

**CT Region NSP Advisors and Leadership Meeting**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, March 24, 2022**  
**Zoom conference 1830-1946**

**Patrol Directors:** Jim Tully (Pahquioque); Mike Smarz (Mohawk); Justin Lonergan (Powder Ridge); Ron Fenner (Southington)

**Assistant Patrol Directors/NSP Reps:** Eric Schmidt (Pahquioque); Walt Behuniak (Southington); Kevin Muravnick (Powder Ridge)

**Advisors:** Peter Bayer (ROA); Kathy Fitzpatrick (Safety); Bob Cassello (Alumni); Justin Regan (Certified, OET); Becky Mudge (Senior); Larry Hyatt (SrOEC, Administrative Assistant); Andrew Flint (Outdoor Risk Management); Mike Gajdosik (Instructor Development); Gadi Bourla (Telecommunications); Tom Kim (Ski Sundown, Snowboard); John Boorjian (Historian)

**CT Region Admin:** Skip Mudge (RD); Mark Pahmer (Alternate Region Director); Sue-Ellen Repeta (Pequot Section Chief/YAP); Tony Philpin (Housatonic Section Chief); Liz Fenner (Treasurer)

**Guests:** Ken Joyce (Pahquioque)

**Absent:** John Segretta (Website/Technology); Berni Fowler (Assistant ROA); Cally Regan (Woman's); Chuck Boyd (Avalanche, Nordic/Backcountry); Jeff Barter (Ski Sundown); Randy McKee (Lakeridge); Michael Lapierre (Nutmeg Nordic/MTR); Mike Bafuma (Awards); Melinda Mingus (Medical)

## **ANOUNCEMENTS**

- John Boorjian volunteered to take on the Region Historian role. He gave a little background on himself and said that he had a relative in the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division. A number of people offered to provide John with items from the CT Region programs and events from over the years.
- There will be an election for the Pequot Section Chief at the upcoming Region Spring Officers' Meeting (SOM) on April 14. The requirements for Section Chief are listed on the website. The Pequot Section covers Southington, Powder Ridge, and Thunder Ridge (Pahquioque). Sue-Ellen Repeta, the current Pequot Section Chief, is running for re-election.
- Kathy Fitzpatrick was selected to be the Eastern Division Safety Supervisor (taking over from Melinda Mingus). Until she trains her replacement as CT Region Safety Advisor, she will be doing both jobs. Her goal is to identify and mentor her replacement throughout the 2022-23 season so that they can step in as the region advisor for the 2023-24 season. This person doesn't have to have been a current Safety Captain. The job description will be posted on the website and Kathy is willing to talk to anyone interested. This past season Kathy touched base with every area and appreciated the warm reception she received. She thanked Melinda Mingus and Dallas Coffman for the support she received from the Division. Kathy reminded all that safety is year-round and patrollers should stay fit, both physically and mentally.

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

- Program Reports are due a week from today, Thursday April 1. These are essential in developing our 2022-23 region budget.
- The Region SOM will be at Mt Southington on April 14. All submitted reports will be made available prior to the meeting. Advisors, Officers, and Patrol Reps will not be asked to read their reports at the meeting. They will have an opportunity to discuss edits to their reports and field questions from meeting attendees.

- The Eastern Division Spring Officers' meeting will be on April 29.
- Following the Division Spring Officers' meeting there will be the Minnie Dole NY Historic Roadside Marker and Gravesite rededication May 2 at St John's Cemetery in Paul Smiths (upper New York state).
- CT Region Awards Banquet will be held on Saturday June 11. Information is on the website. Contact Liz Fenner for additional information.

## **DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION (DEI)**

- DEI and Code of Conduct (CoC) are closely related. Current CoC is not written clearly, so it is going through a careful review and update (which will include cyber-bullying). Along with the re-write, they will develop a system of uniform tracking, reporting, accountability, data capture, investigation, and controls. Division and National are seeing a lot of old complaints re-written as DEI to get attention but are not really DEI. Expect to see more as DEI will be incorporated into NSP programs, including upcoming OEC refreshers.

