

**NATIONAL SKI PATROL
CENTRAL DIVISION FALL MEETING MINUTES
September 11-13, 2015, Grand Rapids, Michigan**

Executive Committee Meeting - Friday September 11, 2015 7:30pm

Invited to attend: Attendees to be DD, ADD's, staff (legal, finance, admin), RDs for Eastern Michigan (Mike S), North Central (Les R), Western (Jim Ruzicka).

Attending: John (JT) Thomas, Tom Anderson, Chris Raudabaugh, Julie Stone, Kevin McQuillan (joined later), Marty Jarvi, Cheryl Raudabaugh, Mike Schons, Les Robinson, Jeannine Mogan attending for Jim Ruzicka (proxy vote).

General: JT opened the meeting and introduced Marty Jarvi, who has taken over the Treasurer position. Transitions are still in process for access to all financial accounts. Approval process for program expenses was reviewed for ADD and Marty posting. Agenda items were discussed with minor revisions made for the Saturday meeting including proposals, and some financial questions addressed. Elections - four are running from Central Division. Need to work on more efforts to get out the vote; added to discussion in New Business.

Proposals: Proposals were presented for approval to move forward to full board meeting.

- F15 P001 Certified Hill Standards Proposal (Perlman)

Motion to forward to general meeting Mike, 2nd Les.

Discussion - P&P issues with this proposal (Kevin) You can only add to division manuals something that supplements education in national standards. The intent is to support a nationwide program. We cannot conflict with national standards. Exec Committee discussed this and other background information. Also noted - senior standards are identified in the Central Division, but not at national - however the CD manual preceded the development of the national manual.

Vote to Accept Proposal: 3 for, 4 against, 1 abstained; Committee Action: Rejected, Proposal will not be forwarded to full board.

Further discussion: The executive committee cannot accept as submitted, but would like to have a presentation as part of new business from the Certified committee to hear their concerns and determine if there is a way to help resolve this issue. This would be as a non-voting matter. Moved by Kevin, 2nd by Mike. Vote: All in favor. Added to agenda.

- F15 P002 Supervisor Meeting Proposal (Jacques) Proposal requests division coverage of expenses through income from the CD investments. In past these have been dealt with on an individual basis with budget requests. Motion to forward: Mike, 2nd Kevin. Vote 7 in favor, 1 against. Moves forward.
- F15 P003 Senior Program Manual Revisions Proposal (Lukes) Proposal sets standards that conflict with national standards. Not forwarded to general meeting as written. Mike appointed to review with Daren Lukes and submit a revised proposal at a future time. Vote all in favor to defer.
- F15 P004 RPN Archive Proposal (Jacques) Proposal is to put all historical RPN's into digital format. Motion to forward - Tom, 2nd Les. Anything over budget more than \$500 would require further board approval. Vote: all in favor to move to general committee.

Motion to adjourn Mike, 2nd by Tom. All agreed.

Meeting was closed at 9:30 pm.

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General Meeting: Saturday, September 12, 2015

John (JT) Thomas called the meeting to order at 8:00am. Chip Knappen and Laurie Hurley of the Western MI Region welcomed attendees and reviewed plans for education offerings, silent auction and housekeeping items.

Division Update - John (JT) Thomas

Many things are going on in the division that do affect the everyday patroller. MSAA Update - we, as patrollers, do affect the area's bottom line and we need to be cognizant of that. We need to realize that our primary customer is the area owner, then next is their customer and our patients. We need to take back the message from this meeting to our patrollers. Social media - this is not a place to put any patrol issues - examples of chair evac training, any first aid events. We need to do a better job with our "C" players - to monitor and address issues with skills not kept up to date, shifts not covered, etc. It is our responsibility to make sure that we train and keep all A&B players. The Central Division is working well; our teams have evolved - good examples are the Skills Development and OEC teams. Be sure to help and support each of the program advisors that are working to provide great programs for you. As patrollers we love to help each other; take advantage of our many opportunities to improve your skills.

