

NOTC President's Letter

November 28th, 2016

Hello runners and walkers! It has been a busy fall for the New Orleans Track Club, with several races and club changes! In October, we hosted both the 3rd annual NOLA Blue Doo Run on Tulane University's campus and the 5th annual Oktoberfest Race in conjunction with the Kenner festival at Deutsches Haus. November saw the 36th annual YMCA Corporate Cup Second Line for Literacy 5k event and a record turn-out at the 109th annual New Orleans Athletic Club Turkey Day Race benefiting Spina Bifida of Greater New Orleans. We were blessed by the weather gods to have excellent, sunny weather at each of these races.

In the midst of all these race events, we were also working hard as an organization to find the successor of our current executive race director, Jennifer Neil. Earlier this fall, Jennifer informed our Board of Directors that she would be stepping down as the New Orleans Track Club's executive race director at the end of 2016 in order to spend more time with her family. In September, the club posted a job listing for event manager/race director and received close to thirty applications expressing interest in the role. A committee of board members conducted hour-long interviews with seven different applicants in early October and a few weeks later, the Board of Directors approved a contract to hire Chloe Nicolosi as the club's new event manager/race director. Chloe, a graduate of Louisiana State University, has a degree in Sports Administration and previously worked with the New Orleans Track Club last year as an intern where she learned skills such as communicating with race sponsors, setting up and breaking down for races, and creating and marking courses. Under Jennifer's tutelage, Chloe started working with the New Orleans Track Club during the first week of November and has already had gained valuable experience with helping to oversee the YMCA Corporate Cup and Turkey Day races. Jennifer will continue to train Chloe through the Ole Man River Half-Marathon and 5k in late December. This will be the last official race that Jennifer will direct with the New Orleans Track Club. I invite you all to come to the Rivershack Tavern in Gretna, LA following the Ole Man River event to celebrate the hard work and success Jennifer has put forth to stabilize and grow our club since November 2012. Without her dedication and compassion for the club and the running/walking community in New Orleans, we would not be in the place we are today. Through her leadership, NOTC has seen higher membership rates, steady growth in race attendance, and improved programming. We are so fortunate and grateful that Jennifer is providing guidance and imparting her wisdom to Chloe so she can continue to follow in Jennifer's positive footsteps (pun intended).

Coming up in late January 2017, NOTC will be holding our winter general membership meeting where we will give updates on the club as well as award our winners of the 2016 Grand Prix series that recently concluded at the Oktoberfest race. Be on the lookout in the next few weeks for a formal invitation to this meeting (and ceremony if you are a Grand Prix award recipient) that outlines location, date, and time. I am also excited that we will be hosting the inaugural Mardi Gras 5k on Saturday, February 18th, 2017 in conjunction with Jefferson Parish's 10th Annual Family Gras festival. Combining the spirit of Carnival and fun of an NOTC event will truly be a memorable time.

I hope to see you at some of these upcoming events and I encourage you to introduce yourself to Chloe if you have not already met her! Remember to check our website, "On the Run" emails, and social media for the most up-to-date information. If you have any suggestions or feedback, please feel free to reach out to me directly at President@runnotc.org.

Happy running and walking,

Lauren Jewett, NOTC President 2015-2016 and 2016-2017