

Quantico Orienteering Club, Inc.
Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
September 9, 2026

Call to Order

President Dennis Doherty called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Roll Call

President Dennis Doherty	Vice President Matthew Knight
Vice President Aaron Linville	Vice President Michael Newman (absent)
Vice Presidents David & Reiko Rager	Treasurer David Levine
Secretary Beàtri Bennett	Membership Greg Lennon
Mapping Ted Good	Volunteer/Social Outreach Sharmagh Yepremian
Director at Large Mike Tyson	Director at Large Mary Snieckus (absent)
Immediate Past President Don Fish	

Others in attendance: Amy Loudon, Sidney Sachs, and Jon Torrance.

I. Officers & Directors Reports

— **Secretary report** – Beàtri Bennett

The minutes of the 10 June 2026 Board Meeting were distributed and approved by unanimous email vote on 7 July 2026. The email vote has been retained with QOC's official records.

— **Review action items from last meeting** – Dennis Doherty

The status of outstanding actions was reviewed and discussed.

- Don Fish reported on adding QOC to the OUSA calendar for the next NRE event scheduled for 11-12 November 2028. QOC has been added to the planning calendar; however, we cannot be placed on the official calendar until QOC applies and is approved to be the host organization.
- Beàtri Bennett reported on the update to the Event Director's Handbook to clarify that additional courses may be run without the \$2 per-map fee, with the consent of the Event Director. The update has been completed, and she will send the revised handbook to Greg for posting on the website
- Aaron Linville reported on the plan to discontinue placing maps in plastic map cases. Valerie Meyer will no longer place maps in the plastic map cases but will continue to provide the map cases separately while supplies last to minimize waste, after which the proposed approach will be implemented.

— **Treasurer report** – David Levine

David Levine presented the Treasurer's Report, with revenues and expenditures reconciled through 31 August 2026.

One Bank of America Certificate of Deposit (CD) remains. The second CD matured in July, and the funds were transferred to the checking account and subsequently used to fund the newly established brokerage account at Vanguard in August. The funds are invested in the Vanguard Federal Money Market Fund, with dividends set to re-invest in the fund. The remaining CD will also be moved to Vanguard once it matures on 26 December. An additional benefit of the Vanguard accounts is that the funds are accessible for emergency needs, eliminating the need to wait until a CD reaches its maturity date.

Next, David Levine presented proposed amendments to the approved provisional budget, and the Board discussed the updates and their implications. Dennis Doherty noted that local meet expenses need to be increased, mostly due to increased shuttle costs. The Board discussed the appropriateness of the proposed changes and the resulting projected \$19,000 shortfall in the budget. The Board acknowledged that the projected shortfall falls within acceptable parameters, recognizing that financial results may vary from year to year. The Board agreed to accept the projected variance.

Greg Lennon made a motion to adjust the Local Meet Expenses from \$28k to \$31k in the provisional budget. Mike Tyson seconded the motion. There were no objections. The motion carried.

Greg Lennon made a motion to approve the amended budget as presented. Dennis Doherty seconded the motion. There were no objections. The motion carried.

Beàtri Bennett made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. Greg Lennon seconded the motion. There were no objections. The motion carried.

— **Virginia VP report** – Aaron Linville and Matt Knight

Activities/Notes

- The Mason Neck permit was denied due to environmental concerns. Dennis Doherty is following up with park officials to better understand the specific concerns and determine whether there are ways to address them and regain access to the park for future events.

Upcoming Events

Reviewed the 2026/27 schedule.

- Course designers and Event directors have been identified for most of the events with 4 events still needing an Event Director and/or Course Setter.

— **Maryland VP report** – David and Reiko Rager

Activities/Notes

- The Maryland meet kit was re-stocked with first-aid supplies and staplers. A source for non-magnetic staples still needs to be identified and verified.
- The monthly cost of the storage unit has increased from \$194 to \$236.

Upcoming Events

Reviewed the 2026/27 schedule.

- Course designers and Event directors have been identified for the Fall schedule. The Spring schedule still needs 4 event directors, a Mountain Bike Orienteering (MTBO) course designer for Rosaryville, and TBD location for 31 January.
- Church parking for the Granite event was unavailable after attempts to secure parking on two separate dates. The Ragers will explore Wheaton, Cabin John, or Charles Branch for the 31 January event.
- This season's Beer Chase will be held at the Bluejay & Nuthatch pavilions at Seneca Creek as the Patuxent Barn venue is unavailable in May/June. Renting both pavilions will ensure enough parking space.
- A QOC member noted that their children are students at the University of Maryland (UMD) and are members of the Terrapin Trail Club and another university running club. They would like to invite students from these clubs to participate in the UMD Orienteering event. The Board discussed whether QOC could offer interested university students the Junior Rate for participation in the event.

David Rager made a motion that all University of Maryland students are considered as Juniors for registration purposes. Greg Lennon seconded the motion. There were no objections. The motion carried.

