

RRCA-AARC Merger on Track

by John Farrow

The RRCA remains on track to complete a merger with the AARC by the end of the year. Following the 2004 Annual Convention, the Board of Directors met twice during the month of June to consider and act on items required pursuant to its Letter of Agreement with the AARC. Also, several vacant board seats were created by the resignation of Tom Fort as Secretary-Treasurer and the elections of former At-large Director Bee Andrews as RRCA President and Southern Region Director Tom Downing as Vice-President.

The Board confirmed the appointment of Todd Neville of St. Augustine, Florida, as the new Secretary-Treasurer. Also confirmed were Chuck George of New Orleans, Louisiana, to fill the At-Large seat vacated by Bee Andrews and David Samuel of Little Rock, Arkansas, as the new Southern Region Director. A number of other items were also acted upon, many of them required by the Letter of Agreement, including the following:

The new Secretary-Treasurer has revised the financial reporting of the RRCA to be in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles according to accrual-based accounting, as required by the Letter of Agreement (under past leadership, financial reporting reflected a cash basis accounting). He also reported that the previous six-figure deficit has almost been entirely eliminated;

A task force co-chaired by Jeff Darman and Carl Sniffen has been appointed to review the existing RRCA board structure and provide recommendations on improvements;

An audit committee chaired by Eastern Region Director Brent Ayer has been created;
The Board approved a Conflict of Interest

Policy and all Board members as well as the RRCA Executive Director have signed a Conflict of Interest statement reflecting a list of the activities of each that could constitute a conflict of interest with the RRCA;

The Board received formal training from Dr. Greg Powell, a professional organizational consultant on the roles and responsibilities of board members, including conflicts of interest, fiduciary responsibilities and the responsibilities of a non-profit board of directors;

A plan of merger implementation and transition has been developed by RRCA President Bee Andrews and AARC President Jeff Darman to facilitate the orderly transition of AARC clubs back to the RRCA. Jeff Darman was also named as the RRCA representative to the USATF board and has already attended two days of USATF meetings on behalf of the RRCA;

The Board previously approved a relocation of the RRCA office from Alexandria, Virginia, to Columbia, Maryland, and a lease has been signed for new office space with occupancy scheduled for September 1, 2004;

Finally, the New Orleans Track Club will host the RRCA National Convention in 2005. Bids will be considered at that time to host the 2006 and 2007 conventions in a move to return to past practice of naming convention hosts two years ahead of the hosting year.

ARR News, September 2004
Albuquerque Road Runners Club