

Candidate background material: Their stated qualifications for seeking a Director or Officer position with the Richmond Road Runners Club for the December 2017 to December 2019 term.

DIRECTORS

1. Sarah Akin (Director)

I have been an active RRRC member for 4 years. I am an avid volunteer at RRRC club races in addition to running most club races. This year I was co-director for the Thanks Dad 5k. I am active in several local running groups including Race Team RVA and the Sunday Dog Pack. I am currently a Sports Backers ambassador. I teach water fitness at the Manchester YMCA. I promote an active lifestyle through my teaching as well as my social media. I truly enjoy and am deeply appreciative of the positive changes (both physical and mental) that come from my running. I joined the RRRC initially to have access to more races but instead discovered an amazing community of supportive and inspiring runners of all ages, shapes and sizes.

2. Mara George (Director)

I have been volunteering at finish lines for the Road Runners since I was 8 years old, about 24 years. I have been a member of the RRRC Board of Directors since 2009. In 2010, I took over as race director of the Pony Pasture 5K and in 2018 I will race direct Frostbite 15K. In 2015, I became the RRRC Membership Coordinator. I am one of the chip timing timers. I coached one cycle of the New Runners Program. I previously coached the 8K training team with the Sports Backers and currently coach the 10K and Half training teams. For the past 5 years I have served on the Cap2Cap ride leadership team. On ride day, I was in charge of SAG communication. I am currently a NUUN ambassador and Oiselle Volee (ambassador). Previously I was a Sports Backers ambassador.

3. Marcy George (Director)

I feel I offer a different perspective for the Club in that I walk races as well as do a lot of volunteering. This will be my 6th year of being Race Director for the Sweetheart 8K. I have volunteered at races for RRRC as well as with other groups for as long as I can remember. I handle walk-up registration and packet pick-up, work the finish line and have become a "Football Guru" for the club. With Sports Backers, I am on their committee for the Marathon and Monument Avenue 10K at their expos and help coordinate volunteers at the finish lines for both races. I also coach their 8K and 10K training teams as well as help SB with other races and events they sponsor. In addition, I have volunteered with the Capital Trail Foundation for their Cap2Cap Bike Ride and coordinated registration for the event.

4. Michael George (Director)

RRRC member since 1989; board member since 1992; past president; race director of Patrick Henry Half Marathon; start/finish coordinator; course set-up; course measurement and certification; provider of music and frivolity (fireworks, calliopes, and clowns).

5. Frankie Gerloff, Jr (Director)

I've been a lifelong athlete and involved in leadership positions professionally and as a volunteer. I'm entering my eighth year as head coach for the Winter Marathon Training Team. Prior to joining RRRC, I spent 15 years coaching youth basketball and football, and was a board member of Hanover Youth Basketball for 10 years.

6. Mark Guzzi (Director)

I am an active participant in assisting in the management of RRRC events. I sponsor/promote events that overlap with the RRRC, such as the RVA Monthly Trail Run, and the 2am Trail Really Early Morning Run. I am a conduit to community groups such as Sports Backers and the James River Park Service. I spearheaded the Club's participation in National Trail Day. I will continue to devote my efforts to enhancing the RRRC's objectives.

7. Crystal Koch (Director)

I have already served on the board for 2 years, am the current editor of Miles and Minutes, a coach for the Sports Backers 10k team, the SAG Coordinator for the Sports Backers Marathon Training Team, and race director for 2 races (1 club, 1 non-club). I coordinate trail runs, lead a ladies only monthly trail run, assist Glenn with truck duties as his mostly faithful truck assistant; am an ultra-runner, coach of the people, and creator/administrator of the RVA Runners group on Facebook.

8. Mike Levins (Director)

I am very involved with the Club, being a member for over 35 years. I time several races, keep and post-race results. I provide an understand of the history of the club and hope to continue to support both old and new initiatives to make the club better and support running in Richmond. In addition, I am very involved with Sports Backers in supporting the Monument Avenue 10K, Richmond Marathon, Half Marathon, 8K and Patrick Henry Half Marathon, a joint RRRC/SB event.

9. Chris Mason (Director)

I have been active within the club for a few years now and have enjoyed it. I have helped coach the winter marathon training team for the past two years, and have recently become the social media point of contact for the club as well. I love giving back to a club that has provided me with so much throughout my running “career.” I appreciate your consideration.

10. Kirk Millikan (Director)

My initial participation in RRRC races goes back to 2001, but I have been most active in RRRC over the last four years. Over that time period, I have volunteered at or run each of the RRRC races at least once with the exception of Sweetheart, Stratford Hills, and Willis River (although Willis River is no longer an RRRC race). I have been a Grand Prix Finalist in 2014, 2015, and 2016, and I have qualified as a finalist for 2017 as well. In addition to RRRC races, I have participated in the last five Monument Avenue 10K races, and I have completed 11 marathons since 2013 (including four in a taco costume). My involvement in the local running community extends to training teams as well - I have trained with the Sports Backers Marathon Training Team as well as the Advanced 10K Training Team. I also enjoy joining group runs from some of the local running stores. In 2011 and 2012, I co-directed a 5K in Charlottesville to raise money for the UVA Cancer Center.