- Rosaryville invited QOC to participate in its 50th Anniversary Heritage and Trails Day on 24 October from 10am to 2pm. The Club will participate at no charge, as the event provides a valuable outreach opportunity. A short White course will be available for walk-up participants. Participants will be required to complete waivers, including their full names and email addresses, to facilitate follow-up and future publicity outreach. Training flags with paper punches will be used in lieu of electronic scoring. Craig Shelden offered to print the maps, and Don Fish offered to assist on the day of the event. Additional volunteers are needed.

David Rager made a motion to approve up to \$200 to print approximately 75 maps and schedules for the Rosaryville Heritage Day event. Dennis Doherty seconded the motion. There were no objections. The motion carried.

ACTION:

- The Ragers will research options for a lower-cost storage unit.

— **Publicity** – Sharmagh Yepremian

Post event meet-ups/Mappy Hour

- A request was raised during the season-end Volunteer Appreciation Mappy Hour to provide a sign language interpreter for members of the Deaf community, particularly to facilitate participation in the trivia games.
- Socials will resume with the start of the new season.

Social Media

- Facebook has 2.6k followers.
- Instagram has 2k followers.

Social media reach does not correlate directly with month-to-month attendance; however, sustained online visibility helps attract new participants and encourages repeat attendance.

ACTION:

- Sharmagh Yepremian will follow up on sign language interpreters for future season-end socials.

— **Membership, Website, Registration, & Communication** – Greg Lennon
Membership – A slight increase was noted as the season begins again.

Tracking Device Feedback –

Livelox 4G trackers and several alternative devices were received over the summer and are being tested. A full report will be presented at the next Board meeting. Preliminary findings indicate that Livelox's locked hardware and software limit the trackers' functionality, making them unsuitable for emergency tracking (i.e., finding lost orienteers), although they perform adequately for real-time competitor tracking. An alternative tracker appears better suited for emergency use, with an unlocked design that is smaller, lighter, and longer-lasting, and will undergo further testing at select 2026–2027 events.

Website(s) & E-Forum(s) – The Drupal 11 website went live on 1 September. In addition to data migrating and feature porting from the Drupal 6 site, which had been in use since 2010, several new features have been implemented, with additional enhancements underway.

- Data from the former Drupal 6 fully transferred data since 2005 (77,273 results from 23,290 individuals at 530 events).
- Further web scraping resulted in data results since 1998 raising the total to 85,340 results from 27,180 individuals at 665 events).
- Text was created for all venues and all upcoming events, with search engine optimizations throughout the site.

Greg Lennon presented an overview of the new website and highlighted the following enhancements:

- Enhanced search functionality with clearly organized results. The new 'Advanced Search' feature supports Boolean and phrase searches, exclusions, and filtering by specific parameters.
- Next event details are now accessible with a single click from the menu bar (Upcoming Events > Next Event).
- Results from the most recent event are now easily accessible via Results > Last Event.
- A new 'By Name' feature under Results allows users to search for detailed results by participant name. Column headings are sortable, and selecting a specific event/venue link displays other participants who completed the same course.

- Results can be downloaded as a CSV file for further analysis.
- Results are now available dating back to 1999.
- The 'About the Club > Our Venues and Maps' page now displays all venues on an interactive map. Selecting a venue pin provides directions, Google Maps links and access to the new 'About This Venue' section, which provides venue-specific information. The page also includes a link to upcoming events at the selected venue.
- Event pages are now automatically generated with draft event details and FAQ information. Event Directors can simply update the pre-populated pages rather than creating them from scratch or searching for example text. The FAQ content is also extensively search-engine tagged to improve visibility in AI-powered searches.
- The Course Details section of the event page now includes a column displaying the map scale for each course.

Registration/Forms –

- Registration forms are being updated to address several requested changes, including:
 - adding a 'Who's a Junior?' question for events using AMP.
 - A future 'Person Registry' will likely be needed to facilitate data exchange among registration forms, the membership database, the SQL/website database, and external third-party platforms such as AttackPoint.
- SignUpGenius subscription has been renewed.

— **Mapping – Ted Good**

Mapping Updates

Ted Good

- *Odenton/Arundel High School*: Converted to the current symbol set and remapped. The map was used for summer series.
- *Annapolis City*: Expanded map.
- *Fountain Head*: Minor updates of Wolf Run Shoals field/house area. During the summer series, Alex Azirov reported that the field areas were not accurate and the entire field around the house area needs to re-field checked.
- *Laurel Run*: This area is just north of Occoquan. Created a base LIDAR map that extends down to Occoquan. The map was provided to Mark Thompson to add mountain bike trails for potential use this fall. Dennis Doherty may assist with the mountain bike trail mapping.
- *University of Maryland*: Updated southern section of the map.

Nadim Ahmed

- *Bethesda*: updated for summer series.

Kim Jepsen

- *Avalon*: Updating NE of Hilton map (between the hilltop road and Thistle Road)

Other map related items:

- Greg Lennon reported Wheaton Trails have/are being repaved.

