a challenge this year
  - Lots of volunteers
  - Pumpkin Junction donated all pumpkins this year, shout out of appreciation
  - Sold a bunch of shirts this year (\$578 this year)
  - Did unisex shirts this year but some information from RunSignUp came through gender specific (possibly due to the four pack?)  
Melissa looking into it
  - USA Racing was short on a couple shirts; \$ coming back
  - TNT Timing invoice to T. Olivera
  - Also collected food for the Foothills Food Pantry in Holland Patent
  - Hannaford donated water and bananas
- **Run 2 End Hunger – Rebecca LaPorte Mason Hedeem**
  - Permit and insurance obtained
  - Motion for up to \$600 for stickers for Run2End Hunger and UR Stickers, 1st Olivera 2nd Hedeem, motion passed
  - M. Hedeem contacting mayor’s office and trying to get food donation for runners post race
  - R. LaPorte contacting rotary and rescue mission
  - A. Rubino will send R. LaPorte contact info for rec center and mayor
  - Look at permit to shut down road - A. Rubino will check on that
- **New Year’s Run at Accelerate – Melissa Barlett**
  - Now \$12 for nonmembers and free for members
  - Same setup as last year
  - Will be doing raffles for under 21 years and over 21 years
  - Accelerate is booked for the run
- Virtual Events
  - **FIVE after FIVE – Melissa Barlett & Andy Hartnett**
    - No report
- Activities - Limited
  - Scholarships - Travis Olivera
    - No Report
  - Boilermaker Training Program - Erik/Wendy/Pete
    - Group runs continuing from Forte at 8:30am Saturdays
  - Boilermaker Expo table and volunteers

- <https://kesslerpromotions.com/vendors>
  - Grand Prix - Gary LaShure
    - Complete for the season
      - Final standings published
  - CNY Running Club Cup - Tim Kane/James Kuny
    - Complete for the season
    - Cliff's Gift Card
      - Woodsmen's Run
        - Elizabeth Miller and Amanda Hartnett selected as recipients — Did they get their cards? Not yet but M. Barlett planning to connect with them
      - Pick Falling Leaves Winner
        - TBD soon will M. Barlett will pull together list of names and select with F. Vallone using randomized wheel
    - James Kuny will take over as coordinator in 2025
  - Development Runs - Ashley Mancini
    - Continue discussion of season length for next year
      - E. Winberg to discuss with race director about options moving forward
  - Youth XC Training Program - Nate Getman & Abbie Sutliff
    - No report
- Activities - Ongoing
  - Volunteers - Rebecca LaPorte
    - Approximately 6 people getting red jackets
  - Social - Melissa Barlett & Rebecca LaPorte
    - October 25th at 6:00 at Girffin's Pub
    - Winter Brunch at Delta Lake proposed for future social event
    - November 26th (Tuesday before Thanksgiving) Safety Run and Happy Hour at Pizza Boys
    - No December and January Happy Hours (due to Holiday Season)
    - Grow Brewery has a coffee shop that operates there in the mornings; possible opportunity for a morning coffee shop run (Stride Coffee)
  - Banquet and Awards - Jenna Stefka/Melissa Barlett
    - March 8th, 2025 Club Monarch 6pm-10pm
    - Will start award process, information will be in SpliTimes
- UR Supported Events
  - **Tunnel to Towers Utica 5k** - Phil Trzcinski/Alex Gonzalez
    - August 17, 2025
    - Still working to close it out
  - **Trenton Fish and Game Club Trail Run-Rob Kapfer**
    - August 3, 2025
  - **Grateful for Graham 5k** - Amanda Robertello
    - Date for 2025 will be decided in November
    - Rare Disease Week EB Spirit Week events planned (see social media page)
- Committees

