

Meeting Minutes—Monday, September 21, 2020
Zoom conference 1900-2105

Attendees

Patrol Directors: Ken Joyce (Pahquioque); Justin Lonergan (Powder Ridge); Bob Cassello (Alumni); **Assistant Patrol Directors/NSP Reps:** Eric Schmidt (Pahquioque); Kevin Muravnick (Powder Ridge); Walt Behuniak (Southington); **Medical Advisors:** Melinda Mingus (CT Region Medical Advisor); **Guests:** Mike Bafuma (Awards); Paula Knight (OEC); Charlie Epstein (CISM); Bob Bernatos (NBOD Candidate); Wendy Aarnio (NBOD member/candidate); **CT Region Admin:** Larry Hyatt (Administrative Assistant); Sue-Ellen Repeta (Pequot Section Chief); Tony Philpin (Housatonic Section Chief); Mark Pahmer (Alternate Region Director); Skip Mudge (RD); **Absent:** Randy McKee (Lakeridge); Mike Smarz (Mohawk); Michael Lapierre (Nutmeg Nordic); Ron Fenner (Southington); Kenn Kostuk (Ski Sundown); Scott Dawick (Ski Sundown)

ACTION ITEMS FROM AUGUST 31 MEETING

- **Skip:** Update items on region website (**COMPLETED**); Distribution of CISM brochures to PDs (**COMPLETED**)
- **Charlie:** Deliver CISM brochures to Justin Lonergan (**COMPLETED**); Develop CISM video for patrols (**ONGOING**)
- **Sue-Ellen:** Check with hospital regarding washer/dryer requirements to properly disinfect clothing. (**ONGOING**)
- **All Patrol Directors:** Provide New Member information (candidates who have passed OEC, OET) for inclusion on the website (**SUNDOWN AND PAHQUIOQUE COMPLETE**); Review open positions and encourage patrollers to participate at the region level. (**ONGOING**)

NEW ACTION ITEMS FROM SEPTEMBER 21 MEETING

- **Skip:** Youth Protection Program, notify all required officers, administrators, advisors and instructors; follow up with Mohawk and Ski Sundown on Safety Captains.
- **Mike Bafuma:** complete awards highlight video; update awards page on website.
- **All Patrol Directors:** Provide New Member information (candidates who have passed OEC, OET) for inclusion on the website (*Sundown and Pahquioque Complete*); Review open positions and encourage patrollers to participate at the region level.

National Board of Directors Candidates

Wendy Aarnio is running for re-election. She congratulated the Region and members for all the awards received last weekend. She Chairs the Youth Protection program and reported that the committee's proposal was accepted by the National Board. She provided updates on Intro to Patrolling and the new Aerial Evacuation Resource Guide (formerly known as the lift evac manual). The Bike Patrol task force has submitted an RFA to national to make Bike Patrolling a new program. Working on a proposal for the board's consideration on Oct 21. Currently there are an estimated two thousand Bike patrollers, but not all of them registered as Bike Patrollers. Urging all Bike Patrollers to register (primary or secondary) as such. Among other things, having an accurate count enables NSP to develop partnerships and sponsorships, and provide deals on gear to Bike Patrollers. National's COVID task force was largely influenced by the Eastern Division COOPED-UP task force and the two are very much in sync. The Curriculum Committee (Education sub-committee) is developing program-specific guidelines. Some have already been published (OEC, MTR and N/BC as of this writing), more to come. (<https://nspserver.org/covid-19-update>). Education Committee is working hard to ensure our programs are in alignment with our 2030 Strategic Plan. The NBOD received a letter from a long-time, distinguished patroller that is concerned that we may be moving too quickly in putting everything on computers and we may be marginalizing members who don't have strong computer skills, and those who are on the autism spectrum who can perform patroller skills, but learn in a different manner. How can we adapt (the way we train, register for courses, etc.) so that we don't lose these patrollers? There will be a greater focus on how we mentor new patrollers and keep them engaged and interested in continuing with patrolling,

“feeding their passion”. We also need to actively identify and foster the next generation of leaders.

Bob Bernatos began his NSP training at Roundtop in the Eastern PA Region in 1983. Job change prevented him from completing his candidate year, but remained active until he finally became a patroller in 1997. He has many years in leadership roles including PD and APD, Section Chief and six years as RD, noting that EPA has 1300 active patrollers plus about 350 Alumni making it larger than three divisions. Last summer worked on patrol formation and registration committee. Currently four committees at national working on how NSP should operate in preparation of new IT system. IMIS rollout five years ago was “complete disaster”. He’s been working with Chris Pringle on ideas for smoother implementation of next IT system. National had spent many hours working with third party on a complete overhaul of the course registration process. After much testing, this effort was scrapped. New approach is to address smaller issues v. large scale update. He has been attending most of the board calls, in particular, Finance, Education and Governance, to learn more about NSP and how everything works. This is an outstanding slate of candidates, no matter who is elected, the NSP members will benefit.

John Kane was unable to make our meeting, but Bob and Wendy both sang his praises. He has been Division Director for four years, and nobody works harder than John. He has traveled the entire division from ME to West Virginia to attend events and meet patrollers. He’s doing great work as Chair of the Business Process Committee and works on other committees at National. He has done a lot of work to bring divisions together over the past three years.

