



Laura Snyder
President

US Marshalls
1 Webster Court
Stoneham MA 02180

Passing of the Torch...

It is with great pleasure, and a little sadness, that I pass the torch of President on to Scott Sewade.

I became President in 2002 (I think) to help Sandy divide and conquer all the work involved in being both President and Race Control. In 2007, I became Race Control and was still President. These roles need to be two different people, so I began encouraging the rest of the US Marshalls to begin looking at ways to divide the work. Scott Sewade has been Vice President for the last several years, and this is a wonderful next step for him and the US Marshalls.

For those of you less familiar with Scott, he started on a freezing rainy April weekend in '97 with Barry Sanel and Scott Sargent as his tutors. From that first day in T-6, he was hooked. Scott made Captain early on in '99 and never looked back. He began working for Tony's Track Days soon after being made Captain as Director of Corner-Working and On-Track Operations. Scott has been our equipment manager, responsible for setting out our clean up material (and putting it away) and managing radio sign out. He has also been cross-trained to be in the Tower.

I am pretty sure everyone knows Mike Braley, who became our Treasurer the same time I became President. Mike stepped into that role and really sorted out the financial and legal aspects of the US Marshalls. He got our tax status reinstated and got us current with the IRS. He brought us back in line with our by-laws and constitution and was instrumental in getting a contract drafted and approved by NHIS. This contract is the one we are starting from to work with the new owners so we will have a contract with NHMS. As Vice President, Mike will have all the experience and history of what was tried in the past in order to plan a path for the future.

With Mike moving up to Vice President, the US Marshalls chose Les MacMaster as the new Treasurer. Les has been the one checking up on all the paperwork every morning and has actually been working with Mike to aid in the Treasurer duties behind the scenes for over a year now. Les started with us in July 2006, and became a captain at the end of his second season. Since then, he has been becoming more involved, helping out with whatever needs to be done. He helps Scott with radios, packing the trailer, keeping me on track with paperwork, and helping Mike out with all the bookkeeping. Little did we know, Les has a real world finance background with payroll systems and other secret skills that made him a very logical choice.

US Marshalls: A safety and risk management organization.



The only position we did not change up was that of Secretary. Nancy Cole will remain as Secretary. There may be some newer workers either wondering who Nancy is, or maybe wondering why Timing is on the Board for the US Marshalls. Nancy was a founding member of the US Marshalls in the early 1980s; she was a worker and captain for many years before she took a position in Registration and now Timing. Before Timing moved to the Tower, she was my “back up” person when Uwe Gomringer wasn’t in 12 – often calling in crashes or reporting on how the workers handled things in Uwe’s absence.

We also changed many of the directors. Annette Hoover, Rob Christian and I will be part of the Board of Directors. Annette is a veteran captain also cross-trained for the Tower; she is most often found in Turn 4. Rob has been with us a couple years now and became captain at the end of last season.

During my tenure as President, I focused on rebuilding our crew for NHMS. In the last few years, with help from Ed McFarland, we have restructured how we run school to train new workers; we have been better able to pass on the knowledge needed to be a quality captain; we have begun to have more full time consistent workers than first time workers. Once again, we now have more captains than we do turns – so even if a captain misses an event, we do not have to worry about a turn not having a captain. This also allowed us to train two people as Assistant Race Control to provide back up for me as Race Control. We have enough captains now to once again focus on the next round of experienced workers to help them continue to grow in experience and knowledge. Several of our captains have once again begun travelling and working with other organizations. This helps build bridges with workers from other areas to increase consistency for road racing across all organizations.

I feel the rebuilding work is complete and now is a great time for new leadership and new ideas to guide the US Marshalls on the next phase of our journey. It will be an exciting time.

Please join me in wishing the best for Scott, Mike, Les, Nancy, Annette and Rob!!

Laura