## **COVID GUIDELINES**

- New Covid Guidelines were released by the Division for Spring 2022 and can be found on the website. There are no longer restrictions on indoor programs, however it is strongly suggested we maintain social distancing when possible and masks should be worn during OEC close quarter events.

## **ELECTRONIC SHIFT SCHEDULING / SUBSTITUTIONS**

- Sundown began using a new scheduling system, Home Base this, year. Substitutions are managed through the system (requests/offers/swaps). All substitutions must be approved. Hill Captains know in advance, who will be working their shifts.
  - Southington – patrollers who need a substitute usually send an email to the full patrol. This often works. Personal request (patroller-to-patroller) seems to be effective: people less likely to say “no” when asked individually.
  - Pahquioque – also uses mass email. Eric Schmidt spoke w/ Jiminy Peak which uses a custom program developed by RPI student (also a patroller) which works well for scheduling. Perhaps not for subs.
  - Powder Ridge – used the When to Work system, if someone needs coverage they can put their shift on a Swap Board, Justin or Kevin must approve the change, but no guarantee that someone picks up the shift.
  - Mohawk – individuals usually make direct contact with someone when they need coverage.

## **ELECTRONIC INCIDENT REPORTING**

- Sundown is considering an electronic incident reporting system. Jeff Barter was wondering what others are doing.
  - Powder Ridge – had tried using one a few years ago but it didn't work, there were problems getting reliable wifi
  - Mohawk – doesn't use; concern that records live on indefinitely.
  - Pahquioque – familiar with the system used at Jiminy Peak and Bromley, My 1Risk, provides a lot of flexibility (such as being able to go back and add information or pictures) and ensures

proper fields are filled out; but system may be too expensive for smaller patrols.

## **REGIONAL “OUTSTANDING” AWARDS**

- People should think about and nominate deserving patrollers for the Regional Outstanding awards – Patroller of the Year, Mentor of the Year, and Instructor of the Year. This year committees will review and select the winners. Patrol Directors will consider those for Patroller of the Year and Program Advisors will consider those for Mentor and Instructor of the Year.

## **INSTRUCTOR DEVELOPMENT (ID)**

- Mike Gajdosik said there was no significant updates on ID or LMS since the last meeting. The new system will be integrated with registration and be previewed at Powderfall.
- No ID courses are scheduled at this time. If there is interest, we can set up zoom or in-person classes for instructor candidate who have completed the online ID course.

## **EXPENSE REPORTS AND DONATIONS**

- Expense reports (found on the website) must be completed and submitted to Liz Fenner. This includes any expenses already reimbursed, advanced, or paid through the region’s credit card. Reports must be submitted within 60 days of when the expense was realized. If after 60 days, expenses will only be reimbursed with RD approval.
- There is a new process for the handling of donations. The Eastern Division has a Federal Tax ID so the donation can be recognized as tax deductible. Donations can be made through the Eastern Division website and can be either by credit card, debit card, Paypal or check. Donations can be earmarked for Eastern Division, CT Region, the Memorial Fund, a specific patrol, or program.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- The Safety Team will have a presentation at Powderfall on Friday, April 8 at 8:45 PM. They will also have a display table 5:30-8:00 PM.
- Powder Ridge’s Bike season begins on May 19 with a large night race (the only lighting will be from riders’ headlamps and bike lights and headlamps—no trail lighting). The patrol is looking for bike patrollers. If interested, contact Justin or Kevin. This summer bike patrollers will be allowed to ride providing they demonstrate proficiency and wear a full face shield on their helmet.
- Kevin Muravnick suggested that there be an informal meeting of OEC IORs and other senior level instructors over the summer to discuss and share items of things that worked well relating to OEC classes. Peter will coordinate.

Next meeting is planned to be held in the Fall unless something significant occurs sooner.

Adjourned 7:46 PM

Respectively submitted,  
Larry Hyatt