

Welcome to the 12th annual Wayne County Challenge end of season celebration. I'm Rod Waltz, co-chairperson of the Wayne County Challenge. Tonight we'll give out awards for overall and age group performances and to over 100 people who completed all eight races of the series. While we're here tonight to recognize accomplishments from 2014 I also want to mention that the schedule for 2015 is set and you'll find schedule cards on your tables which you're encouraged to take. We're once again offering the Carpe Viam special which allows you to enter all eight series races at once, at a discounted rate. This year this program is available for \$130, a savings of \$30 over the course of the year on pre-registration rates and \$70 off day of registration prices. We'll post forms for the Carpe Viam program on the WCC website, wcchallenge.org. The deadline to take advantage of this offer is Monday May 11.

2014 was another excellent year for the Wayne County Challenge. We had a record turnout at one race and for the third year in a row we had almost 3,000 runners and walkers complete races. The season opening Girls Inc. 5K set an attendance record for their event with 499 finishers. Once again we had number of people complete all 8 races. And we'll crown first time winners in both the men's and women's overall divisions.

While we're here to honor the accomplishments of some talented athletes I would also like to take a moment to recognize the impact these record numbers have on our community. The Wayne County Challenge is a collection of events put on by non profit organizations who benefit from the funds raised at each race. These organizations use these funds to provide valuable services and resources to our communities. So our increased turnouts at races is a win win as more and more people strive to improve their overall health while also giving back to their community. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the race directors of each event and the organizations they represent:

Brian Schleeper – Girls Inc 5K – benefiting Girls Incorporated

Dave Snow – Fireworks 5K – benefiting the Richmond American Legion Post 65

Brian Schleeper – Run with the Wolves 5K – benefiting the IU-East Athletics /Alumni Association scholarship program

Paula Head & Amanda Nocton – Heartbreak Hill 5K – benefiting Hagerstown High School Athletics

Ashley Mays – Flying Eagles 5K – benefiting the Western Wayne Elementary PTO

Keith Morey – Fall Foliage 5K/10K – benefiting Cope Environmental Center

Ashley Stephens-Turkey Chase 7K-benefiting Community Action of East Central Indiana

Marshall Ma & Alisha Estabrook-Rosemary Weigel Frostbite 5K – benefiting the City of Richmond Parks & Recreation Department

Additionally I want to acknowledge the other members of the Wayne County Challenge committee: Pat Bowers – Treasurer and Sarah Morey and Jennifer Lewis from the timing team

I'd also like to thank our sponsors for tonight's event, First Bank Richmond, Richmond Baking Company, West End Bank and Mainsource Bank. Finally i'd like to recognize Cycling and Fitness Warehouse and Family Fitness Works for their series support this year.

Now let's move to the awards.

We'll start with the overall awards first. The awards for the Top-3-Overall Male & Female include these personally inscribed plaques . . . along with Visa gift cards of \$50 for 3rd, \$75 for 2nd and \$100 for each of our Champions.

This year's third place overall female is Regina Erlewein. Regina ran all eight races for the second time, also completing this feat in 2012 when she won her age group and finished 8th overall. In 2014 she placed first in her age group in five of the eight races and was third overall female in the three remaining races. Congratulations to Regina Erlewein.

The second place overall female is Chelsea Halderman. This is the second straight year Chelsea finished second overall, also finishing second in 2013, her first year participating in WCC races. Chelsea ran the first seven races of the year and volunteered at the season ending Frostbite 5K. She won her age group twice, was third overall once, second overall twice and won the Girls Inc. 5K. Several weeks later she ran her first marathon, qualifying for the Boston marathon as she was the third place overall female. Congratulations to Chelsea Halderman.

This year's overall female winner is Kyndra Matheny-Haggard. Kyndra began her WCC career in 2010 running two races. In 2012 she ran five races, winning her age group four times and placing third overall in the fifth. In 2013 she ran one race, winning her age group at the Girls Inc. 5K. In 2014 she ran all eight races for the first time. She was second in her division once, won her age group twice, placed third overall at the Girls Inc. 5K, second overall at both the Fireworks 5K and Heartbreak Hill 5K and won the Flying Eagle 5K and Fall Foliage 5K. In 16 WCC races Kyndra has never finished lower than second in her age group. Congratulations to the 2013 overall female champion Kyndra Matheny-Haggard.

The third place overall male finisher is Aaron Myers. Aaron has run in at least one WCC race every year since 2005. He did seven of the eight races this year, his most yet. He missed the season opening Girls Inc. 5K but went on to place fourth in his division once, third twice, win his age group once, place third overall once and second overall twice. He closed out the season by running his best time of the year at the Frostbite 5K clocking 17:16. Congratulations to Aaron Myers.