11. Eric Nachman (Director)

I have been a Grand Prix finalist for the last two years and I would like to give back to the club. I am currently one of the leaders of the Sunday Dog Pack running group and an active participant in the Ridgefield Runners.

12. Megan Novak (Director)

I have been searching for a new opportunity to get more involved in the Richmond community, and upon receiving the “Club elections” email, I instantly knew that a board member role for the RRRC would be the right opportunity. Growing up, I stayed active through involvement in my high school’s track & field, cross country and soccer teams. Since then, the various races sponsored through RRRC (Pony Pasture 5K, Turkey Trot at U of R, Cul-de-Sac 5k series, etc.) have provided me the opportunity to continue to maintain that active lifestyle and participate as a member of a running community. Additionally, I started a running club at work as a means to stay active and have now also joined the Sports Backers Half Marathon Training Team. From participating in the races, to supporting my family members and friends who are racing themselves, it’s been a joy being part of the Richmond running community and I am interested in the opportunities to volunteer my time to help make the experience for fellow runners in the community just as valuable to them as it has been to me. The opportunity to serve as a board member would allow me to give back and have a positive impact on the Richmond running community. Thank you for your consideration.

13. Christopher Piper (Director)

I am a current Board Member and have enjoyed my time on the Board. I would like to continue to help set the direction for the greatest running community in the world.

14. Hervey Sherd (Director)

It is time again for me to become more active in the Club. As the head coach of the New Runners Team, I need to be more involved.

OFFICERS

1. Ralph Gibbs (President)

Since starting to run (and joining RRRC) in 2010, I have run 125 races of every distance from 5k to 100 miles. At least 45 of those have been RRRC races.

Running has helped me lose weight and keep it off. I used to weight 286 pounds before I found running. I discovered that I love to run and enjoy pushing myself to test my limits. It has also given me so much confidence in my daily life as well.

RRRC has given me a place where I feel I truly belong. The people I have met and the experiences I have had since joining have been nothing short of phenomenal.

Running and RRRC have given me so much that I can't help but give back. The best way I know to do that is to be an active, involved member of the running and RRRC community.

In my tenure of leadership positions with RRRC I have performed the following duties to the absolute best on my abilities:

- Treasurer for 2 years
- Board member for 1 year prior to Treasurer
- Co-Grand Prix Poohbah for the past 4 years
- Heavily involved in Webmaster duties for the past 3 years

I want to be President because I would like to continue the path set by past presidents to modernize the RRRC in all aspects of racing, fiscal responsibility and administration. I believe that this will help position the RRRC for continued growth and best serve Richmond's running community.

2. Jim Oddono (VP Operations)

I have been the VP of Operations for the last 2 years and would like to continue for the next term. Bill Kelly has helped me with the position and after 2 years I feel I have gotten a better understanding with how the club works and how to make this position more efficient and effective. I have run almost every race that the RRRC sponsors and hope to continue to race them all next year as well.

3. Rosie Schutte (Secretary)

I have been heavily involved in the Richmond running community for 14 years. I have participated in a wide range of areas, volunteering my time as a group run leader, race volunteer, bus tour guide for the marathon, head coach for SMTT 13.1, committee member to develop RRRC Strategic plan, board member, PoohBah for Grand Prix and source for regeneration of this competition, banquet planning, and as the secretary for the club. Additionally, I am an RRCA certified coach and attended the RRCA national convention in Dallas. I believe I work well with my fellow officers as we have learned to communicate, compromise, and strive to work in the best interest of the growth of RRRC.

4. Nikkia Young (Treasurer)

It would be my pleasure to serve the Richmond Road Runners Club as Treasurer to help in furthering the mission and success of the club. As Treasurer, I will assist in managing budgets, tracking spending and protecting the club's assets while also ensuring their proper allocation and use. Currently, I work at the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, where I procure software and manage hardware assets. In addition to the RRRC, I serve as the special events chair for Girls on the Run, where I assist with fundraisers. I also assist with race planning for the Neighborhood Resource Center.

5. Edward Kelleher (VP Communications)

Since I became an active member of Richmond Road Runners in 2010, I served for a few years as Bill Webb's backup driver for the equipment truck (notable accomplishments: I killed the old truck on my first solo drive), have volunteered for the finish line crew and in other capacities at countless club and contract races, and served as editor of Miles and Minutes for four years. During that time, M&M was selected as the outstanding print newsletter for 2013 by Road Runners Club of America. I was honored to be elected in 2015 to a new position – Vice President/Communications. In seeking re-election to that position, I hope to continue the advances made in the past two years with regard to race sponsorships. Now that a formal sponsorship program has been established, we need to actively pursue sponsors and reward them with the exposure to the running community that is afforded by our RunSignUp platform. I also hope to energize the RRRC Communications Committee so that its various elements -- Miles and Minutes, RunSignUp, social media, marketing, etc. -- act as one voice to further the club's mission.