

## Minutes of JSTS Membership Meeting - March 13, 2023 (via Zoom)

- The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by President Paul Sakson
  - A roll call was not taken; approximately 31 members were present on the call at the start, additional members joined during the call.
- A motion made to accept the minutes of the January 9, 2023 meeting was made and seconded and approved by a show of hands (via Zoom).
- Paul Sakson recognized the former board members who recently came off of the Board (Robert Nuara, President; Louis Osmont, Vice President; Steven Shell, Treasurer; Sheryl Nishirua, Secretary). As a token of the club's great appreciation of their service to the membership, each was awarded with a plaque with a message of thanks.
- Mike Greaney, Secretary, reported that no significant correspondence had been received. Paul Sakson noted that the Board had received and exchanged emails with other cycling clubs and organizations on day-to-day matters, such as inquiries about charity rides and civic events.
- Eric Bonnett presented the Treasurer's report for February. Eric also noted that the new "donate" button on the website had resulted in \$410 in contributions to date. A motion by John Hayes, seconded by Sheryl Nishiura, to accept the Treasurer's report was approved with 27 in favor and no objections.
- Paul Sakson proposed the club's offering of sponsorships to bicycle shops and other similar businesses, and in a voice vote, no objections were noted. Rob Leitner noted that the club used to offer bicycle shop memberships, but eventually the bike shops were not willing to pay for the memberships. John Hayes suggested that links for the sponsor could be placed on the club's website, and Pat Perrella discussed the possibility of event sponsorships.
- Michael Franken, a guest presenter, discussed the National Multiple Sclerosis Society's "Coast the Coast" event, which will be held on May 13, starting in Deal. Paul Sakson noted that the club has registered a team and has already raised \$2,200. Michael said there will be 75, 50, and 25 mile rides, with catered rest stops, and that the ride often draws up to 450 riders. Paul noted that he had volunteered to staff a table for the club, and that there are additional volunteer opportunities on the MS Ride website (<https://mssociety.donordrive.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=cms.page&id=4801&eventID=1281>).
- Paul Sakson also noted that some club members were riding in the Franklin Food Bank's "Tour de Franklin" charity ride on April 30 (<https://www.classy.org/event/tour-de-franklin-2023/e454030>). A club team has been registered and has raised over \$1,600 for the Franklin Food Bank.
- The topic of charity rides was discussed generally, including a possible focus on local events, such as the Asbury Park "Food for Justice" ride (<https://ssl.charityweb.net/trinitynj/justiceride/>), most

recently held in September. Pat Perrella noted the need for selectivity. Rob Nuara suggested publicizing who is riding in the event, and Ward Kradjel suggested sending links to the team sign ups.

- Paul Sakson gave an update on the structure of the club's committees, noting that the committees were critical in allowing the club to take action and achieve its objectives without all decisions going through the board. Paul also noted a pressing need for someone to take the lead in posting to social media about the club's activities.
- Barb Bennett and John Hayes gave an update on ride planning for the current year. They noted that the April schedule had been posted, and this year there would be more combined rides, and that the rides would start shorter and would increase in length throughout the season. Initially there would be more rides along the beach when there was lower traffic, and later starts (daylight and temperature considerations).
  - It was noted that there is flexibility for ride leaders to make changes to the schedule and that advance notification is helpful as people program their bike computers and make plans to meet up with rides in progress.
  - Exceptional irregular rides were discussed, including:
    - JSTS Champagne Ride,
    - JSTS Longest Day Rides (around the summer solstice),
    - JSTS Summer Tour, this year in the Hudson Valley June 23 - 26,
    - JSTS Saturday Away ride - possibly Thompson Park in Jamesburg,
    - JSTS Century Ride, the Sunday before Labor Day, likely to be Brookdale to Bordentown,
    - JSTS Dolce Vita Ride,
    - The Italy Tour (planned for October, a separate note to follow on that),
    - JSTS Al's Covered Bridge Ride (October),
    - JSTS Washington Crossing Ride.
  - Gravel rides and the Ice Cream Ride are being considered.
- Ward Kradjel reported on Bike Advocacy and Community Outreach.
  - The club had received an invitation from the city of Long Branch to participate in a survey of bike safety.
  - The Bike Advocacy and Community Outreach committee was working to build awareness of safe passing laws, in conjunction with the Bike Walk Coalition and the Princeton Freewheelers.
  - In Monmouth County, there are plans to approach local town governments to encourage them to apply for grants to build safe cycling lanes/paths under the Department of Transportation's Safe Streets for All program (<https://www.transportation.gov/grants/SS4A>).
  - May is National Bike Month, promoted by the League of American Bicyclists (<https://bikeleague.org/events/bike-month/>).

- Jean Roy reported on the distribution of the Frostbite Series shirts, noting the high number of members who completed the series (46). Jean reported that the first weekend's distribution of shirts went well, with members picking up their shirts and enjoying conversation over coffee and donuts, and on plans for the second weekend of shirt distribution. Jean Roy also indicated that the Ascend clothing store would open in early May for two weeks, and that proposed dates would be circulated.
- Paul Sakson comments on the \$410 that had been received in donations, indicating that they would be used for impactful purposes, such as the promotion of JSTS. Charles Kirlew pointed out that members might have an expectation of tax deductibility, which is not the case for donations to the club. Modification of the language on the site to make this clearer was discussed (and effected very shortly thereafter). Initiatives that might be funded with donations were discussed, and it was noted that the first \$500 was already included in the annual budget that was approved in January.
- Robert Nuara reported that the first issue of the NEW monthly newsletter, "The JSTS Paceline", went out the prior week. Paul Sakson commented on the high quality of the newsletter. Rob noted that a member with graphic arts skills was needed to assist in production. Rob also encouraged members to provide content - "share your story, including pictures!" Topics could be about the members themselves, or rides or other riders.
  - It was noted that Matt Eitel would be riding the Police Unity Tour for fallen officers.
  - Pat Perrella suggested centralizing committee updates through the newsletter.
  - Rob stated the deadline for content was the 15th of the month for the following month's newsletter.
- Rob Leitner reported on some slowness of the website, which was being addressed. Rob also noted that in the ride descriptions, a section had been added to remind members to consider the elevation profile when evaluating the difficulty of a ride.
- Pat Perrella gave a brief update on membership, noting there were 282 paid memberships at February 28 and 336 members in total.
  - Paul Sakson encouraged members to reach out to new members to welcome them and help them to enjoy the club.
  - Barb Bennett noted that May is the new member meeting, and encouraged reaching out to new members to encourage them to attend the new member meeting.
  - Paul said that the club is seeking a chair for the membership committee.
- Pat Perrella noted the May 21 League of American Bicyclists ("LAB") cycling skills workshop, which will be presented by Paul Mickiewicz at Brookdale Community College
- Paul Sakson summarized the member survey results, noting that that members:
  - Would like more bicycling education events
  - Felt the club was doing a good job with respect to bike safety (average "8" rating)
  - Did not feel the need for more membership meetings

- o Would like some meetings in person
  - o Like most the people and camaraderie of the club
  - o Felt there were not enough C and D rides and there was a lack of enough ride leaders
  - o Were very likely to recommend the club to others (average rating "9")
  
- The next meeting will be held on May 8, 2023 at 7pm via Zoom.
  
- A motion to adjourn was made, seconded and approved, and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:00 pm