National Board Review - We need to make sure that our board is listening to our customers, and to our Divisions who are bringing forward the needs of our membership. We need to look towards what it takes to bring on new, younger patrollers to insure the future of our organization. Only a small number of patrollers vote. We need to Vote; we must increase the percentage of our division that votes in the upcoming election. Members with questions about what occurs at board meetings can arrange to listen in to what is being discussed - access it via the national website; or read minutes which are posted as well. Janet Glaeser and Jim Woodrum, current board members are also at the meeting this weekend and available for further discussion.

National Board Candidates Review - Chris Raudabaugh

Chris provided a presentation overview of the process and will be having each of the candidates come up to speak. We that are here at the meeting understand the need to vote, but how do we get the everyday patroller to vote? October 15 is the magic date when voting opens. It all starts with logging in; unfortunately, many of our patrollers are not comfortable with this; help them. Thankfully the recent addition of the hybrid refresher helps in that patrollers are now required to complete online access. What do we need addressed by our NSP Board?: 1) Strategic Planning - our board needs to lay the groundwork for what is needed 5-10 years down the road. 2) Industry Partners - another word for this is our customer. We are not in business without them and we need to work with them strategically. MSAA will be represented later at today's meeting 3) NSP Digital Assets (our national database of membership and courses - we certainly know the issues with technology that need addressed 4) Accountability - the board assigned to a group of subcommittees - the board needs to monitor and track these committees and hold them accountable. 5) Responsiveness - making sure that the board addresses issues in a timely basis.

Introduction of Candidates:

Ty Damon - Eastern Michigan Region - Hope that people that cared enough to be here today will take the time to seek me out and we will have a conversation. Position statements and biographical information is now listed on the website available for all to review. I have been patrolling for 35 yrs; hill leader, patrol director, region director, and division staff. Retiring from current profession soon and hoping to devote time to the national level board with newly available time. Served on national task force to develop our current vision and mission statement. We need to remember that our job as board members is to look five and ten years out, to serve our membership and our relationship with our partners in MSAA to support the skiing public for management at our areas. We need to do more like the new online refresher offering to help expand our education, we also need to do more work with other groups such as the national volunteer firefighters counsel to do like this. Please vote.

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Brian Rull - Southern Region - Who Am I, Why Am I Here? 11 yr ski patroller, currently assistant region director. Practicing Attorney and CPA, then took career change - now doing trust accounts. Most of the cases I deal with are as an intermediary on disputes to find common goals - setting aside emotions and allowing for ways to meet those goals. I hope to provide those skills to the board and for work with our industry partners. Encourage you read the position statements and to ask questions this weekend - ask candidates how they will solve some of the issues raised earlier. Brian provided an example from military wounded warriors program as a great skilled target where we could pull more young people into our organization.

Brian Ulrich - Western Region - The topic of voting is popular - why vote? We can motivate people by affecting how it hits their personal pocket. Tell your patrollers to cast their vote because they are affected - through the dues they pay to how they run their refreshers to the programs we offer. We need to determine what we are going forward and the board should offer that well-thought out plan. We need to find ways to make sure that we remain relevant. I have patrolled for 13 years. and am currently Sr training coordinator for OEC program. Background in corporate finance and technology projects - could help with our national technology issues. Have served on large HOA board for 12 years and am familiar with the needs of working with a volunteer organization. Offering my skills to help increase transparency of the board, budgets and technology planning. Please go out and encourage your patrollers to vote to make sure that we ensure our future and have good representation from the Central Division..

Jim Woodrum - Ohio Region - Current Board member, running for re-election to a second term. I run the Ski Area Relations Committee for the board. After patrolling for almost 40 years, and visiting nearly every area in the Central Division and having listened to so many members experiences, so I have taken a lot of history and experience into my position in the national board. 2005 was the first year of individual voting, and I created a committee of Division Directors at that time to help make this work, which is still in place today as a working committee with the board. Professionally, retired from P&G where I worked with 42 manufacturing sites for health and safety, experience which benefits my work with ski patrol. We do have to figure out ways to make it easier to get younger folks into the system. One of the things the Ski Area Association has brought to the board is how do we make our OEC program more relevant going forward and we need to address that opportunity. Feel free to ask me any questions this weekend. On the national board the individual opinion is not key, it's how many votes that you have on the board in order to make sure that we can accomplish what we need. It is important to make sure that we have the right votes.

