

CT Region NSP Spring Officers Meeting (SOM)
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, April 14, 2022
At Southington, 1815-2135

Patrol Directors: Michael Lapierre (Nutmeg Nordic, MTR); Mike Smarz (Mohawk); Ron Fenner (Southington); Jeff Barter (Sundown)

Assistant Patrol Directors/NSP Reps: Walt Behuniak (Southington)

Advisors: Kathy Fitzpatrick (Safety, Election Comm); Peter Bayer (ROA); Justin Regan (Certified, OET, Sr OET); Fallon Repeta (Assistant YAP); Becky Mudge (Sr Program); Larry Hyatt (Sr OEC, Administrative Assistant)

CT Region Admin: Skip Mudge (RD); Mark Pahmer (ARD); Liz Fener (Treasurer); Tony Philpin (Housatonic Section Chief); Jonathan Ruhe (Legal)

Guests: Rick Knight (Past National Chairman)

Absent: Randy McKee (Lakeridge); Tom Kim (Sundown, Snowboard); Justin Lonergan (Powder Ridge); Kevin Muravnick (Powder Ridge); Gadi Bourla (Telecommunications); Michael Gajdosik (ID); Eric Schmidt (Pahquioque); Melinda Mingus (Medical); John Segretta (Website/Technology); Bob Cassello (Alumni, CISM Liaison); Chuck Boyd (Avalanche); Sue-Ellen Repeta (Pequot Section Chief, YAP); Cally Regan (Women's Program); Austin Hochstrate (Assistant YAP); Mike Bafuma (Awards)

Jonathan Ruhe, Region Legal Advisor, agreed to serve as the Parliamentarian for the meeting.

REGION AWARDS

- Still looking for nominations for Outstanding Regional awards, have received just a few nominations so far.

ELECTIONS

- There will be a vote for the position of Pequot Section Chief, covers Southington, Powder Ridge and Pahquioque / Thunder Ridge. Sue-Ellen Repeta is running for re-election.

PROGRAM REPORTS

- All Advisors in attendance have submitted reports which can be found on the website. Those reports will not be read here, highlights or additional information will be covered at this meeting.
- Certified - Justin Regan – there was a evaluation this year, the OEC written and practical was held at Sugarloaf with 1 candidate; location for next year's evaluation not set yet, with some hesitation because of risks involved; 5 people up for recert this year were given a bye; Justin will be going for his recert next year.
- MTR - Michael Lapierre – MTR 1 clinic was held April 2-3 instead of February; turn out was very good (10 participants); considering whether to move future events to April or keep in February.
- Nordic Backcountry – Mike Lapierre – There were 2 significant storms this year; they were

open 14 days, the area was busy; normally the Senior program is run on the Division level but this year due to Covid it was run on a local level and had 4 candidates from MA, NY, and CT.

- OEC – Peter Bayer – successful year with Refresher run at Camp Sloper in Southington and local OEC classes run at each area averaging about 4-5 candidates per class; will likely return to Sloper next year with access to cabins in case of inclement weather; hope to rotate Instructor Refresher locations, possibly Ski Sundown this year.
- Senior OEC – Larry Hyatt – successful season with all 4 candidates taking the Final Eval passing, success was largely due to the support provided by many people though out the season and at the Final Eval.
- Senior OET – Justin Regan – it was a challenging year due to Covid, conditions and some area operations; did most of the training at Bromley; 10 candidates participated; 5 eligible to test. All 5 passed the skiing portion, 3 passed toboggans. Will be acquiring radios to help groups communicate on the hill. Offers from Ski Sundown and Sr. OEC. If these don't work out, will purchase new.
- OET – Justin Regan – there was suppose to be an OET Instructor Refresher, but between Covid and weather issues, certs were extended another year. New OET TEs will have to go to Patroller School, looking at possibly 3 or 4 candidates.
- Senior Program – Becky Mudge – this position is new this year. Through the redesigned Senior Program, we were able to speed up the reclassification process for two new Alpine Senior Patrollers. Working with a patroller who “fell through the cracks” a number of years ago and was never re-classified.
- YAP – Fallon Repeta – the program ran a Fund Raiser selling of pulse ox's; Eastern Division seminar was cancelled again, but they were able to run two smaller seminars, one with WMA at Butternut and one with SVT at Magic. Tested a Regional YAP OEC class last summer and plan to do another hybrid class this year, starting earlier with target of completing by the time school starts in the Fall, this earlier start will work around school commitments, hope is to have some YAPs support future classes and possibly become instructors.
- Safety – Kathy Fitzpatrick – contacted Cally Regan about a Women's clinic coupled with a Safety event at Sundown next year, patrollers (men and women) from all patrols invited; items to emphasize for next year include accident prevention, promoting use of helmets, knowing when to quit, skiing at own pace, Patroller Stress Awareness, recruitment, and for the Women's connection “Ski Like a Girl and Enjoy It”; looking into ways to fund these.
- Snowboard – From Tom Kim delivered by Jeff Barter – adjusted budget to follow new guidelines for expenses and mileage.

PATROL REPORTS

- Mohawk – Mike Smarz - nothing new
- Winding Trails – Mike Lapierre - quiet season; good relationship with management.
- Southington – Ron Fenner - nothing new
- Sundown - Jeff Barter – nothing new

SECTION CHIEF REPORTS

- Housatonic – Tony Philpin – discussed on the position of Section Chiefs in the CT Region. Do we need Section Chiefs in such a small region? What is the job description? Rick Knight shared some background on the position. This position was created by Minnie Dole to improve communication up and down the organization. The division establishes the number of Section Chiefs for each region based upon membership numbers. Each Section Chief carries a vote (division bylaws, budget and dues). Specific duties are not documented, to allow the RD and Section Chiefs flexibility so they may meet the region’s needs as they see fit at the time.
- RD SC review
 - SCs and ARD are to be the ears & eyes of the RD, and representatives of region leadership.
 - Expect SCs to be a “sponge” at Division meetings and to bring back information to the Region.

