



ORRC State of the Club Message

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January 9, 2024

It has been my privilege and honor to lead this club during its period of transition. It's been a turbulent year with many changes, but I truly believe the club is now stronger than ever and in very good shape financially. I wanted to touch on a few points in particular.

When the year first started there were only five members on the Board of Directors. After the transition in July, there were seven members, and we head into 2024 with 13 members on the board. I want to officially welcome the newly elected board of directors to their first official board meeting of 2024.

Also, at the start of the year we had seven race directors (three for Hagg Mud and four for all the other events we put on). Going into 2024, we now have 12 RD's spread out over more events. We also had five volunteers coordinating different aspects of the club, such as our website, social media, 1200 Club, volunteer coordinators, equipment manager, and membership and technology. Now we have 11 volunteers working together in all of those areas. All of this means the work of the club is spread out between more people so we are not reliant on a few individuals to do everything, which is not the way to recruit and develop new volunteers and leaders for the club. It will also prevent burnout for those stepping up to do the jobs.

In 2023 we had 208 individual volunteers at all of our events, not including the race directors, board members, and high school groups that also helped out. It takes so many of us to put on the events that we do. It has been so heartwarming in the past five months to have so many members come up to me and say they are happy where the club is going and are coming back to volunteering. I've said it before and I'll say it again, we couldn't do it without all of you members. The race directors and the board of directors and coordinators are the faces of the club, but we do it for all of you and collectively, together, we make the club run. From the person handing out water to the person monitoring our bank accounts, it's a collective effort and you are all doing such a wonderful job, it's exciting to see what we'll be able to do in the future.

As of December 31st, we had 518 of memberships with 711 members. This is down slightly from last year at the same time, but these numbers are still strong and I'm optimistic about the members and memberships that we do have going forward.

As we just showed in the approved budget for 2024, the club's finances are strong. We have over a year's worth of operating expenses in reserves so if anything should happen (like cancelling Turkey Trot due to snow and ice) we'd be able to continue functioning. But that doesn't mean we aren't looking at ways to be fiscally responsible. We made the decision last month to begin the process of moving our equipment to a different location to save expenses, as well as make it easier for our race directors by having the equipment stored at a location where they can also rent vehicles for their events. By cutting our storage costs almost in half we can put those saved expenses back into the club in other ways, such as member giveaways or donations to community partners that encourage running in the schools like Liberty Fit.

In closing I'd like to again thank each and every one of you for supporting ORRC. I welcome your feedback, questions, and comments on how we are doing (the good, the bad, and the ugly). We all need your input to help us run the club the way you want us to run it. And don't be surprised if I reach out to you to volunteer in some way! We're always looking to recruit new volunteers to develop into new leaders for the club's future. Some of us would like to step down in a year or two and need you all to take our places! So thank you again, and I look forward to seeing you out there on the roads.