Chris - Remember, on October 15 - the Quick Links on the national website will change and that is where you can easily find all the information about each of the candidates. Make sure you know your candidates, and talk to your fellow membership and to the candidates that are here this weekend. Voting statistics: we have 30,000 members in the NSP. Over the years we have had as little as 1,500 voting. So it doesn't take a large percentage of voters to make a big difference in the outcome. Highest number of votes on current roster of winning board members was 2,300. Lowest 1,300, average 1,800. We have ~6,000 members in the central division - we can make a big difference!

General discussion - we need grass roots movements to make sure everyone votes. At every patrol, every event, we need to make sure that there is a computer available and get local patrollers to vote.

MSAA Executive Director - Chris Stoddard

Representing MSAA (Midwest Ski Areas Association) to share some thoughts about our industry. You know that the world we live in has been changing dramatically. The central state areas are investing huge sums of money to keep their infrastructure alive. Experience and Research tells much which we share with our members. Learning from our successes and not so's helps identify why people love skiing/riding and what factors go into making a lifelong love of our snow sports. We do know that the skier/boarder that has a great day is more likely to become a lifelong skier. Research Resources done at a national level are used by MSAA: Kottke End of Season study, National Demographic study, Economic Analysis, Summer Operator Survey. Beginner Conversion Study, and Millennial Study.

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Kottke End of Season looks at visit changes, snowfall, capital exp, ticket price, lessons taught, season pass sales. Midwest has youngest visitors (median age 26) through school groups. Rocky Mountains is 41 yrs as a destination location. In the midwest 2.9% of people ski.

Beginner Conversion Study - 9.5 million snowsports participants last year. So what are the influencing factors that bring skiers back after the first time? Results nationally and locally. Creating the Magic Moments can change a person's life. You as patrollers can really affect that. Our experiences are much more important than our things. We can do so much in riding the lift, talking to people in line, being outgoing and helpful.

Millennials Study - looking at upcoming population (Age 15-33). They are not skiing as many days a year as other groups, so need to focus on increasing that even a few days a year could make a big difference.

Future Directions: Weather is going to remain challenging.. Continued emphasis on trial and conversion programs, particularly millennials, continue emphasis on broadening summer/year-round opportunities, create more opportunities for magical moments!

MSAA and NSP - We look for NSP to work more closely with ski areas to create a shared future, respond to changing demographics of both skiers and patrollers, serve patrollers and ski areas. I value the relationships we are building in the Central Division and hope we can take that further nationally. Ski Area Patrol roles are changing - making the patrol a bigger part of the ski area operations team, adding more guest interaction to help create those magical moments. Your area patrol is a valued part of the ski area's operations team - be a team member. Focus on core mission - serving the skiing public, and help your area to create those magic moments! On behalf of the MSAA we love working with you, and you are a very valuable part of our organizations. Our relationship is evolving and we want to continue.

Brief Break

National Board Updates - Jim Woodrum

This presentation was given to ski owners association last week and includes information provided to new patrol directors as well. The NSP today is involved in 90% of all ski areas, has 30,000 members, with a unique Federal Charter. We have an active partnership with NSAA and industry for helmet safety, legal suits, employment and legislation, EMS issues at state level, other special projects. For OEC, we do need to make sure that we keep our skills at or above standards - refreshers and review is important.

Joint Statement of Understanding - it is important that we understand - A patrol is under the supervision of the ski area management and must abide by the policies and procedures established by that management. Lift evacuation and training and selection of equipment is the sole responsibility of the ski area management. Ski area management ultimately supervises and controls many of the patrolling activities of individual NSP members and NSP registration units at each ski area. Note - when you are doing volunteer activities inside the area you are normally covered by the area insurance. However outside the area, need to understand who is insuring for the event, especially with the new year-round events.

