

**CT Region Advisor Meeting**  
**Meeting Minutes—Wednesday, January 20, 2021**  
**Zoom conference 1905-2010**

**Attendees**

**Advisors:** Peter Bayer (ROA); Michael Gajdosik (ID Advisor); Justin Regan (Certified & Sr OET Advisor); Austin Hochstrate (Assistant YAP Advisor); Mike Bafuma (Awards Advisor); Larry Hyatt (Sr OEC Advisor)

**CT Region Admin:** Skip Mudge (RD); Tony Philpin (Housatonic Section Chief); Mark Pahmer (Alternate Region Director); Bob Cassello (Alumni PD)

**Absent:** Michael Lapierre (MTR Advisor); Chuck Boyd (Avalanche & Nordic/Backcountry Advisor); Kathy Fitzpatrick (Safety Team Advisor); Jenny O'Donnell (Assistant Safety Team Advisor); Cally Regan (Woman's Program); Tom Kim (Snowboard Advisor); Paul Katz (Assistant Snowboard Advisor); Sue-Ellen Repeta (YAP Advisor & Pequot Section Chief); Melinda Mingus (Medical Advisor); Paula Knight (Asst. Division OEC Supervisor); Rick Knight (past National Board Chair)

**CT REGION ITEMS**

- Request for people to look at the website and pay particular attention to each programs' pages and make sure they are up to date. It is recognized that there may not be any changes in a number of areas. Also, update any events on the calendar.
- Youth Protection training: at last count 74 patrollers have completed and uploaded their certification information to the Eastern Division. All key instructors should take the training; if anyone wants to know if someone in their program has had the training they can check with Skip.
- Awards – Mike Bafuma put together an awards video for the Division that has been posted on the Division website. Outstanding awards must be submitted to Mike by February 21. The Eastern Division website has a lot of information regarding all 13 Outstanding award categories as well as a guide to writing the awards. There is a link on the CT Region website for the Division website; last year there were about 50 nominations from the Eastern Division with only one from the CT Region, which was the Outstanding Large Alpine Patrol award received by Mt Southington Ski Patrol.
- Expense Forms for programs are available on the CT Region website. All program expenses must be submitted by March 31; Advisors may be able to roll over budget dollars not used for this year to next, especially for things like new capital expenses like equipment.
- The Eastern Division has re-evaluated their position on in-person training and the decision is to keep things as they are. COVID-19 numbers continue to increase. All CT Region in-person training has to be approved by the RD (Skip); Local (only people from that patrol attending) in-person training may take place as long as it is sanctioned by area management and patrol, it follows local, state, CDC & NSP guidelines; the Eastern Division COOPED-UP Task Force has resumed meetings to re-evaluate the current status of the virus and its recommendations for safe patrolling and training. Few, if any changes are expected.

**INSTRUCTOR DEVELOPMENT**

- In December, the National Instructor Development (ID) Committee meeting determined to put a halt to the current ID programs and announced plans to update the ID courses
- The intent is to get away from the "six-pack" and learning styles and move towards making sure that the students are learning the desired material and the presentation is adapted to the students' needs; it is expected that the updated program will be ready in 3-6 months. At this time, Mike is not sure how long it will take to update all of the instructors in all disciplines

- The exact details are not known at this time. One question is how to handle multi-disciplinary instructors. Will they need to re-certify in each discipline?
- It is expected that ITs will play a significant role in the roll out to all instructors.
- The current ID program will continue to be taught until the new course is available.
- Mike urged Program Advisors (and Patrol Directors) to help him identify potential ID instructor candidates. A good candidate is someone who is able to coach and understand where their students are at (being able to read students as needs required), and can readily adapt as needed to meet student needs.

#### **ADVISOR ROUNDTABLE – OET**

- The certified exams for this year have been canceled along with renewal requirements (have extended renewal dates a year)
- There are some 1300 toboggan OET instructors in the Eastern Division; therefore the number for overseeing is large.
- There are new instructor candidates (Powder Ridge, Southington, Mohawk) in the region and areas are trying to figure out how to safely complete instructor certification requirements; aside from the current safety issues another difficulty is that new OET instructors can only be added to the system from October 31- December 31. Instructor candidates who have finished the requirements but haven't been updated as instructors due to the certification window, are allowed to teach, but just cannot open or run a course. About 75% of the instructor training preparation can be done online, but some things like watching a student and then instructing a student is difficult to do if not in a live situation.

#### **ADVISOR ROUNDTABLE – YAP Program**

- The regular YAP seminar has been canceled for this year
- Setting up individual Zoom type events; a scavenger hunt is planned for this week; there are also plans for a ski-a-thon, a live online event with ski celebrities and possibly TIC TOC events.
- The CT Region is working with Craig Larson (Eastern Division YAP Supervisor) and Chris Tota (Eastern Division Assistant YAP Supervisor) on events.
- Should post any events on the website and include any write-ups

#### **ADVISOR ROUNDTABLE – Safety Program**

- Safety Day events have been canceled for this year, avoiding any in-person large group events

#### **ADVISOR ROUNDTABLE – OEC Program**

- OEC courses are finishing up; Pahquioque has their Skills Evaluations this Friday (December 22) with the Scenarios TBD; Mohawk hands-on training remains on hold with 6 candidates doing online training (only a couple of quizzes to finish); Sundown is doing online quickfires at this time; Powder Ridge & Southington finished their Fall courses.

Next meeting – Wednesday March 03, 2021 at 7:00 PM

Adjourned 8:10 PM

Respectively submitted,  
Larry Hyatt