

## Capital City Marathon Association - History

*"It's a runner's race and people appreciate that." CCMA Former President Jim Lux*

### **A list of "firsts"!!!**

1982 – First year marathon is run; 493 finishers

CCMA Board becomes integral part of effort securing the Olympia area as site for the 1<sup>st</sup> ever US Women's Olympic Marathon Trials

1983 – First year of the CCMA training group

1984 – Two marathons held: US Women's Olympic Marathon Trials (May) and Capital City Marathon (July)

1986 – TAC Masters National Marathon Championships are held in conjunction with Capital City Marathon. Event sponsored by National Coffee Association with the slogan: Make a break for it. Master winners are from Washington state: John Jordeth (Seattle – 2:32:42) Charlotte Swanson (Morton – 3:02:04)

1987 – First year for pizza at the finish line

1988 – New course; start and finish in downtown Olympia (Previous course started near Westwater Inn on hill overlooking Capital Lake and finished near Marathon Park.)

1989 – Marathon moves from July to May

New runs added to marathon weekend:

Kids fun run – 2 miles long

8K – Won by Larry Weber & Sue Havens

1993 – Half Marathon first included in marathon weekend activities; 371 finishers

1996 – CCMA race info first appears on the internet through Denny Brooks page

1998 – First race in Washington to use computer timing chips on shoes

1999 – First year of on-line registration for the marathon

The Ultimate Guide to Marathons lists Capital City as one of the top 100 destination marathons

2000 – First year of free post-race massages; Body Mechanics new providers

2003 – Matt Ruhl becomes first person to win all three CCMA events

Marathon – 2000      Half Marathon – 2001      Five mile – 2003  
(John Riak also completed the win trio in 2010 with a marathon victory)

First year runners' shirts fully made of technical performance material  
(before Seattle, Portland and Boston marathons offer tech shirts)

- 2004 – Boston Marathon Qualifier (BMQ) designation first appears in race day results for those meeting their age group qualifying standard
- 2005 – First year CCMA provides \$1,000 grants to seven area high school cross-country teams to recognize student volunteers providing weekly CCMA training group water stops; grants support team travel and other team needs.
- 2007 – First year college scholarships (female and male) awarded to graduating high school runners
- 2008 – Marathon finishers provided track pants instead of finisher shirts, starting a trend for being known as a race with unique swag; jacket provided in 2009
- 2010 – First race in Washington to use timing microchip attached to race bib instead of shoe; antenna transmits data
- 2011 – First year to use race pacers during marathon
- CCMA Foundation established to support healthful living in our community
- 2012 – First year to use recyclable cups at aid stations; 16,000 cups donated by Dart
- First husband and wife sweep in the marathon (Jesse and Jenny Stevick)
- Former CCM Race Director Lesley Roberts honored as Woman of Distinction at 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of Title IX by Olympia YWCA
- 2013 – First year to provide free photo downloads to all race participants
- 2015 – First year kids fun run becomes free to all participants
- Linda Huyck becomes first woman to win all three CCMA events  
Marathon – 2015      Half Marathon – 2003 & 2007      Five mile - 2012
- 2016 - CCM Foundation awards first major grant to Bears and Wolves Swim Camp to increase summer fitness opportunities for middle school girls
- 2017 – Competitor.com names Capital City as one of twelve best Boston qualifiers  
CCMA Hosts first movie night Marathon weekend, screens “Tracktown.”
- 2019 – Celebrated 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first Women’s Olympic Marathon Trials. Joan Benoit Samuelson and a number of 1984 Trials participants attended CCMA-hosted dinner in the Capital Rotunda. Benoit met runners at Run Fair. She won the Women’s Masters award in the Half Marathon!
- 2020 – Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all runs were virtual. 808 runners also raised money for charities: The Olympia School District Education Foundation, Thurston County Food Bank, South Sound YMCA, and local high school cross country teams. Virtual runs continued in 2021.

2023 – CCMA grows its support of community organizations by partnering with Thurston County’s Veterans and Mental Health Courts and the area chapter of Wear Blue.

