

Minutes of JSTS General Meeting - March 14, 2022 (via Zoom)

- ❖ Call to order at 7:01pm President Robert Nuara.
- ❖ Louis Osmont, Vice President - Introduction of board members present. Roll Call not taken - 23 members attended via Zoom teleconference.
- ❖ Motion made by Vice President Louis Osmont to accept the minutes of the January meeting and approved.
- ❖ Sheryl Nishiura, Secretary, reported no correspondence.
- ❖ Treasurer's Report for January and February read by Steve Shell.
 - Steve noted that all dues and fees have been paid including League of American Bicyclists membership through March 2023.
 - Affinipay fees that are listed are credit card processing fees for membership dues paid via Wild Apricot.
 - Steve researched a suggestion to determine if reimbursements could be processed through Zelle. He was informed by the bank that we could not because our account is a business account. Also, reimbursements cannot be made from the Club Debit Card. Steve will look into online bill pay as another option for reimbursing members for Club expenses (such as food for events, etc.)
 - Motion made to accept financial statements made and accepted.
- ❖ Change Membership Renewal to begin on January 1 (switched from later in agenda)
 - As per our by-laws, membership renewals currently begin on October 1 for the following calendar year. All membership dues paid from October 1 thru December 31 apply to the following calendar year.
 - Rob Leitner explained that there is often confusion in cash-flow reporting when creating and managing the budget because of dues paid in Q4 count toward the following calendar year. Years ago, it was helpful to have cash arrive in advance of the new year so that sufficient funds were available for early season expenses. However, now that the Club has built up a significant reserve, this early collection of funds is no longer needed. The board is recommending that the membership renewal be changed to start on January 1 for the current calendar year.
 - In the past two years an early renewal discount has been offered (due to canceled social events as a result of Covid), which encouraged members to renew early. An early membership renewal discount would continue to be offered at the Board's discretion to encourage people to renew early.

- A question was raised about rides in early January if members have not yet renewed. Rob said that the system allows us to define a grace period after a membership expires, but we will need to clarify if that impacts insurance because insurance covers “active members”.
- This change will make it easier to create and manage budgets and make things cleaner for reporting member and membership counts. If approved, this change would take effect for membership year 2023.
- Feedback is welcome on this topic and a draft of the changes to the by-laws will be presented at the next meeting.

❖ Committee Updates: Membership - Jerry Korn

JERSEY SHORE TOURING SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP ANALYSIS
AS OF FEBRUARY 28, 2022

Period	Renewals	New Members	Life Members	Trial Members	Total Members
Oct.1, 2021 to Feb. 28, 2022	205	126	10	1	342
Oct.1, 2020 to Feb. 28, 2021	225	53	10		288
Oct.1, 2019 to Feb. 28, 2020	198	37	10		245
Oct.1, 2018 to Feb. 28, 2019	130	10	8		148

- Jerry noted that membership is currently at 346 (up from what is reported dated 2/28). There are 126 new members since October 2021. It is not clear how Wild Apricot is defining “new members” since this number seems high, especially so early in the year. The webmasters will analyze the data further to see if we are possibly misinterpreting the data we are extracting from Wild Apricot.
- There were 173 new members in 2021. It was noted that the May Club meeting has historically been a “New Member Meeting” and new members should be encouraged to attend.
- It was suggested that it would be helpful to know the ride levels of new members so that new rides could be added to the schedule if needed.
- Jerry stated that if the by-laws are changed so that memberships are only paid in the year in which they apply, then it will be much easier to track membership counts for the calendar year.

- ❖ Committee Updates: Ride Coordinator- John Hayes
 - April rides are scheduled and should be posted later this week. Ride leaders are put on the schedule on a rotating basis. The Ride Coordinators hope to have more ride leaders beginning in May.
 - Barb Bennett noted that a Thursday morning ride is being added and the trip to Italy is still on - there are a few more slots available if anyone is interested in joining the club members who are currently going on this trip.

- ❖ Committee Updates: Clothing (Clothing Coordinator, Jean Roy was not in attendance so this was reported by President, Rob Nuara.)
 - The Ascend Clothing Store will be open after the Champagne ride. Samples will be available at the Champagne ride for members to try on for sizing.
 - Some new items may be added to the selection - arm warmers and leg warmers. There needs to be a minimum of 10 items ordered to put into production so members will be surveyed to see if there is interest.
 - The 40th Anniversary Shirt will no longer be available as it was always planned to only be offered last year.
 - The store will be open for about 3 weeks.
 - The Frostbite shirts have started to be distributed.

- ❖ Old Business - Sheryl Nishiura
 - The Board accepted the suggestion made at the last meeting to provide a small token Club Century Ride Award for those completing their first Century Ride.
 - The board accepted the suggestion made at the last meeting to provide Ride Leaders with a gift in addition to the volunteer recognition gift.
 - The changes to the frostbite rules are still under review per Rob Nuara.
 - A supply of JSTS car magnets has been purchased and will be available to members at the Champagne ride.

- ❖ New Business - Louis Osmont
 - YouTube videos are posted on the Club site and Louis is trying to post a few a month. If anyone has video content they can send it to Louis.

- The Champagne Ride is scheduled for April 24. Louis will be sending out an email to solicit a few volunteers to help - we are keeping the event simple again this year with sandwiches and chips/snacks.
- We are continuing to look for a venue for an End of Season party.
- The board is putting together an inventory of Club Supplies and who is storing them for reference. Currently we have the following:
 - Coolers - Rob Fisch
 - Ride Marshall Vests - Stacy Ropp
 - Folding Tables - Alan Zwiebel
 - Archive Records - Bob Spony
- Rob Nuara informed the group that the ABC Club (Atlantic Bicycle Club based in Wall) reached out as their club may be dissolving. They have about 80 members on their email list. They are working through the legal issues but are considering using funds left in their treasury to pay membership fees for their members to join JSTS.

❖ Open Discussion

- David Cofone voiced opposition to rewarding Ride Leaders with a special gift since volunteers often step up to lead rides “on the fly” and they would not be recognized. He also stated that it is difficult to make ride changes the way the current system is organized since Ride Leaders cannot directly modify the schedule in Wild Apricot and suggested that it should be made easier for people to lead rides.

Louis Osmont and Barbara Bennett expressed that the Club needs people to volunteer in advance to put their name and phone number on the schedule as a leader or else rides get canceled. The gift is to thank those people who volunteer for this service. It was clarified that this is not a contest (like the frostbite ride) to achieve a gift, but to encourage members to lead rides.

- Fred Sweet suggested that the local media may be interested in covering the Club Champagne Ride.
- Rob Nuara reported that the Board will be meeting (on Zoom) with a representative from the New Jersey Bike Collation who has offered to provide the Club with a safety course for members. The representative has offered to do an in-person training session with members if we would like to offer it.

❖ Next meeting will be held on May 9 via Zoom (New Member meeting)

❖ Meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.