

My Last Director's Report

John Farrow

This year's annual convention, my 11th, marks the end of my second term as an at-large director of the RRCA, and consequently, the end of my term on the Board. This has been a memorable association and I am grateful for the opportunity to have been of service.

In 2002, the RRCA faced a crisis of confidence. Many of its member clubs had left to join a new and competing organization called the Association of American Running Clubs; finances were in a shambles; *Footnotes* was running a substantial deficit; many had lost confidence in the executive director and no club wanted to host the annual convention. It was amid this atmosphere that I came to the Board with four other very dedicated, hard-working individuals. Together, and with the rest of the Board over the past four years, we have not only pulled away from the brink, but have taken huge strides to return to the forefront of the grass-roots running community.

Today the RRCA has the largest membership in its history, a membership that continues to grow; it is financially sound; *Footnotes* has returned as a beautiful online publication; the national office is headed by a dynamic and energetic executive director in the person of Jean Knaack and clubs are bidding to host the Annual Convention in record numbers. In short, I was humbled and honored to have been given an opportunity to help turn things around, and with the help of so many of you who have always believed in the RRCA, I am proud to have

been a part of the effort that has put us where we are today.

I remain a long-time member of the Albuquerque Road Runners Club and continue to write a monthly column for its newsletter, *ARR News*. I also continue to be involved in the Albuquerque running community by serving on the Board of Directors of the Duke City Marathon, where I am the race director for the half-marathon.

Even though this is my last annual convention as a member of the Board of Directors, it will certainly not be the end of my association with the RRCA. I know that next year I will be back for my 12th annual convention, wherever it may be held.