Standard of Training (what is provided by NSP curriculum) vs Standard of Care as controlled by state regulations and local practice. Best to have a medical director - even if it is a non-patroller. If the area wants to apply a different local protocol, then the area needs to sign off on what that is. For example, you can refer to the county EMS protocols for back boarding as this is a changing area - but the area needs to sign off on documentation of the local protocols.

Mountain Host - provides NSP training to guest service specialists. Program provides for slope safety and customer service training, and can provide for a transition to patrolling.

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Strategic Planning 2020 - a consultant was hired who interviewed ~30 NSP leaders, NSAA, and resort owners, reported back to committee and recommended 5 year outlook. Recommendations include: shortening the mission statement, focus on critical few strategies, clarify roles and responsibilities. Strategic Objectives may include curriculum based programs that are easier to use, increase NSP relevance to our resort owners, brand awareness improvement, fix IT systems, protect first aid training from outside regulation. We need to maintain our relevance, 10% of the ski areas do not use NSP patrols. Meeting with ski area associations and incorporating their needs is important.

(Break for lunch at Noon)

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Board of Director Meeting

Call to order: Division Director, John (JT) Thomas 12:00 PM

All current meeting materials were made available to board members via Google Drive as well as historical documents and reference materials. Any NSP member wishing to attend was provided access to relevant meeting documents including Agenda, Proposals, Action Items List, Program Reports, P&P, Org Chart and expense reporting file.

Roll Call by Administrative Assistant - Cheryl Raudabaugh (All listed are present unless noted)

VOTING BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

- o John Thomas Division Director
- o Mike Schons Eastern Michigan
- o Les Robinson North Central
- o Dick Jacques Northern Michigan
- o Guy Day Ohio
- o Ron Plumer South Central
- o Don Steen Southern
- o Chip Knappen Western Michigan
- o Jeannine Mogan (representing Jim Ruzicka by proxy) Western

ALSO PRESENT:

- o Tom Anderson Assistant DD
- o Chris Raudabaugh Assistant DD
- o Julie Stone Assistant DD
- o Marty Jarvi Treasurer
- o Kevin McQuillan Legal and Risk Advisor
- o Cheryl Raudabaugh Administrative Assistant
- o Jim Woodrum Past DD, National Board
- o Brian Cobble Past DD

Programs Representation: Names in Bold present during portions of meeting.

Skills Development Team: Britt Gustafson (Skills Team Supr)

Daren Lukes (Senior)

Harold Park (Snowsports School)

Dave Bramel (OET)

Alumni open

Avalanche **Dale Fisher**

Awards **Gregg Reese**

Certified **Patrick Perlman**

Instructor Development **Virginia Rodeman**

Intro to Patrolling **Vicki Zierden**

Medical **Steve Werner**

MSSA/Elections **Ken Meldahl**

MTR John Wachter

Nordic **Peter Wollan**

OEC Update **Sue Hayes**

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PSIA Liaison	Dan Moss
Public Relations	Russ Livermore
Registration	Dean Brandt
Rusty Parka News	Katie Flanagan
Safety Team	Mike Husar
Social Media	Darcy Hanley
Telecommunications	Paul Botnen
Webmaster	Kent Anderson
Women's Seminar	Sandi Hammons

MEETING APPOINTMENTS:

Parliamentarian:	Kevin McQuillan
Sergeant-at-Arms:	Tom Anderson

Fall Meeting Agenda

JT directed board to the latest agenda posted online.

MOTION #1: Approval of the Fall Meeting Agenda

MOVED: Dick **SECOND** Les ,

BOARD ACTION: Motion Passed Unanimously. (8 for 0 against)

Treasurer's Report

JT introduced the new division treasurer Marty Jarvi to the full board. (15-16 Budget was approved at Spring 2015 meeting).

Region Director Updates:

Jeannine Mogen proxy for Jim Ruzicka - Western will be hosting the next division meeting. They are hosting 2nd annual risk management seminar. 1 new patrol this season - opening after a 10 year gap. Division Certified exam held at Lutsen.

Mike Schons - Eastern Michigan - goals for this year - new EMR ski school led by a PSIA L3 moving towards all region trainers becoming PSIA, but still supporting ASE for now. Goal of 20 new senior candidates.

