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## Iditarod Trail Committee

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Iditarod Board of Directors elects executive committee members**

**Anchorage, Alaska** – The Iditarod Trail Committee (ITC) formally elected its officers and executive committee for 2019 at its organizational meeting recently held at The Lakefront Anchorage. In late June, ITC's board appointed five new members, two of whom will serve in key leadership roles this year.

Mike Mills will serve as the new president of the Iditarod Board of Directors, replacing outgoing board president Andy Baker, who is also stepping off the board. Danny Seybert and Mike Jonrowe will keep their positions on the board as vice president and secretary, respectively. New board member Ryan York was selected as the treasurer of the board.

Outgoing board president Andy Baker had this to say about the transition, "I leave the board in the very capable hands of each of the remaining members and will look forward to being a spectator and fan of the Last Great Race on Earth. Ever since the Foraker Group report came out, I have worked to take those recommendations seriously and get the board to a place where the new leadership will thrive. Additionally, with GCI's renewed commitment, the race is financially sound for the future and I now feel comfortable stepping away. I look forward to many successful years of watching this race grow. Thank you to all of the past board members who helped us achieve this great success."

Newly elected ITC board President Mike Mills thanked the outgoing members for their long and dedicated service. "I want to especially thank Andy Baker who has dedicated himself to improving the race. As a board, we will build on those efforts to make this an even more exciting and compelling event. I am honored to be on the Iditarod board and look forward to establishing a best-practices culture based on integrity, stability and financial soundness. This board will work hard to gain the trust of the stakeholders so that the focus can be on the dogs and race itself."

Stan Hooley, CEO said, "We want to offer our utmost thanks to Andy Baker for his years of leadership on the board. We are excited to have this talented group guide the organization in the months and years ahead. I have no doubt their desire to see this race be more successful will be of great benefit to the ITC as we approach our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and prepare for the next 50 years."

The ITC also recently reached an agreement in principle with longtime sponsor GCI for an additional four-year-term, through the 2022 race. The 2019 race will mark GCI's 26<sup>th</sup> as a principal partner. "It's important to acknowledge outgoing President Andy Baker's role in working with GCI to help make this a reality. We very much appreciate GCI's confidence in the race organization by making this multi-year commitment. This outstanding news will deliver a renewed sense of energy and excitement to the race organization, its fans and participants," Hooley added.

Iditarod XLVII will get underway on Saturday, March 2, 2019, at 10:00 a.m. in downtown Anchorage, Alaska.

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