



The Strider

Official Newsletter of the
Sun Country Striders, Ltd.

Volume 24, Number 4

November 2006

HELP!

The Sun Country Striders is in dire need of volunteers.

In February of next year, the Sun Country Striders will be 25 years old. It has seen good times and not-so-good times, but it is now facing its most difficult challenge to date and is in danger of never seeing its 26th anniversary.

The position of Vice-President Trails, normally called Trailmaster, has been vacant for well over a year and no one has stepped forward to fill the position. At the Board of Directors meeting on 13 September our President, Elisabeth Johnson-Lewis and her husband, Hugh Lewis announced that they had decided to sell their home here and move away. They both submitted resignation letters. Hugh was an appointed, at large board member. So, now we have three critical vacancies on the board. The club cannot survive and continue with the same schedule of events without more involvement from club members.

In addition to the vacancies, participation at our events has dropped extremely low. For instance, at our last walk on 14 & 15 October, we had only a total of 12 participants, two of which walked both days leaving a total of 10 people. Of the 42 individuals who are current club members, only 7 participated, all of which also worked marking the trail or manning the start-finish table. It also meant that only three non-members participated. The event previous to this one had only 27 participants and the one before

that had only 39.

So in addition to this Newsletter going out to club members, it is also being sent to people from the local area that have participated in one of our walks over the last year.

Folks, we need help. If you care about participating in our walks and want the club to continue, it is time you did some volunteer work and step forward to help the club. If you are a member, volunteer for one of the vacant positions or volunteer to work putting on the events. If you are not a club member and like participating in our walks, please consider becoming a member and providing your assistance so we can continue to provide the exercise and enjoyment of our walks.

And, **ALL** of you need to start participating. Twelve participants will not cover the cost of over \$100 the club incurs for each event. In addition, it is an insult to the dedicated people who volunteer their time to put the event on, when they spend more time volunteering than it takes the participants to walk.

At the 8 November board meeting, the three remaining elected board members and one at large member discussed the situation and made the decision to publish this Newsletter asking for people to step forward and help out. Further, if adequate assistance isn't forthcoming by the 1st of January 2007, the club will cancel all the weekend events scheduled for 2007. We would keep the four Year Round walks and evaluate the situation over the next year to determine if we should continue. Should sufficient assistance not be forthcoming over the year, we will consider disbanding the club at the end of 2007. Should assistance become available during the year, some or all the events could be re-

scheduled during 2007 and/or scheduled for 2008.

If any club member is willing to accept appointment to one of the three vacant positions or needs additional information, please contact any of the board members listed on Page 2.

If you are not a member and would like more information about the club or want to join and help out, you can also contact any of the board members.

For your information and consideration, below are the duties of the President and Vice-President Trails (Trailmaster) from the club by-laws.

President

(1) Establishes the agenda and presides at all General Membership and Board of Directors' meetings.

(2) Calls special meetings of the Club and Board of Directors when necessary.

(3) Appoints special committees with advice and approval of the Board of Directors and serves ex officio as a member of all committees.

(4) Provides overall guidance and assistance to all other Club officers.

(5) Has general responsibility for all Club sponsored events and represents the Club officially in all affairs, or in his/her absence designates a representative to do so.

(6) Shall have responsibility for the newsletter.

(7) Shall appoint, annually, with the approval of the Board of Directors, a Nominating Committee for the election of officers of no more than three (3) Club members who shall choose their own chairperson.

(8) Shall be responsible for maintain-



Sun Country Striders, Ltd., P. O. Box 6787, Las Cruces, NM 88006-6787
A member of the American Volkssport Association (AVA) in the
International Federation of Popular Sports (IVV)



ing a Procedure Manual with approval of the Board.

NEXT EVENT

Board of Directors

Vice President for Trails (Trailmaster)

(1) Selects the course/trail and/or Start-Finish Points and all necessary check points for each sanctioned Event and Year Round Event (YRE), sponsored by the Club.

(2) Submits necessary AVA paper work for sanctioned Events only to President who then presents them to the Board for approval.

(3) Prepares a brochure for each Event and submits them to the Board of Directors.

(4) Supervises printing of brochures.

(5) Marks the course/trail prior to the Event.

(6) Establishes a periodic patrol of the course to insure the course markings are adequate and to provide assistance to participants if necessary.

(7) Is responsible for obtaining and maintaining all course marking materials and equipment belonging to the Club.

Member-at-Large

The at-large members of the board assist other officers with various responsibilities and take on other tasks that come up, which need action, but does not fall within the responsibility of another officer. For example, the position ably filled by Joanne Poulos takes care of the news releases and publicity for our events.

As most of you already know, our next event will be this coming weekend, 18 & 19 November. We need your participation. Come, bring family and/or friends and enjoy a nice fall walk in the area of Oñate High School on the west mesa and through the desert. On the 10 km course, you will walk by the marker at the spot where the legendary law officer Pat Garrett was murdered on February 29, 1908. To borrow a phrase from the current generation, "how cool is that?"

As you also most likely know, our Christmas Lights walk in December had to be cancelled because use of the clubhouse used for the start-finish wasn't available.



Elected members:

Position Vacant, President

Phone:

E-mail:

Robert Macklin, Vice-President

Phone: 505-524-8032

E-mail: macklin@zianet.com

Position Vacant, Vice-President Trails

Phone:

E-mail:

Louis Bevacqua, Secretary

Phone: 505-522-0411

E-mail: louis_bevacqua@blm.gov

Doyle Piland, Treasurer

Phone: 505-523-7034

E-mail: dpiland@zianet.com

At-large members:

Randy Ranel, Member

Phone: 505-525-0495

E-mail: ranlinranel@zianet.com

Joanne Poulos, Member

Phone: 505-522-3513

E-mail: watch4dog@zianet.com

Position Vacant, Member

Phone:

E-mail:

↖ Above left is club member Mark Barnett at the check point in September.

↖ Left are club members Bob and Ruth Ann Glover at the Start-Finish point in September



Louis Bevacqua working the check point for our September Walk



Frank Conway working the check point for our September Walk