Guy Day - Ohio - merger of BMBW and AV - makes largest volunteer patrol in the nation, 437 patrollers covering three areas. Reviewing options for supplemental health insurance coverage for patrollers, issued through the Ohio Region vs individual patrols. Would help to cover deductibles from individual policies if a patroller is hurt. PNS already has for their patrol. Jim noted this would need to come through the areas, not through NSP. Kevin recommended against due to other liability risks.

Chip Knappen - Western Michigan - new seniors for the first time in three years. Areas adding zip lines and new chair lift as well as mountain biking programs. Working to build treasury to help support more programs.

Les Robinson - North Central - looking to run additional SES's this year, hope to run first one of season before Thanksgiving. Refresher season in swing, already have 10 senior candidates signed up. Avalanche 1 class planned for Marquette. Planning 2nd region women's clinic.

Don Steen - Southern - Went to spring banquets, planning new STW for the region after several years' suspended, 13 OEC refreshers in process. Plan to do a lot of traveling this year.

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Ron Plumer - South Central Refreshers in process will be almost all complete by mid October. Fall patrol director meeting, attended by Kevin McQ was very beneficial. Filled all region advisor positions and moving forward. First women's clinic held with 30 participants and a waiting list. Pushing out young adult program. PD meeting coming up, Kevin will be attending as well.

Dick Jacques - Northern Michigan - trying some new things with OEC classes - coordinated two main classes then had four distributed training centers. Used a lot of online materials. All merged for exam. Same concept carried through for region OEC refresher. Adding new SES to winter program - open to other regions to attend as well.

Assistant Division Director Reporting:

Julie Stone - has been a growing year - moving from PR and region level to division. Hope to become more proactive than reactive going forward. Held Patroller Director meeting. Mentoring new PR at her home area. In programs she is finding that some have a lot of communications with regions, others do not - wants to improve upon that. Working with southern region committee on their policies to be in sync with division. Wants to get out and continue to meet more people, develop resources and encourage people to become involved beyond their local patrols.

Chris Raudabaugh - Since last season attended several region banquets, helped with systems transitions for new Treasurer, and worked with Kent on website improvements. Attended MSAA. Leading elections discussions - presentation today, then more later. Developing operating procedures for programs to set up new events - from website to financial to other coordination; initial draft completed. Planning to provide ski training at various other regions this winter, schedule filling up fast.

Tom Anderson - After spring meeting attended north central banquet. Worked with skills team over the summer in plans for this season and changes as presented in the spring meeting for this season's STWs. Working with Don Loerch and Louise on the Don Somalski fund - up to \$25,450 in the fund and continuing to work on expanding that.

Legal Review - Kevin McQuillan

Attended Southern Region patrol reps meeting; happy to attend other regions upon request. Attended MSAA meeting and met with Chris Stoddard. MSAA relationship continues to improve. Need to address their concerns for need for a more focused OEC program (for winter care), not a "dummied down" program. They are hoping to work with us (a committee) to develop something for the central division quickly. Participated in the national legal committee. Discussion on re-do of code of conduct - this should be done at the local area. Addressing various legal issues as required including use of 501(C)3 status. Wisconsin having issue with O2 prescription and licensing. Insurance for patrollers is an ongoing review.

General Discussion about request from MSAA for NSP to develop a more focused NSP program, why and what this might entail. This is moving quickly, and is a push from national (NSAA) as well as Central Division (MSAA).

PROGRAM SUPERVISOR UPDATES

Awards - Gregg Reese - Last year 140 CD awards issued, this year 178, so awards are being written up. Only 4 of the 10 national winners are here this year. Looking for ideas on how to get more winners to be present. Perhaps regions can help with expenses if they are not already. If possible, more advance notice would help.

ACTION ITEM - for spring meeting, RD's to come up with more options to support the winners. travel, attendance at division modules.

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Alumni - position is open again, please provide suggestions for advisor.

