

## New York State Bicycle Racing Association Annual Meeting Minutes

Telecon: 3pm-7pm, Saturday, 27Jan18

Dial in: 1 (605) 475-5920 Participant code: 298-2449#

PLEASE MUTE YOUR PHONE UNLESS SPEAKING- PLEASE KEEP STATEMENTS CONCISE AND COURTEOUS

Officer/Board Attendees: Jeff Poulin (President), Tom Weichmann (Vice President), Mike Cormier (Treasurer), Tony Saylor (GG and GF Rep), Liz Marcello (Officials Coord), Gary Toth (Permit Coord; Adirondack Rep), Rich Scaduto (WNY Rep), Lucia Deng (NYC Rep), Shane Ferro (Women's Rep), Myles Romanow (LI Rep), Kevin Long (Official), Liz Campbell (Leader of the Moto Cavalry), Daniel Cooper (new NYC area rider)

Officer/Board Absent: Noel Bonk (Secretary), Ben Freer (Member at Large), Ken Hammond (new CX Rep), Eric Ragot (Hudson Rep), Kelly Neuner (Women's Rep), Leona Chin (Junior Rep), Lloyd Campbell (Central).

- **President's Report (Jeff Poulin)**

State of NYSBRA: Overall, we had another great year of bicycle racing in New York but in general the sport continues to shrink, in my opinion mostly caused by the ongoing scandals at the elite level. It does not help that the costs of putting on races continue to increase, as well as the seemingly added requirements for permits and insurance. However, I am happy to report that on the whole New York has fared better than the national average on some key metrics, for example losing only about 1.4% of annual licensees compared to the 4-5% loss averaging across the country. Bicycle racing is still strong in New York!

Did you know that NYSBRA distributed about \$25,000 in 2016 and \$19,500 in 2017 to help your local races and riders? Most of these NYSBRA grants go to local Race Directors to help them off-set the high costs of putting on a race and to help them keep your entry fees low. In addition, many grants go directly to riders, such as our popular "Junior Development Grant," which puts up to \$100 back in the pockets of our racing juniors! Sixty-nine different events and riders benefited, including 24 juniors! NYSBRA supports racing in New York!

Despite our successes, the cycling world faces many challenges. USA Cycling has once again raised the fees they charge for an annual license. Did you also know that most of NYSBRA's revenue comes from USA Cycling? Unfortunately, even though USAC continues to raise their prices, NYSBRA is not receiving a fair share of this revenue. USAC has barely shared any of their many fee increases over the past 15 years with the Local Associations, resulting in a significant decrease in funding due to inflation as well as due to the absolute decrease in funding the world of cycling is experiencing due to fewer events and riders.

NYSBRA has therefore sought to supplement our income so that we can continue the generous grant program I mentioned above. The result is that we are proud to announce new, outstanding partnerships with [BikeReg](#), who is NYSBRA's official on-line registration provider, [North American Cycling Sport \(NACS\)](#), an alternate sanctioning body that focuses on grass-roots events, and the [Amazon "Smile"](#) rebate program. We will continue to seek other sponsors so that we can keep growing the sport we all love. Please support our sponsors and partners! Please contact me if you can help!

Thank-you!

