



Plano Pacers Running Club, Inc. Hall of Fame

The Plano Pacers Running Club was formed in 1978 by the City of Plano Parks and Recreation Department and a group of thirty local runners. The objectives of the Running Club were the promotion and encouragement of healthful jogging and distance running. The objectives were supported by stressing the fun and exhilaration of running and its contribution to physical fitness, weight control and health. The club was directed to stimulate and maintain motivation among runners by increasing communication among runners and prospective runners. The club's plan was to publish a newsletter, hold regular meetings, fun runs, races, running clinics and related programs. The club would also mobilize its influence to promote the development of trails, tracks and running support facilities within the city. The Plano Pacers Running Club has successfully operated as a family-oriented organization for over three decades. A great number of runners and non-runners have contributed to meeting the objectives defined by the City of Plano and the founding members. In 2009, the club established a Hall of Fame to recognize those individuals who have made significant contributions to the club.

The Plano Pacers Running Club would like to recognize Bill Johnson for his considerable contributions and service to the club for more than three decades. From the earliest years Bill volunteered to direct club races, including the semi-annual spring and fall races for charity. For years he could frequently be found heading the timing volunteers at the finish line at many races. He could also be seen with camera-in-hand, recording the history of the Pacers through hundreds of photos he has taken over three decades.

Bill is considered a charter member of the Plano Pacers, having joined the club in 1978. In 1981, Bill was elected club president. He was instrumental in contributing to the establishment of the by-laws by which the club still operates today. Leaving the office of president in 1982, Bill was only just beginning his efforts on behalf of the club. He began outreach efforts to promote the club through public speaking engagements and making himself available to news outlets for interviews, including DALLAS LIFE magazine, the PLANO STAR COURIER, and the PLANO PROFILE. He was also a contributor to the club newsletter. Undoubtedly, Bill Johnson's greatest strengths and contributions to the club were not deeds that captured headlines or the limelight. His greatest contributions to the Pacers have been as a director of the club and as a tenacious recruiter of officers and directors. His first-hand knowledge of the club's history and well-reasoned approach to problem-solving has made him invaluable counsel to a succession of club presidents, officers, and directors to this day. He has always been there with encouragement or a 'pat-on-the-back' for officers and volunteers alike!

In more recent years Bill has spearheaded the effort to recognize those individuals who, from the club's founding in 1978, have given unselfishly of themselves on behalf of the Plano Pacers. He organized and has chaired the Hall of Fame Committee from 2009 to 2012. Largely through his efforts, the Plano Pacers have begun to recognize those individuals who, over the last 35 years, have played vital roles in the establishment and ongoing sustenance of our running club. Many of us consider Bill Johnson to be the patriarch of the Plano Pacers. For this and for all the reasons documented in this letter, the Plano Pacers Running Club takes great pride in naming Bill Johnson a member in the Plan Pacers Running Club Hall of Fame.

Charlie & Terry Gonzalez
President, Plano Pacers

Date