The second place overall male finisher is Stephen Hayes Jr. . This is the second time Stephen has finished second overall in the men's division. Stephen ran one WCC race in 2010 and four in 2011, including a third place overall finish. He ran six races in 2012, finishing no worse than sixth overall and took the runner up spot that year as well. In 2014 Stephen ran all eight races for the first time and won his age group in all eight. Congratulations to Stephen Hayes Jr.

The 2014 overall male winner is Ron Ross. Ron made an impressive WCC debut in 2012 as he ran all eight races, finished in the top 20 overall and won his age group. He ran seven races in 2013 but still repeated his top 20 finish and defended his age group title. In 2014 he once again ran all eight races, placing second in his age group once, winning his division five times, placing third overall at the Flying Eagle 5K and second overall at the Fall Foliage 5K. He finished in the top eleven at every race this year. He finished the season with his best time of 17:55 at the Frostbite 5K. Congratulations to our overall male winner Ron Ross.

Now we'll move on to the age group winners.

The winner of the female nine and under age group is Sydney Hardy. Sydney ran her first WCC race in 2012 at the age of seven. In 2013 she ran all eight races, finished 9th overall in the female division and was the first ever winner in the new nine and under age group. In 2014 she once again ran all eight races, winning her age group three times, improving to eighth place overall in the women's division, at the age of nine. Congratulations to two time winner Sydney Hardy.

The winner of the male nine and under age group is Riley Jaynes. Riley ran his first WCC race in 2013 finishing the Heartbreak Hill 5K. In 2014 he ran five races, placing second in his division twice and winning it the other three races. Congratulations to first time winner Riley Jaynes.

The winner of the female 10-12 age group is Jenna Larsen. Jenna ran her first WCC race in 2011. In 2012 she ran all eight races and finished fifth in her age group. She once again ran all eight in 2014 to take the top spot in her division. Congratulations to Jenna Larsen.

The winner of the male 10-12 age group is Monte Schauer. Monte ran three races in 2013, his first year participating in WCC events. He followed that up by running all eight in 2014, winning his division at the Turkey Chase 7K. Congratulations to Monte Schauer.

The winner of the female 13-15 age group is Baylee Fry. This was Baylee's first year running WCC races and she has set the bar high for herself in her debut season. She ran all eight races this year, placing third in her division once and second three times as she finished in the top twenty for the women's division. Congratulations to Baylee Fry.

The winner of the male 13-15 age group is Parker Jaynes. Parker began his WCC career in 2010 when he ran two races at the age of nine. In 2011 he ran seven of the eight races, missing the Hagerstown 5K. He hasn't missed a race since...28 straight, completing all eight in 2012, 2013 and again in 2014 as he finished in the top 20 overall in the men's division, winning his age group at the Fall Foliage 5K. Congratulations to Parker Jaynes.

The winner of the female 16-18 age group is Chloe Fry. Like her sister Baylee who was just up here accepting the award for the 13-15 group, Chloe debuted in the WCC this year and ran all eight races. She placed third in her division three times, second once and won her age group at the Fall Foliage 5K. She placed in the top twenty overall in the women's division, one spot, and five points, in front of her sister. Congratulations to Chloe Fry.

The winner of the male 16-18 age group is Nickolas Dunlap. Nickolas began participating in WCC races in 2012 when he ran four races and finished seventh in his division. In 2013 he ran seven races and improved to second in his age group. In 2014 he ran all eight races to take the top spot. He was third in his age group twice, second once and won his division at the Flying Eagle 5K. Congratulations to Nickolas Dunlap.

The winner of the female 19-24 age group is Mariah Seals. Mariah began competing in WCC races in 2011 when she ran all eight races and finished second in this age group...by one point. She hasn't missed a race since, thirty two straight, and has won this age group three straight years. In 2014 she placed third in her division once, second twice and finished the season by taking the top spot in both the Turkey Chase 7K and Forstbite 5K. Congratulations to three time defending champion Mariah Seals.

The winner of the male 19-24 age group is Pedro Feliciano. Pedro ran his first WCC race in 2011 and finished third in his age group. In 2012 he ran seven races and finished second in his division. In 2013 he only ran four races but took the top spot in his age group in three of those and placed in the top ten overall in all four races. He competed in six races in 2014, placing second in his division once, first twice, third overall once and first overall at the Flying Eagle 5K, where he ran his best time of the year in 17:23. Congratulations to Pedro Feliciano.

