



## Greater Framingham Running Club

**January 4th, 2020 – Carol Leiter** hosted the meeting in Wayland.

### **Fun Run:**

#### *Attendees*

*Rich Busa, Michael Peloso, Mary Bahl, Ted Tyler, Mary Tyler, Edw S Ginsberg, Joe Koziol, Arnie Pollinger, Tim Conlin, Bob Cargill, Carol Leiter, Tom Abbott, Glenn Meister, Bob Brown, Tom Miller, Jeff Hattem, Susin Taylor Carlson, Mike Carlson, Marie Leigh, Michelle Schatz, Jackie Judd, Mike Gannon*

### **MONTHLY MEETING:**

#### **President (Bob Cargill):**

Bob welcomed everyone to the first GFRC meeting of the decade. Bob thanked Carol for hosting. Bob also thanked LifeTime Athletic for joining us at the fun run this morning. We are waiting for the BAA to send us bib numbers. The New Year's Eve champagne fun run looked like it was fun. Bob thanked the Galloways and everyone else who hosted a stop on the champagne run. Bob also thanked everyone who participated in the Christmas Carol run. We had ten people run the Christmas Carol run this year. Bob encourages everyone to read the most recent newsletter.

#### **VP Report (Arnie Pollinger):**

Scholarship applications will go out to six area high schools this week – Framingham, Keefe Tech, Natick, Ashland, Wayland, and Lincoln-Sudbury. We'll give out two \$500 scholarships. We have an advisory committee meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> that is open to the entire club. We currently have three discussion items scheduled:

- 1) There has been a proposal to do away with lottery and award bib numbers to the top ten volunteers,
- 2) Amend the Seth Wolfman rule so that someone who already has another number from another source is prohibited from entering the lottery,
- 3) Discuss if we should be concerned with the drop in enrollment.

Marie Leigh emphasized that the advisory committee does not make any decisions; they draft recommendations to bring to the club for a vote at the next monthly meeting.

#### **Secretary (Jay Powell):**

No report.

#### **Treasurer (Marie Leigh):**

#### **Membership Director (Mike Gannon):**

We Welcome:

Arora            Ramon            Framingham

Petrin            Kaylene           Framingham

Brensley      Anne      Wayland

Total Members = 335

Ramon has seen at TARC, and on Facebook. Kaylene was referred by Mark Goldschmidt, and Anne found us via the internet.

We added 74 new members in 2019. While it was our 4th straight year of that total declining, we ended the year 1 more than 2018 when we were at 334.

### *Discussion*

A lively discussion followed Mike's report. Mike wonders if 334 members is a good number, or if we want to continue to grow. When he started as membership director in 2011, he used to think 200 members was a good number. He says we aren't getting many referrals from other club members, and not many people are joining because they see us at races anymore. Not many people join after running the Busa Bushwhack anymore either (we only had one join afterwards this year). We've had multiple years in the past where 10+ Team Framingham members have joined the club. We got half our new 2019 members from the C25k program. Mike thinks it would be great to see C25k members more involved.

Bob Cargill wondered if we could have a membership table at the Busa Bushwhack. Mike would like to do that, as well as have a membership table at kids track. He says that interest in the club spikes during kids track in the summer. We get some inquiries about the club on Facebook; Mike always follows up with requests to join the Facebook group with info about joining the club. Most people join via the website; hardly anyone uses the paper forms anymore. Please contact Mike if you would like to help with recruitment or promotion.

Susin Taylor Carlson said that we had a prospective member join us for the New Year's Eve champagne run. She was excited that a new person decided to try the champagne run. Joe Koziol asked if we should try to get existing members to be more active. Arnie said he calculated that about eighty people met the minimum requirements for the Boston Marathon lottery, noting that people are involved with many of our activities. Mike agreed that it is important to encourage participation in the club and said he'd also like to get people to renew – during a good year we have a 60% renewal rate. Mike said our renewal percentage this year was better than in 2018.

Jeff Hattem thinks we need to run together more. He doesn't think we're proactive about getting people involved. There's more competition these days, with several other running clubs in the area, and with Facebook running groups becoming increasingly common. Jeff thinks we should put membership applications into the Mural Mile and Busa Bushwhack goodie bags. He thinks we need to get out to local races and promote the club. Rich Busa thinks we should advertise people's training paces, so that people can contact others who run close to their pace. Joe asked if we should find ways to promote the club on the web.

Mike also reminded people that we can use the club e-mail address to communicate with club members to promote upcoming events.

**Grand Prix (Tom Abbott, Jeff Hattem, Mary Tyler, Bob Moore):**

### *Completed Races*

We had 28 people run the Jingle Bell run – Bob Cargill, Tom Abott, Michelle Schatz, Arnie Pollinger, Susin Taylor Carlson, Mike Carlson, Carol Leiter, and Ted Tyler ran and are at the meeting. Carol and Ted won their age groups. We had the New Year's Day run earlier this week with 16 members running the race. Bob, Joe Koziol, Ted, and Tom are at the meeting and ran.

Trail race results are up to date on the website.

### *Upcoming Races*

- January 11, 2020      Resolution Run to Kick Cancer - 11:00 am Saturday, Lexington
- January 25, 2020      Mt. Tom Snowshoe Scramble 5k & 10k (Trail) - 9:30 am Saturday, Holyoke
- February 9, 2020      Paddy Kelly's 5 Miler - 11:00 am Sunday, Brockton
- February 16, 2020      Old Fashioned Ten Miler - 10:00 am Sunday, Foxborough
- February 29, 2020      Lowry Pub Run - 11:00 am Saturday at Cushing Memorial Park 3 Miler (counts as March GP) Backup snow date is Sunday, March 1
- March 22, 2020      To Hale and Back Trail Race (5k and 6 Hour) - 9:00 am Sunday, Hale Reservation, Westwood

For the Resolution run, we meet at the bleachers in the gym. There is a lot of free food at the end of the race. The Mt Tom race is a team race, so sign up for the GFRC team. They have loaner snowshoes if you don't own any.

### **Newsletter (Tom Miller):**

The newsletter was sent out last night. Please contact Tom if you would like to add pictures to the newsletter or contribute an article. Jackie Judd suggested adding a member spotlight to the newsletter to help get people more involved.

### **Web (Michael Peloso and Abby McCabe):**

The website domain will be re-registered this month. The end of the year website backup was recently completed.

### **Social Media Director (Leslie White-Harvey and Susin Taylor Carlson):**

Susin asked if people could contribute survey questions at the next social night on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Please keep posting to social media.

### **Uniforms (Michelle Schatz and Jackie Judd):**

We have been fully paid for the winter order. We also have stock in Michelle's house that needs to be unloaded. Jackie and Michelle need to decide when to put in a t-shirt order. They have had some shirts that have been backordered for a long time and would like to fulfil those orders. Marie pointed out that we should be aware of the budget when placing large pre-orders that do not meet current requests for apparel.

### **Activities (Mary Bahl):**

Arnie Pollinger and Robin Perlow will host the February meeting on the 1st. Eric Jacobsen will host the March 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. Bob and Cindy Moore will host the April 4th meeting.

The next social night is on January 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 at John Harvard's.

Mary is going to step down from the activities director role due to an upcoming move and other conflicts. Arnie Pollinger suggested engaging one-on-one recruiting to find a replacement activities director. Susin Taylor Carlson is willing to be activities director if no one else can take the position.

### **Other Business:**

*Jay Powell*