Without an in-person refresher this fall, we need to work this process at the local level. Patrollers will be looking to those in leadership positions for guidance on who to vote for as well as how to vote. We need to be knowledgeable about the candidates. There are five board seats open. Division is strongly recommending Wendy Aarnio, Bob Bernatos and John Kane for three of those seats. For the remaining two seats, we have identified three “preferred” candidates: Donna Gardino (Alaska Division), Deb Endly (Central Division, past National OEC Program Director), Bryd White (former Southern Division Director).

There are three remaining Candidate Forums: Wednesday, Oct 7 (at 2100), Sunday, Oct 18 (at 2000) and Wednesday, Nov 4 (at 2100). Voting opens on October 15 and closes December 1. New board members take office on January 1, 2021.

Safety Captains

Unsure if we have identified Safety Captains at Mohawk and Ski Sundown. All other areas have at least one.

Electronic Voting

CT region is considering electronic voting for regional elections. The election Committee is currently evaluating a system that would cost about \$50. It looks like the committee will recommend this and will make a proposal to the Region Board along with proposed changes to the region bylaws which currently state that RD and ARD elections are to be held during the fall OEC Refresher. EPA had pioneered regional electronic voting in the Eastern Division about seven years ago. The ED bylaws had to be changed at that time to allow electronic ballots. Bob Bernatos said that the hardest part might be getting valid email addresses for all members. Pull from National, but still a lot of bad email addresses. Might want to see if the voting system reports bounced emails. EPA keeps their voting open for their refresher season—eleven weeks. They run 11-12 regional refreshers a year.

Youth Protection Program

Chapter 13 of P&P covers Youth Protection. Currently the following are required to complete the training: Patrol Rep, Patrol Director, RD, ARD, Section Chief, Region Program Administrators and Advisors in any discipline in which protected parties participate, Region Legal Advisors, At least one NSP Instructor if protected parties are present (overnight: at least two NSP Instructors matching the demographics; Adult Chaperones must be trained as well).

Training currently can be from Armatus online through Praesidium (free), Scouts BSA youth training program

(free), Safesport.org (small charge). The Division Director can approve other programs if they meet the requirements. Need to provide certificate of completion (copy sent to Skip) and will be good for 3 years. IORs must ensure that the instructor's profile indicates completion of this training before he/she can teach a class in which protected parties are present. Ideally every patroller will get trained. It might be tied in to Instructor Recertification cycles. Background checks could be coming in the near future. This, however can get expensive and is regulated by individual states, so national mandates could be difficult. Some areas currently include doing background checks.

Awards

Mike Bafuma talked about the Awards and the "Banquet" (without food or drink) that was held 9/21 at Mt Southington. Mike had just been appointed as Region Awards Advisor a few weeks ago and did an amazing job (John Kane offered to pay him to help run Donna McGraw's retirement part the following day). A highlight video should be available and up on the Region website soon (perhaps a couple weeks). One goal for this year is to identify an Awards "NAG" at each patrol who would become familiar with the NSP P&P Chapter 12 (Awards Program) and be passionate about getting people recognized. Another goal is to add an Awards page to our website. Given the success of our awards "event" we might be able to find an effective way to recognize patroller achievements without taking time from our in-person OEC Refreshers. Bob Bernatos suggested Mike reach out to the Division and look at other region websites for ideas.

Area Operations and COVID Issues

The CT Ski Areas have been working to develop a consistent, cohesive operating plan. Tony reports that Ski Sundown is optimistic about the upcoming season. Pre-season sales are up, there will be limited daily ticket sales, most likely sold online so they can spread out skiers throughout the day, lodge capacity will be limited to 25%. Food may likely be "grab and go". Mohawk up about 20% over this time last year, with great interest in ski school programs.

Bike Patrolling

National Bike Task Force survey: About 75% of 600 representative patrols responded. They are looking for further specific training for biking. Bike Patrolling includes Bike Hosts (OFC) and Bike Patrollers (OEC). Powder Ridge is using mostly OEC (Patrollers) at this time. Can register primary with ski patrol and secondary with bike patrol. There will be separate training for those doing the bike patrolling. There are some software limitations regarding the manner in which ski and bike patrols are registered. Ideally, with the next system upgrade, we hope to be able to associate a member ID with different patrols (e.g., Nordic, Bike, Ski, etc.).

This past weekend Powder Ridge hosted a huge event with 220 bikers in addition to their regular customers. Two more events are scheduled. 9/27 is same event and 10/4 is an enduro. 13 Patrollers were on duty as well as the Hosts. It is thought that the Winter will also be busy. Looking for a national certified program. It was noted that during the summertime with Covid that most things are outside, chairlifts are cleaned regularly. Inside the patrol room, bed covers are replaced when used, masks are worn by patients and patrollers, there is minimum access to the patrol room, social distance and mask used when going to bathrooms or elsewhere inside.

Meeting was adjourned due to the hour. Decided to continue discussions in two weeks, on Monday, October 5 at 1900.

Adjourned 9:05PM

Respectively submitted,
Larry Hyatt