-jeff

- a. Using BikeReg for Club Memberships!
  - i. After years of collecting money, paper membership forms, and waivers my club finally saw the light and switched to using BikeReg. It works great!
  - ii. There are plenty of examples on <https://www.bikereg.com/> if you search on “membership.”
  - iii. [TVC’s example is here](#). We have members sign the standard USAC waiver during check-out.
- b. 2018 LA Agreement:
  - i. USAC is not increasing the amount of the LA rebates. Instead, USAC proposed a new rebate model that would cost NYSBRA \$1,300-\$1,500 in 2018
  - ii. I challenged this change and USAC subsequently agreed to rebate to NYSBRA the greater of the 2017 model and the 2018 model
  - iii. As requested by USAC, Jeff sent USAC wording to include in the 2018 Agreement on 14Dec
  - iv. USAC has not returned NYSBRA’s LA agreement for signature.
- c. LA Summit:
  - i. USAC still has not finalized the dates but 2-3Mar is possible for the 2017/2018 summit. Jeff plans to attend.
- d. 2018 Race Schedule:
  - i. Draft#6 is posted and ready to become “final.” There were no comments.
  - ii. Vote. Approved!
  - iii. ACTIONS:
    - Noel to post PDF schedule
    - Noel to add to Google Calendar
    - Gary to start processing RR permits!
- e. 2018 NYSBRA Championship Races: NYSBRA is happy to announce your 2018 Championship Races as follows:
  - i. Criterium: Grant’s Tomb Criterium, hosted by Ted Teyber of Century Road Club Association (CRCA), NYC, 10Mar18
  - ii. Road: Bear Mountain Road Race: hosted by Ted Teyber, Century Road Club Association (CRCA), 12May18
  - iii. Gravel Grinder: Finger Lakes Gravel Challenge, hosted by Cory Kuhns of Towpath Bikes, Springwater, 12May18
  - iv. Track: NYS Track Championship hosted by Jim Lyman, New York Velodrome Association (NYVA), Kissena Velodrome; Juniors on 16-17Jun18 and Senior/Masters on 23-24June18
  - v. Time Trial: NYS Championship TT, hosted by Jeff Poulin of Tioga Velo Club (TVC) p/b Tioga Competitive Cycling (TCC), Tioga Center, 15Jul18
  - vi. Bids for the NYSBRA Cyclocross Championship will open in the spring.
- **Vice President’s Report / Upgrades (Tom Weichmann)**
  - a. Special Message from the President: The USAC standard to turn-around a rider’s category change request is seven days. By contrast, NYSBRA’s upgrade officials averaged only ONE DAY per request in 2017 (down from our already low average of 4 days since 2012). This is an amazing rate for about 900 upgrades handled by NYSBRA this year! Well done, Tom! Well done, regional rider reps!
  - b. Upgrade metrics review: See charts below. TAT= Turn-Around-Time; our standard is <=7 calendar days. Note that the “Max TAT” is usually caused by NYSBRA waiting on the rider to provide the required supporting documentation.

	Total Processed	Average TAT	Max TAT
Adirondack	58	1.62	8.90
Central	75	1.06	5.00
Hudson Valley	101	1.43	10.60
Long Island	86	2.66	10.80
New York City	457	0.73	14.20
Western	116	1.17	11.20



YEAR	TOTAL REQUESTS	LONGEST WAIT	AVERAGE DAYS FOR CAT CHANGE	% WITHIN 3 DAYS	% APPROVED	% UNAPPROVED
2017	898	14 Days 3 Hours	1 Day	88%	73%	27
2016	844	127 Days 14 Hours	3 Days	82%	76%	24
2015	841	168 Days 0 Hours	3.5 Days	72%	74%	26
2014	962	118 Days 3 Hours	3.5 Days	62%	74%	26
2013	867	51 Days 22 Hours	4 Days	67%	74%	26
2012	869	56 Days 19 Hours	4 Days	67%	72%	28

c. Upgrade Rule Change requested by NYSBRA:

- i. The rule change that Jeff and Lucia prepared requesting a rule change to 1E2(g) was pulled from the final 2018 rule book.

• **Secretary's Report (Noel Bonk)**

- a. Road/Track/TT Race Schedule: [Add the NYSBRA Google Road/Track/TT Calendar to your own Google Calendar](#)
- b. Newsletter: Newsletter is due out next week following this Quarterly meeting
- c. Newsletter ideas:
  - i. Summarize our success in 2017 with grants!
  - ii. BikeReg / NACS publicity (logos) as always.

• **Web Site <http://www.nysbra.com> (Noel Bonk)**

- a. Changes to website:
  - i. Comment that the grants page is hard to navigate and has some redundant info. ACTION: Noel to review and modify as appropriate.
- b. Results of my "Sponsor Ad" request

- i. Mike Cormier sponsored an ad for his financial services company in the December newsletter!  
Thank-you Mike!