- Greg Lennon received a request to establish a permanent course on a 35-acre property at Mount Aetna, west of Frederick, off Route 70. The area is too small for a full event, but Greg Lennon and Ted Good will likely visit the site to assess its potential. The site includes a conference center and lodging and is adjacent to approximately 500/600+ acres of forest that may be suitable for events but has not yet been scouted.
- A new state park near Frostburg was also discussed. Although the park is a sizable area, its distance makes it impractical to pursue at this time.

Ted Good confirmed that the MTB-O events will use maps featuring mountain bike symbols. Laurel Hills will use a foot-O map with mountain bike symbols, while Lake Fairfax will have a separate map with mountain bike symbols for the MTB-O event.

Next QOC National Ranking Event (NRE)

The next NRE is scheduled for 11-12 November 2028, and has been added to the OUSA planning calendar. The current plan is to bid for the U.S. Masters (two-day Classic) using the PWF Turkey Run Ridge map and updated Camp 1 and Camp 4 maps. Next steps include selecting an Event Director/Meet Director(s), course setters, and Chief Course Vetter, confirming the dates with PWF, and securing the required permit through Virginia VP, Matthew Knight.

ACTION:

- Ted Good will contact Don Fish, Jody Landers, Charles Carrick and the Maryland and Virginia VPs to identify potential candidates for the Event Director(s), course setters, and Chief Course Vetter roles.

Ted Good noted that planning for the NRE following the 2028 event should begin soon to allow sufficient time for map preparation. The Board discussed potential venues and event formats. Jon Torrance suggested Sweet Run State Park, the new park near Harpers Ferry, as a potential venue; however, the park currently lacks sufficient infrastructure and may not be suitable for an A-meet.

The Board discussed various options for the event format, including a two-day Classic, Sprint/Middle/Long, Relay Championships, Ultra Long, Night O, Mountain Bike, and Rogaine. Some Board members suggested targeting 2031 rather than 2030 to allow sufficient time between major events and help avoid volunteer burnout.

ACTION:

- Ted Good will create a sub-committee to discuss the 2030/31 NRE.

II. Other Business

— Long Term Budget Look – Dennis Doherty

A 10-year analysis of the Club's assets indicates a healthy financial position. Although the current budget projects a decline in assets, the variance can be absorbed. The Club will continue to closely monitor the 2027/28 and future budgets.

— **Grants for USOC** – Dennis Doherty

The group discussed donations to USOC.

Greg Lennon made a motion that QOC donate \$2,000 to the National team. Ted Good seconded the motion. There were no objections. The motion carried.

ACTION:

- David Levine will make the \$2,000 donation to USOC against the 2026/27 budget.

— **Friends of Patapsco** – Dennis Doherty

A \$100 donation was made to Friends of Patapsco for a State Park membership on behalf of the Club. There was uncertainty from a few board members regarding when the donation was approved, with the understanding that approval had been provided via email among some Board members. The Board discussed the need for full Board approval before any expenditures outside the approved budget are made.

— **OUSA Award nominations: Golden Service / Silva Award** – Dennis Doherty

Golden Service Award

- The Orienteering USA Golden Service Award recognizes individuals who have provided exceptional volunteer service to the sport of orienteering extending beyond the local club level.
- Past award recipients who are not eligible for consideration include Jon Torrance, Kathleen Lennon, and Valerie Meyer.

Silva Award

- The Silva Award is presented annually to an Orienteering USA member who has demonstrated outstanding service to orienteering in the United States over the previous five years. The award recognizes contributions to promoting and sustaining the sport and strengthening the organizations that support orienteering in the United States; orienteering skill is not a considered in determining the award winner.
- Past recipients who are not eligible for consideration include Valerie Meyer, Ken Walker Jr., and Greg and Kathleen Lennon.

The nomination deadline is 1 December. Board members who have nominees in mind should contact Dennis Doherty.

— **Volunteer compensation options briefing** – Don Fish

Don Fish presented the sub-committee's findings regarding volunteer compensation. The proposal would define volunteer roles and award credits based on estimated time commitment. Event Directors, Course Setters, ePunch Gurus, and web activities would receive one credit per event; other roles would receive one credit per five events. Each credit would equal one free event. General Board Member duties were not included in the proposal.

The program is estimated to cost the club \$1,550 annually and would be available only to QOC members. Sharmagh Yepremian would manage the credit system. The proposal is intended to recognize members who volunteer regularly.

Following extensive discussion and with several questions remaining, Dennis Doherty suggested conducting additional research and scheduling a separate meeting to review the findings.

ACTION:

- Don Fish will conduct additional research on the questions raised during the meeting.

PENDING ACTION ITEMS FROM 10 JUNE MEETING

- Beàtri Bennett will send the updated handbook to Greg for posting on the web. (Completed on 10 Sep.)
- No update has been received regarding the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) submitted to the Izaak Walton League. Don Fish will follow up to request a response.

III. Adjourn

Don Fish made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Beàtri Bennett seconded the motion. There were no objections. The motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 10.19 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 2 December 2026 @ 7 pm via Zoom.

Minutes submitted: Beàtri Bennett

Approval Record: *These minutes were approved by email vote on 30 September 2026, with all votes in favor except for two abstentions and no votes against.*