- Diversity Committee - Melissa Barlett/Michelle Truett
  - On Hold
- Blood Drive - Andrew Rubino
  - No report
- **Administration & Finance – Melissa Barlett**
  - Financial - Travis Olivera
    - Report submitted
    - James Kuny will take over in 2025
  - Merchandise - Sharon Scala (contact at Sneaker Store)
    - Coordination needed between Sneaker Store and USA Racing to stock UR Gear
    - M. Barlett checking in with them this week
    - UR shirts were in the process of being printed for display/sale
    - They will keep a few things in stock so that members interested can pick up something
    - Anything special or fancy will be through USA Racing and we will do regular online stores
    - Sneaker Store will also keep our logo on hand
    - Anyone interested in being the merch coordinator, Frank Vellone is interested in taking this over and being the contact person
    - singlets (\$30)                      ■ tshirts (\$5)
    - cow bells (\$3)                      ■ hats (\$15)
    - blankets (\$25)                      ■ hoodie (\$40)
  - Equipment and Rental - Phil Trzcinski
    - May need new digital padlock - call into MasterLock about why the lock won't lock. May need a new to be replaced
    - Bullhorn - looking to see if we can get something more durable, still in progress
    - Trailer being put into storage at AP this week
    - Melissa will grab water from the trailer to store for Run2EndHunger
  - Membership - Rebecca LaPorte
    - 485 members currently (down from 502 this time last year)
  - Webpage/Race Calendar - Melissa Barlett & Andy Hartnett
    - Website is looking great
  - Facebook & PR - Andy Hartnett
    - FB Stats
    - Paid ads
    - Will boost information about New Years Day Run and membership after Run2End Hunger
    - M. Barlett will ensure benefits is up to date before sending out the boost
  - Newsletter
    - deadline is 20th of each month
    - Michelle emailed SpliTimes procedure email
    - Melissa will let Michelle know when final review is completed

- Clubs & Organizations Liaisons - Melissa Barlett/Erik Winberg (USATF and RRCA)
  - No updates - preparing for renewal email and payments
- Sponsorship - David Dietz/Sarah Harrison
  - Review sponsorship information from David and provided feedback on the draft form
  - Still need to discuss the differences in marketing materials and how we want to do the recognition including banners
  - Bank of Utica update - waiting for this information to be updated so we can send them information on the sponsorship
  - Cliff's Fuel Cards for Club Cup
  - David working to try and get First Source interested in Sponsorship

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- Racing team/race captains (recap)
  - Brookfield Classic - 09/14/2024: Travis Olivera - good turnout, would be willing to be race captain for this again
  - Wineglass Marathon - 10/06/2024: Travis Olivera - more difficult to meet up
  - Mohawk Hudson River Marathon and Half - 10/13/2024: Chris Edick - did have some members there
  - Stockadeathon - 11/10/2024: Andrew Hartnett - planning to be point of contact for this year, TBD if will continue next year
- Mohawk Valley Gives – Sept 20, 2024
  - Raised just over \$400 between draw prizes and contributing donations
  - If we do a Facebook or public thank you they ask we specifically recognize the community foundation and the fund. Thank all members who donated.
- Group Runs
  - Erik hosting group runs on Saturdays. Working to partner with Grow Brewing, In Bloom Yoga, Sneaker Store for larger events.
  - Hartnett coordinating UR travel team for It's a Wonderful Run or Lights on the Lake
- UR History Documentation - George
  - Two type written pages of history, in the process of having Paul Olbaum review it, they plan to get together soon
  - Creating a digital archive of the old running magazines - George is working on following up on copyright holder to ensure that this is acceptable, working on getting someone to say yes. Then will work on applying for grant to get them digitized
  - Board Member Profiles - George has questionnaires for interested board members to complete and mail to him if interested in being featured in a profile

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- After School Programing at Rec Center

- Contact Chet LoConti about partnership (Andrew Rubino has contact information)
- Just started for Utica City Schools a week ago
- Maybe see if the program could use help or if kids are interested in running
- Early thought stages - if we had ideas and were interested let Andrew know and we can connect with Chet
- May want to reach out to the membership and see if anyone is interested
- Andrew will follow up and see if there are any opportunities there
- Announcements
  - Falling Leaves was RRCA championship, traditionally we offer a gift to the organization. Andrew proposes that we give a \$100 donation gift using card. 1st M. Barlett 2nd T. Olivera

Meeting adjourned at 7:44pm

**Next Meeting: November 18, 2024 at 6:15 at Boilermaker Headquarters**

**Future meeting dates:**

December 9, 2024