Avalanche - Dale Fisher - strong program that has really developed over just the last 10 years. Purpose is to educate our patrollers on safety when skiing in any avalanche prone area. Hoping to have eight Avalanche education courses this year, one in each region; plus five nationwide. See report for more details. Goal to build an avalanche website page and education box, and sponsor an Avalanche Level 2 course at Sunlight Ski Resort in CO.

Skills Development Team - Daren Lukes, Harold Park, and Dave Bramel

Will have two events this year (not three), Dec 5th & 6th Afton Alps, Dec 12th & 13th Boyne Highlands. The focus is to have key snow sports trainers given information to maintain proficiency and consistency across the CD regions. Events are limited this year, invite only events with the RD's submitting recommendations for three to four in each discipline. Expect ~60 participants per event; ie, each region would have 9-12 people. These trainers will then be responsible for training instructors/evaluators within each region. Registration information will be rolled out soon. Preferred method is for the RD's to do the online sign up for each region's participants. Will also provide handouts with progressions to help the trainers to be consistent.

Toboggan - Dave - listed region toboggan advisors (see report): Reminder that there is a sign off on your OEC card for toboggan sign off yearly. Have received a full listing of all toboggan instructors ever from National, so we are asking each region to review, then confirm active instructors and return to Dave by November 15. Also make sure that toboggan refreshers are registered. Will copy RD's on the communications.

Snow Sports School - Harold - Website goal to make more current than it is now, to be able to post progressions for use and PSIA information. Secondly to work with the SS supervisors to make sure that we are taking SES's to the regions. We can help to support with division staff to support credentialing.

Senior Program - Daren - has a new assistant supervisor, Rob Carpenter from Eastern Michigan. Will be handling QA again for the senior tests at each region. And surveys about the evaluations. Plan to communicate with region advisors later this year.

Break

Certified Program - Planning recert clinics in five regions. Pilot program continues for Alpine Valley first week in Feb for non-terrain events. Evaluation will be held at PNS on Feb 25-26. National certified committee head is from Eastern and starting to work on standardizing the program nationwide.

Instructor Development - Ginni Rodeman: Had a national meeting for the first time with all divisions. Ginni is working on the new book, the online course was pulled in June - new may be available in Jan. There is a continuing education pamphlet that should be available soon and a new mentoring form. The continuing ed will be required for re-certification of instructors.

Introduction to Patrolling (Patroller 101) - Vicki Zierden: Currently six classes registered. Last year 41 registered. Will have IOR's copy her on CCR's going forward. Re-write of national manual somewhat stalled. Did survey of region and division directors. Only three divisions use this, but perhaps others do in a different manner. Julie - have done some research on this, little consistent information is available and it is not a high priority with NSP. NSP website focuses this on toboggan handling. Current manual is quite old and outdated. May want to blend into OET - Tom Worley - this has been discussed in OET conference calls and already being reviewed; but then need to address how other areas of focus are covered.

MSAA/Elections - JT for Ken: Good attendance from Central Division at MSAA. Chair evac is still a big issue for them and they are not comfortable with signing off on what they don't know well. Social Media - one patrol had a report blog that was open, shared information from shift to shift which included problems - became part of a legal case. Be cautious of what we post at all times. Talk to your owners - continue to communicate.

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Medical - Julie for Steve - only two regions have medical advisors. Important to address.

MTR - Julie for John Wachter - lots of conversations going on with national about NEMS (National Emergency Management). Limited communications with the regions, would like to expand course offerings.

Nordic - Peter Wollan - last year was good, we have improved our contacts. Had three regional SES's. Will have a division one this year. Went to Powderfall and participated in a national level meeting. Many types of nordic programs.

PSIA Liaison - Dan Moss - Last article in Rusty Parka was about shift preparation. Encourage patrollers to become more intentional. Ask colleagues where you can improve: read, fitness, schedule a pre-season trip. Dan asked the PSIA division Alpine Administrator and Chair about what they would like to communicate to us. 1. Make sure we keep up with Alpine Technical Manual - Five fundamentals, 2. Safety with our customers, this is also an open door to direct them to ski school. 3. Remember there is a lot of ed staff in the division - use them. Make sure you have the new technical manual, be knowledgeable about our skiing.

