



### **Press Release: Plano Pacers Running Club Inc. announces 2014 HALL of FAME Inductees**

Plano, TX., April 14, 2014 - The Plano Pacers Running Club was formed in 1978 by the City of Plano Parks and Recreation Department and a group of local runners to promote fun and fitness through distance running. The Plano Pacers Running Club has successfully operated as a family-oriented organization for over three decades. Many individuals have contributed to the growth and success of the club. In 2009 the Plano Pacers Running Club established a Hall of Fame to recognize those individuals who have made significant contributions to the club.

The Plano Pacers Running Club is extremely pleased and proud to induct three new members into its Hall of Fame in 2014. Bill Johnson, James Gabhart, and Mike Picard will be recognized immediately following the club's 3K and 8K Hall of Fame Races on April 26, 2014, at the Bob Woodruff Park pavilion in Plano. They will join previous years' Hall of Fame inductees Rio King, Sue Padden, Cary Sherf, Bob Wilmot, John Ketchum, Les Ehram, Mike Koskan, Ken Ashby, Daniel Millet, Donna Smith, William Faitt, Mary Ann Miller, and Joyce Stribling. Bill, James, and Mike have played very significant roles in the founding, development, and operation of the Plano Pacers Running Club.

Bill Johnson is considered by many club members to be the patriarch of the Plano Pacers. He joined the club at its founding in 1978, served as president of the Pacers in 1981 and directed several club races himself. He could frequently be found organizing other volunteers and timing functions at the finish line for the club's early big races and he is a long-time member of the Pacer's board of directors. In the 1980's Bill was frequently the public face of the club, taking on public speaking engagements and doing media interviews to promote the Pacers. Bill Johnson has been active in the club for more than 35 years and he has continued to make himself available to a succession of club officers who have relied on him for his wealth of knowledge, club history, and sage counsel.

For more than 20 years James Gabhart has volunteered for just about everything and anything the Pacers needed. He has directed major monthly races and for many years helped to organize the finish line and race results. James has directed or co-directed the monthly Junior Sprint races since shortly after he joined the club in 1987. He has operated a virtual warehouse from the back of his truck, 'saving the day' on many occasions, furnishing that missing or badly need item, from pens and pencils to tools and tents! In 2000 James was named the Pacer Volunteer of the Year and in 2001 he directed every monthly Prediction Run for the club. James Gabhart has always taken the initiative to step forward and take ownership without being asked.

Mike Picard joined the Plano Pacers in 1993 and during the last two decades he has been a fixture at our monthly Saturday races, quietly toiling at some of the most thankless, but indispensable tasks associated with putting on our races. He has volunteered in multiple roles over the years, even serving on our board of directors. As long-time equipment manager Mike was up long before dawn, regardless of weather, picking up equipment, getting water stops supplied and setup on the course, and delivering equipment to the race site for our 8am races. He participated in the race and when it was over he reversed course, picking up everything and returning it to our storage shed. In 2012 Mike began helping with our monthly Prediction Runs and soon he assumed total responsibility for directing, timing, and awards at every Prediction Race.

The Plano Pacers Running Club currently has nearly 700 members, making it one of the largest running clubs in the southwest. The club holds monthly races the last Saturday of each month at the Bob Woodruff Park pavilion. We also stage Prediction runs on the second Tuesday of each month starting at the Schimelpfenig Library. The Plano Pacers also sponsors numerous group and training runs at various locations in Plano. Additional information regarding the Plano Pacers Running Club can be found on our website at: [www.planopacers.org](http://www.planopacers.org).

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