PEQUOT SC ELECTION

- Sue-Ellen ran unopposed and was re-elected.

RD REPORT – SKIP MUDGE

- Patrol and program annual reports continue to improve. We are now at a point where we should be sharing these with the rest of our region membership. All those in attendance agreed. We will establish a Members Only section on our website and post the annual reports and budgets. Program Advisors and Patrol Reps were asked to take one final look at their reports. Once approved by the report authors, they will be posted.
- Every RD/ARD election should have multiple candidates. The region deserves to have a choice every two years. Skip urged everyone present to get the word out to anyone interested in running for these positions. Last fall, emails were sent to all patrollers and notices were posted on the website, yet no one stepped up. This should not happen again.
- Two proposed changes to our expense policy were considered.
 - Due to the change in fiscal year, the wording of the due date for expense reports is no longer appropriate. Expense reports continue to be due March 31. No reference to end of fiscal year, which is now June 30; vote to accept the change was unanimously passed.
 - The second proposal was to no longer reimburse for program travel expenses. This was defeated. Instead, it was agreed by those in attendance that the region would reimburse mileage in excess of 100 miles round trip.

REGIONAL FINANCE DISCUSSION

- Liz Fenner - There is money in the region’s account to allow for deficit spending this year. But this is not sustainable and sets a dangerous precedent. We are running more programs with no increase in revenue. How much should be kept as a minimum as a “Rainy Day Fund”? One rule of thumb is to keep 2 ½ times the operating expenses.

- The proposal to reimburse mileage in excess of 100 miles round trip will help reduce the deficit but will not bring us back to a net zero budget.
- In prior years, many advisors did not submit all of their expenses. A deficit budget was approved for 2020-21 with the thought that many programs would be curtailed due to COVID. Most programs are back close to 100%, so the expectation is that all of the money budgeted will be spent.
- Budget Variances
 - Short \$400 in dues
 - YAP Pulse Ox's – spent \$986, took in \$880, short \$106 but still have some units on hand; however, there appears to be an issue with the quality of the units. Many do not work properly.
 - Awards went over but ordered future items that will be used and will save on shipping
 - Safety went over budget (by 3.32), approved by Skip
 - 2021-22 budget performance not finalized yet, waiting for some expenses (awards and banquet) to come in (fiscal year ends June 30).
- Discussion regarding ways to increase our ability to fund region programs included: programs charging nominal fee to participants (MTR and Avalanche have done this for years, with participants paying 100% of the cost of the program). Those who reap the benefits pay, those who do not take these optional courses don't pay. Fund raising was also discussed, specifically raffling skis, snowboards, use of ski house/condo, etc. at the OEC refreshers. Program Advisors are encouraged to consider charging fees to offset program expenses. We will look into the legal and tax implications of raffles.

Motion to adjourn the meeting seconded and passed 9:35 PM

Respectively submitted,
Larry Hyatt

Proposal 1
Change to
Connecticut Region Expense Reimbursement Policy
Spring Officers' Meeting
April 14, 2022

Current Version

F. Any expense reports submitted to the Treasurer for reimbursement by the Connecticut Region more than 60 days after the event is completed will not be reimbursed unless the regional director approves the payment. All expenses incurred in the fiscal year must be submitted 15 days before the end of the fiscal year (March 31).

Proposed Version

F. Any expense reports submitted to the Treasurer for reimbursement by the Connecticut Region more than 60 days after the event is completed will not be reimbursed unless the regional director approves the payment. All expenses incurred in the fiscal year must be submitted by March 31. If an activity occurs beyond that timeframe, the region director must approve reimbursement.

Explanation

The fiscal year was changed from April 1 – March 31 to July 1 – June 30. 15 days prior to the end of the fiscal year would not allow the region leadership to review the season's budget performance (actual expenses) or to adequately prepare and approve the budget for the upcoming season in mid-April.

Passed by unanimous vote 4/14/22

Proposal 2
Change to
Connecticut Region Expense Reimbursement Policy
Spring Officers' Meeting
April 14, 2022

Current Version

B. The Connecticut Region will reimburse for mileage for trips of 80 miles or greater, round trip, at the rate per mile specified on the Connecticut Region Website. This amount is subject to change at the end of each fiscal year based on 60% of the current IRS business mileage rate.

Proposed Change

B. The Connecticut Region will reimburse for mileage for the portion of trips that exceed 100 miles round trip, at the rate per mile specified on the Connecticut Region Website. This amount is subject to change at the end of each fiscal year based on 60% of the current IRS business mileage rate.

Explanation

In an effort to manage what is becoming a trend of deficit budgeting, this was proposed during the April 14, 2022 CT Region Spring Officers' Meeting. In addition to raising the mileage threshold, this proposal is more in line with the intention of the initial policy. Under the Current Version, the region would not reimburse a 79-mile trip, but would fully reimburse the total mileage of an 81-mile trip. The proposal would only provide reimbursement for the portion of the trip that exceeds the mileage threshold (a 101 mile trip would qualify for reimbursement of one mile, not 101 miles).

Defeated 4/14/22