The winner of the female 25-29 age group is Katie Carpenter. Katie began competing in WCC events in 2012 when she ran four races. She completed all eight in 2013 in route to winning her age group. She missed only the Turkey Chase 7K this year and placed in the top three in her division all seven times, taking the top spot three times. Congratulations to repeat winner Katie Carpenter.

The winner of the male 25-29 age group is Logan Seals. Logan ran his first WCC race in 2007, when he competed in five races, including the last four. In the seven years since he has missed only one race, finishing fifty five of fifty six races. 2014 was the sixth time he has completed all eight races and his fourth age group title, over two divisions. He placed in his age group in every race of 2014, taking third once, second three times and winning four times. He won this age group by only five points, the closest margin of any age group and finished seventh overall in the men's division. Congratulations to four time age group winner Logan Seals.

The winner of the female 30-34 age group is Brittni Gettinger. Brittni has a brief but very impressive WCC career. She ran her first race in 2013 and completed all eight as she won her age group in her debut season. She repeated both feats this year, finishing second in her division four times and first the other four. She finished fifth place overall in the women's division. This age group had the most eligible participants with twenty one people completing at least five races. Congratulations to repeat winner Brittni Gettinger.

The winner of the male 30-34 age group is Reuben McCracken. Reuben has run at least one WCC race every year since 2005 and has finished as high as second in his age group prior to taking the crown this year. This was his first year running all eight races as he finished no worse than fourth in his division all year. He was first overall male at the Fall Foliage 5K and finished fifth in the men's category. Congratulations to long time WCC competitor and first time age group winner Reuben McCracken.

The winner of the female 35-39 age group is Jan Parker. Jan began competing in WCC races in 2008 when she ran all eight races and won her division. She again ran all eight in 2010 and for the third time in 2014. Jan finished the season by placing in the top five of her age group in the last four races. Congratulations to two time age group winner Jan Parker.

The winner of the male 35-39 age group is Dave Snow. This is Dave's second straight title in this division as he completed all eight races for the fifth straight year . Well not exactly, he didn't run the Fireworks 5K because he was busy directing it. Dave placed third in two races and second the other five he ran. Congratulations to repeat winner Dave Snow.

The winner of the female 40-44 age group is Kathy Shelley. Kathy has only been running WCC races since 2012 but has an almost flawless record in her brief career. She has run every race all three years, won her age group all three years and finished first in her division twenty one of twenty four times...she finished second the other three. She finished fourth overall this year in the women's division, after tying for third last year and placing fourth in 2012. Congratulations to three time defending champion Kathy Shelley.

The winner of the 40-44 male age group is Jesse Jaynes. Jesse began running WCC races in 2010. He finished third in his age group in 2011, second in 2012 and first in 2013, running all eight races each year. He once again ran every race in 2014 winning his division for the second straight year. He started out the season by winning his age group the first six races and finished sixth overall in the men's division. And in case anyone is keeping track he is the third Jaynes to cross this stage tonight, after his sons Riley and Parker who also won their age groups. Congratulations to repeat winner Jesse Jaynes.

The winner of the female 45-49 age group is Traci Nobbe. Traci ran one WCC race in 2011 and didn't do another until 2014. She made an impressive return in 2014 by running all eight races. She placed in the top five in her division in each of the final seven races including a win at the Heartbreak Hill 5K. Congratulations to first time winner Traci Nobbe.

The winner of the male 45-49 age group is Joel Flora. Joel is no stranger to WCC races as he has been competing in them since 2007. In 2014 he completed all eight for the fourth time. He placed in the top three of his division in all eight races, taking the top spot three times. He amassed enough points to finish ninth overall in the men's division, the third time he's finished in the top ten. Congratulations to repeat winner Joel Flora.

The winner of the female 50-54 age group is Linda Fischer. Linda began her WCC career in 2013 when she ran all eight races and finished fourth in her age group. In 2014 she once again ran all eight races, finishing third twice, second once and first the other five races. She finished sixth overall in the women's division. Congratulations to first time winner Linda Fischer.

The winner of the male 50-54 age group is Steve Walkotte. Steve's WCC resume is long and impressive. He has been running WCC races since our first year in 2003. Seven times he has run all eight races, including 2014. This makes his fifth age group division win, spanning two different groups. He took this year's crown in dominating fashion, taking third in the group once, second once and first the other six races. He finished fourth overall in the men's standings, only five points out of third. Congratulations to five time age group winner Steve Walkotte.

The winner of the female 55-59 age group is Julia Roberts. Julia ran her first WCC race in 2012. She followed that up by running five in 2013 and finished fourth in her division. This year she took the top spot by running all eight, placing in the top three in her age group in every race...three third places, four second places and a win at the Heartbreak Hill 5K. She earned enough points to place ninth overall in the women's division. Congratulations to first time winner Julia Roberts.