*“We care about the experience.” Lesley Roberts, Race Director, 1993 – 2011*

### **CCM Race Directors**

Dave Kent 1982-1986

Jim Cashman 1987 – 1989

Allyson Wilkinson 1990

Russ Chadwick 1991 – 1992

Lesley Roberts 1993 - 2011

Nona Snell 2012 - 2019

Leah Landon 2020 – 2022

Sally Elliott 2023 - present

### **Did you know?**

- The race slogan in the mid 1980s and early 1990s was: U 2 Can Do 26.2
- For many years marathon race equipment was stored in the historic, original brick Olympia Brewhouse.
- All marathon events are managed and staffed by volunteers. The CCMA Board, race director, committee chairs, and over 500 other annual volunteers give of their time and talents – and have since the beginning of the event.
- Since the marathon moved to May in 1989, race day temperatures have usually been within our moderate, spring “Mediterranean Climate” zone of 64 – 66 degrees for the high. But, on race day - May 17, 1992 - the high in Olympia was 85 degrees!
- The CCMA is committed to supporting its local community and purchases supplies, services and food locally at every possible opportunity. Our sponsors are community businesses and organizations.
- Over the years runner swag – or booty – has been inventive, “before their time,” and popular. Previous items include: shoelaces, zip-up running jacket, track pants, coaster, necklace, hat, cloth stuff bag, mesh bag, insulated lunch bag, headband. Goodr sunglasses. Age group awards have been made of recycled materials, marble, various acrylic materials, fused glass with new printing/etching techniques.
- All three timed events – marathon, half marathon and five-mile – are run on courses certified by The Athletic Congress.

*“Our hometown race is not just about running; it’s about community and commitment.” Nona Snell, Former Race Director*

## Race Participant History

### Marathon

This race has been run 40 times; **16,024 have finished.**

Marathon race with most finishers: 1983 when 754 finished.

Marathon race with most wheelchair finishers: 1987 when 5 finished.

#### Marathon finishers by year:

1980s	1990s	2000s	2010s	2020s
	1990 479	2000 497	2010 373	2020 virtual
	1991 552	2001 473	2011 355	2021 virtual
1982 493	1992 548	2002 408	2012 299	2022 222
1983 754	1993 459	2003 462	2013 293	2023 248
1984 681	1994 552	2004 468	2014 274	
1985 ?	1995 493	2005 485	2015 294	
1986 441	1996 397	2006 455	2016 314	
1987 413	1997 409	2007 323	2017 305	
1988 378	1998 455	2008 315	2018 266	
1989 437	1999 390	2009 329	2019 235	

### Half Marathon

This race has been run 29 times; **23,722 have finished.**

Half marathon race with most finishers: 2013 when 1,256 finished.

Since 1998, more women than men have finished this race each year.

#### Half marathon finishers by year:

1990s	2000s	2010s	2020s
	2000 568	2010 1096	2020 virtual
	2001 802	2011 1212	2021 virtual
	2002 734	2012 1253	2022 715
1993 371	2003 772	2013 1256	2023 826
1994 467	2004 888	2014 1005	
1995 407	2005 822	2015 963	
1996 444	2006 916	2016 1124	
1997 441	2007 798	2017 1014	
1998 612	2008 833	2018 1003	
1999 502	2009 878	2019 1000	

### **Other Running Events**

Over the years a number of other races have been run as part of marathon weekend. These have included: relay team race over the marathon course, 10K walk and run, 1-mile, 2-mile, 8K , 5.2-mile and 5 mile races.

**Total CCMA event finishers** - the total number of documented runners finishing all CCMA events - marathon, half marathon and shorter events, *except* kids' fun runs.

Total annual number of finishers (all events except kids' run)

1980s	1990s	2000s	2010s	2020s
	1990 479	2000 1229	2010 2013	2020 virtual
	1991 552	2001 1491	2011 2086	2021 virtual
1982 493	1992 548	2002 1349	2012 2064	2022 1381
1983 754	1993 830	2003 1415	2013 2050	2023 1623
1984 681	1994 1178	2004 1609	2014 1763	
1985 ?	1995 1067	2005 1666	2015 1720	
1986 441	1996 982	2006 1628	2016 1917	
1987 413	1997 1160	2007 1352	2017 1861	
1988 378	1998 1291	2008 1453	2018 1841	
1989 437	1999 1050	2009 1581	2019 1740	

Total: 47,566

### **Documented runners finishing CCMA races in last 42 years:**

**Note:** Statistics above do not include 1985 marathon finishers and 1989 thru 1993 five mile finishers as results for these races cannot be found. Given historical participation in these events, we believe we can safely say that over 51,000 runners have finished our event.

Note: The 2020 and 2021 runs were all virtual due to the pandemic.  
706 individuals reported times for their virtual runs in 2020.  
459 individuals reported times for their virtual runs in 2021.

Note: The kids' run – Rising Capital City Runners - now has approximately 350 finishers annually.