- **Treasurers Report (Mike Cormier)**

- a. **Financial Update:** (refer to the 2017 budget vs actuals posted on-line)
  - i. Income: NYSBRA received \$24,342 from USAC and \$3,050 from other sponsors totaling \$27,392
  - ii. NYSBRA gave out \$19,514 in grants to 69 different recipients, including 24 juniors
  - iii. Administrative costs were only \$11,406
  - iv. Deficit for 2017 was \$3,528
  - v. Balance forward for 2018 is \$30,173
  - vi. USAC estimates that NYSBRA rebates will drop \$2,753-3,547 in 2018 due to reduced membership and racer days
- b. **NYSBRA Partners and other Revenue Sources:**
  - i. USAC rebates for 2017: \$24,342
  - ii. Bikereg rebates for 2017: \$2,353.50 (approx.)
  - iii. BikeReg sponsorship has been “huge” for NYSBRA to close the gap caused by the eroding USAC rebates so we can continue our outstanding grant program. Please support BikeReg!
  - iv. NACS rebates: \$246.40
  - v. Amazon Smile: \$23.44 (approx.)

- **Grant Program: (Jeff Poulin)**

- a. **Funding limitations:** As reported above NYSBRA has been giving out much more in grants than we have income. NYSBRA has therefore carefully examined and prioritized our Targeted Grants. The following changes will take effect in 2018:
  - i. A Grants: the \$500 grant to top-tier races is canceled. This saves \$1500 over 2017 will save \$2000 in 2018 annually.
  - ii. Collegiate Grants: the \$500 grant to collegiate races is canceled. This saves \$500 annually (the US Military Academy at West Point was the only recipient in 2016 and 2017).
  - iii. Free entry for Champions not offered to Championship events: the \$100 grant for events that offer free entry to NYSBRA champions is no longer available for NYSBRA championship races because last year’s champions are no longer champions and are not allowed to wear last year’s jersey in the current event. This saves about \$200 annually.
  - iv. Enforce the definition of “U23” for championships: “U23” refers to Cat 1-2 men and Cat 1-2-3 women as per USAC rules in championship events. This saves approximately \$280 in jerseys annually (note this savings is absorbed by item vi).
  - v. Reduce Tandem TT championship to only “Open Team”: Rarely do any more than 1 team register for the various tandem championships (e.g., mixed doubles, open women) meaning both riders automatically get a jersey if someone enters. This saves approximately \$140 in jerseys annually (note this savings is absorbed by item vi).
  - vi. Champions buy their own Jerseys: Instead of getting free jerseys, champions will get a coupon for ~50% off, allowing them to get their jersey for \$28 plus shipping. This saves approximately \$3,516-\$4,250 annually (this is what NYSBRA paid in 2016 and 2017).
  - vii. State Champ Race: the \$500 automatic grant for hosting a NYSBRA championship remains for 2018 because we have already awarded the bids based on this grant. We anticipate cutting this grant to \$250 in 2019, subject to our final 2018 financial condition.
  - viii. Total savings is between \$5,216-\$6,950.
- b. **Mission Grants:** We will continue to [scrutinize every mission grant](#)

- i. New Rider Clinics remain top priority. Rather than cap these clinics at something like \$250 each, we will retain our guidelines for Mission Grants.

- **Permits (Gary Toth)**

- a. Permits pending: As per NYSBRA policy, Gary does not approve permits for the next year until NYSBRA finalizes the applicable schedule. This allows all events an opportunity to schedule events while avoiding conflicts whenever possible. Gary will commence permitting for 2018!
- b. We need more Chief Referees! NYSBRA does not approve race permits without a designating a CR. The CR is usually the one requested by the Race Director on the USAC permit. Otherwise Gary needs to identify a CR, which is difficult with the limited pool of officials qualified to be CR.