The winner of the male 55-59 age group is Rick More. Rick ran his first WCC race in 2006. Since then he has finished in the top five in his division four times, culminating in his first age group title in 2014. For the first time he ran all eight races, placing in the top three in every one as he scored two third places, five second places and a win at the Girls Inc. 5K. Congratulations to first time winner Rick Moore.

The winner of the female 60-64 age group is Patrice Bolin. Patrice competed in her first WCC race in 2013 and did seven races, finishing third in her division. This year she ran all eight and took the top spot. She placed in the top five in her age group in every race, taking third three times, second once and first at the Fireworeks 5K. Congratulations to first time winner Patrice Bolin.

The winner of the male 60-64 age group is Hennie Mulder. Hennie began running WCC races in 2010 and has been steadily improving ever since. In 2011 he finished sixth in his division, and won the group in 2012 running all eight races. He finished third in 2013 and again took the top spot in 2014, running six races with one second place finish and five age group victories. Congratulations to repeat winner Hennie Mulder.

The winner of the female 65-69 award is Ellen Johnson. Ellen ran her first WCC race in 2011 and finished fourth in her age group. In 2012 she ran all eight and won her division. In 2013 she was runner up before retaking the top spot in 2014 by once again running all eight. She placed in the top three in every race, including four first place finishes including the season ending Frostbite 5K. Ellen earned enough points to finish seventh in the women's overall standings. Congratulations to two time winner Ellen Johnson.

The winner of the male 65-69 age group is Jim Auman. Jim ran his first WCC race in 2011. He followed that up by running two in 2012 and six in 2013, placing third in his division. This year he ran all eight for the first time, placing in the top three in each one including a win at the IU East Run with the Wolves. Congratulations to first time winner Jim Auman.

The winner of the female 70 and over age group is Pat Bowers. Pat's WCC accomplishments speak for themselves. This is her seventh straight age group win, over two divisions. That makes her only one of two people to win that many age group crowns and the only woman. That means Pat has won an age group title in over half of the years the WCC has been in existence. In 2014 she ran five races, winning her division in every one. She also volunteered at a sixth race. As if this wasn't enough Pat has run all eight races three times. Congratulations to seven time defending age group champion Pat Bowers.

The winner of the male 70 and over age group is Dennis Mann. This is Dennis's second age group title after also winning in 2012. Dennis ran seven races in 2014 placing second in two and first in the other five to earn enough points to finish in the top twenty overall. Congratulations to repeat winner Dennis Mann.

Let's congratulate all of our age group winners one more time. If any of you who did not receive one of these awards are wondering what it takes to make it up to this stage you may have noticed a common theme with many of our winners. We just gave out 36 overall and age group awards. 29 of these recipients, **over 80%**, ran all 8 races. The WCC tries to encourage participation and consistency and many of the people who were just up on stage are a result of both of these attributes. In a moment we will give out awards to the 113 individuals who participated in all 8 races, many of whom will be making their second trip up here.

But first we will give out our most improved runner award. This award goes to the individual who shows the highest degree of race performance over the course of the season. Over the course of the season this year's winner improved by almost fourteen minutes from the season opening Girls Inc. 5K to the Frostbite 5K. She placed in the top five of her age division the last four races, taking her second age group title, and ran all eight races for the second time. It is my great pleasure to present the 2014 Wayne County Challenge most improved runner award to Jan Parker.

Before we present the awards to the finishers of all eight races I wanted to do something that's probably never been done before at this event, recognize someone who did not complete every race this year. Kevin Shelley completed every race from the beginning of the WCC in 2003, until this year. When he missed the Fall Foliage 5K his streak of ninety five straight races came to an end. He was the last person who had completed every race from our beginning. Kevin, please stand so we can recognize this amazing achievement.

In case you're wondering, the new record holder for the longest race streak is Judy Pierce. Judy has run every race since the start of the 2006 season, seventy two and counting...nine straight seasons.

We'll now present certificates and shirts to the 113 runners who completed all 8 races this season. This year we have a record number of people receiving these awards and once again have over 100 runners who completed every race. These individuals achieved an impressive accomplishment over the course of the season and should be commended for their dedication and commitment. We appreciate the support they have shown to the WCC and the organizations that put on and benefit from each race. Congratulations to each of you. Please come forward when your name is called to receive your awards and please remain on the stage so we can take a group photograph of all of you.

Thank you again for attending tonight's event and your support of the Wayne County Challenge and it's member organizations. We look forward to our 13th year and the season opening Girls Inc. 5K Saturday May 16.