



MANITOBA RUNNERS' ASSOCIATION

Report-Athletics Manitoba Annual General Meeting

June 15, 2021 Online

- 2021 is the MRA's 50th Anniversary! To celebrate, we are offering a new participation series, the MRA Celebration Series, FREE to members and non-members, that encourages participants to keep active from January 3rd to October 30th. We currently have 92 participants signed up. We have also established a committee that is collecting information and conducting interviews of the athletes, race directors, events, sponsors, coaches and board members that have made contributions to the MRA and road running in Manitoba over the past 50 years. Featured profiles will appear monthly on our website, starting with the first 5-year category (2016-Present) this month. Each consecutive month will continue to feature another 5-year category, working backwards in time to 1971 (10 months).
- The Affiliation Agreement between Athletics Manitoba and the Manitoba Runners' Association was ratified between the two organizations as of March 31, 2021 and is in place for another 3 years. The only real change to the agreement was to add that both parties agree to review and discuss the terms of membership over the course of this agreement.
- Our AGM was held on Monday, April 12, 2021, 7:30pm and was online again this year. We had 13 participants, including Board members. The proposed new Bylaws were approved, along with supporting policies. We had two board members step down (Judy McMullen-Treasurer and Colin Reed-Vice President) and one new board member elected (Bryan Mintenko). A meeting was held following the AGM to elect the new Executive: Krista Waring-President, Derek Boutang-Secretary and Reg Brown-Treasurer. Other board members include Aldo Furlan, Andrew Swan and Bryan Mintenko.
- Since 2019, when our total membership was 531, we have experienced a drop in membership of 61% due to the pandemic. Our current membership now stands at 207. It is going to be a long road back, but we are up for the challenge!
- We have been fortunate to be able to apply for, and receive, government funding over the past year. Between the CEBA loan, CEWS (wage subsidy) and the Manitoba Bridge Grants, our finances have remained stable so that we have been able to continue to provide services and programs to our membership and Race Directors.
- We have 35 events on our 2021 Race Calendar. Events have been continuing to take place virtually, but some are hoping to be live in some way in the Fall. Amazingly, donations are way up for most events! Entry fees are lower and our generous participants have been giving as much as they can to the causes that our events represent.

- Both our Classic Race Series and Youth Race Series have continued throughout the past year and have contributed to the success of the events. We held our Annual Awards Celebration virtually on November 30, 2020 with over 100 people in attendance. 41 medals were given out for the Classic Series, 9 in the Youth Series and 126 for Run 150, a program that received funding from the Manitoba 150 Host Committee and that was still able to take place in 2020. We had collected photos of nearly all of the winners that we placed on a “virtual podium” as they were awarded their medals! We even had draw prizes that are always a part of this event. All winners were published in the Winnipeg Free Press.
- Unfortunately our annual Hall of Fame Banquet has had to be cancelled in both 2020 and 2021. We have booked the Celebrations Dinner Theatre at the Canad Inn Fort Garry for April 25, 2022 with the hopes that a large indoor event will be able to be held by then. Our plan is to not only celebrate our inductees and award winners from 2020, but to also celebrate our 50th Anniversary by inviting many of the people that have been instrumental in road running over the past 50 years. It could be one of the first celebrations of the end of the pandemic!

Hope you are all keeping well!

Kathy Wiens, MRA Executive Director