- **Officials Coordinator (Liz Marcello)**

- a. Official(s) needed for NYC:
  - i. Jeff and Liz proposed a weekly schedule of races at FBF, Prospect, and Merrick Crit that Liz can staff with NYC officials. The NYC promoters did not make any changes
    - The Merrick Criterium series runs on a sequence of Friday evenings in spring and fall
    - Several weekly series overlap, resulting in multiple races in the same week
  - ii. NYSBRA will not issue permits for these races until the RD identifies a qualified CR that is committed to the entire series
- b. All CRs must use the tool first to pick their crews!
- c. [Officials need to request races they want to work in our Officials Assignment Tool!](#)

- **Cyclocross (Ken Hammond)**

- a. CX Schedule: [Add the NYSBRA Google CX Calendar to your own Google Calendar](#)
- b. CX Rep: Ken is waiting confirmation from some of the promoters on their 2018 race dates. Once "final" he will post the 2018 race schedule and put out a call for NYSBRA's 2018 CX Championships.

- **Women's Cycling (Kelly Neuner, Shane Ferro)**

- a. National Championships: Congratulations to Emma White for winning the 2017 National U23 Women's Championship!
- b. Clinics: Shane will plan to host another CX clinic for women this fall.

- **Junior Cycling (Leona Chin)**

- a. From Q1: After communicating with many downstate bicycle shops (unfortunately, one closed in December 2017) and the Community Outreach Coordinator from Empire Blue Cross Blue Shield, two shops have agreed to host open houses to introduce juniors and parents to NYSBRA and junior cycling and when Empire BCBS has a table, we have an invitation to share cycling materials as a healthy lifestyle choice.
- b. From Q3: After a community meeting at the Velodrome (with local councilpersons, NYC Parks' Council Chair and local organizations) and sharing information about NYSBRA Juniors, we were able to connect with several middle and high schools about hosting an open house about cycling as a healthy lifestyle and the prospect of having the juniors join local cycling programs (ages 13-18).
- c. From Q4: Thanks to Jeff, Mike and Noel for assistance with keeping the information flowing to the parents/juniors through social media. Parents are pleased with the very informative and easy-to-navigate NYSBRA website. To-do: write up for the "Junior Information" tab at the site. Also, the 2018 NYC Council Parks' Chairperson Barry Grodechnik was sworn in in January and hopes to secure funding for the maintenance and upgrades at the Kissena Velodrome in Flushing, NY.
- d. Fundraising:
  - i. Model Team Weeks -- campaigns proposed for May and October 2018
  - ii. Amazon Smile Affiliation -- (0.5% sales through link will be forwarded to NYSBRA Juniors) --

will continue participation in 2018 RA

e. Event Invitations:

- i. 2018 Flushing Lunar New Year Parade - Saturday, February 17, 2018 (Flushing, NY)
- ii. 2018 Transportation Alternatives Women's Ride - Sunday, March 25, 2018 (Forest Hills, NY)
- iii. 2018 Family Biking Forum - date and location to be determined (March / April 2018)
- iv. 2018 Tour de Flushing - date to be determined, Unisphere, Flushing Meadows-Corona Park (start and end point) (May / June 2018)

• Gravel and Gran Fondos (Tony Sylor)

- a. The 2018 Mudslinger Series is ready for another great year and may be adding a fourth race!
- b. New events: Tony has been working with new promoters of unsanctioned mountain and gravel races to get them to permit with NACS or USAC. We have been discussing ways to incent these promoters to "join NYSBRA."

• Other Business? (All)

- a. Upcoming business: None
- b. Another and formal welcome to our guests!
  - i. Daniel Cooper. Dan thanked NYSBRA for inviting him to the meeting and expressed his excitement to be back on the bike racing in New York.
  - ii. Liz Campbell. Liz thanked NYSBRA for our annual grant to support her new C Official/Moto Clinics, which have graduated a total of 105 officials, 40-50 of who remain active! This year's clinic will be 17-18Mar in Danbury.
  - iii. Kevin Long. Kevin is a very experienced Category A official and moto (since 1999) and we welcome Kevin to the NYC area, where he will be a big help! Kevin stayed on after the meeting to discuss officiating ideas with Liz C, Liz M, Jeff, and Gary. Thank-you, Kevin!
- c. Meeting adjourned at 4:13 pm.