OEC - Sue Hayes - one new IT in the southern region, 20 new instructors. 75% of refreshers are hybrids. 2400 people have completed their online refresher. New version of test went out and only 50% passed - they will re-test and it will go through further review. Communications - need help from RD's to get information sent on to OEC Instructors. EMail blast option that Dick and Chris are working on may assist. National planning to start e-pointers again - but you will need to go to website to find it. Delinquency roster - an ongoing issue - trying to work with national.

Public Relations - Ty has resigned since he is running for board, Russ Livermore will be new advisor.

Registration - Dean Brandt - national database has gotten even worse. Dues tracking not available. There is discussion about having patrollers register individually. If that occurs, then will need to determine how to handle division, region, local dues as well. Division Directors are against this option. Mountain Hosts not registered today because of the way the program is set up at National - would require a change to the P&P. Reminders: registrations are due Dec 1. All bank account changes need to go to Dean. Have PD's contact him with any questions.

Rusty Parka News - Tim is transitioning to Katie Flanagan. Tim thanked the board members and supervisors for all their support over time; he and Katie have been working together over the weekend. She will be communicating to all go forward and the next due date is October 1st.

Safety Team - Mike Husar - no report. Current objective - getting kids to sit on chairs. All new chair lifts require safety bars.

Social Media - Darcy - see report - she is posting weekly. Be sure to like our Facebook page.

Telecommunications - Tom A for Paul Botnen - His goal is to survey all the patrols this year and get required national licensing. Don't ignore it - get licensed.

Webmaster - Kent Anderson - gets regular communications from all the programs to post information. This year we have a calendar sort by region. Will add STW secure register process. Added a security function to the contact page to reduce junk mail. Taking over the previous external domains, Certified is in process. Will review Avalanche and Nordic. OEC page says Under Construction - needs information. Note - if you want an event with fees to be added, make sure that Kent knows early so that it can be set up. E-Mail Blast - we do have some functionality, but the email is not sent from the server itself yet. Still in process; also need to set up who can send to whom.

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ACTION - advise all program advisors to get information to Kent to update their pages. (ADD's)

Women's Seminar - No Report, Event is held the last weekend in Jan traditionally - will be Jan 30-31, 2016. Crystal Mountain has been planned for the event.

Young Adults - JT - currently there are a few set up within individual regions. Mike Longfellow Jones has started a program at the Highlands. Have developed P&P and launched in Feb. Went to the young adult session at Powderfall - Eastern has a good program. Initially started that new additions must come from relationship to mountain hosts or patrol. Have also used this as an opportunity for renewed enthusiasm of more veteran patrollers as they mentor the young adults. Calling it SPY Team - Ski Patrol Youth.

ACTION - RD's find out who has programs - and report back by October 15th. Mike to coordinate program for now.

New Business Items:

Certified Hill Standard Discussion and Concerns review:

JT - At executive meeting the proposal for hill standards was turned down, but the board would like to have a discussion so that we can better understand the concerns. Patrick - Two years ago we presented a proposal that was voted down. We felt that it was not presented in the correct way, so we have re-presented. Question was raised about what is national down vs ground up. Clarification of NSP process by Kevin: If nothing exists on a policy and procedure then it is ok to build something from the ground floor up, but if there is a P&P at national then we cannot come up with something that contradicts national. Patrick clarified that the certified programs believes they need a standard because we don't have mountains like out west. They feel there should be an objective way to determine where the test should be held.

Rick Barber - we believe that the program standard should be set so that there will be no compromise to the credibility to the program. The standard proposed would allow participation to hold the exam at four regions. The four hills have very consistent terrain. Mike Longfellow Jones -This standard would apply to only Ski and Toboggan modules. Feel they have been challenged by areas out west to justify our program. This is not about Ohio; we have tried to have evaluations there, but could not run the ski test last time due to conditions so people lost out a year. They are not trying to exclude areas, but making sure that the event is held at the areas with the best chance of having the best conditions for S&T testing. Tom Worley - difference in angle of slope and % grade presented in the proposal cannot be weighted the same. As long as we have a slope with enough angle, we should be able to be able to run it multiple times to accomplish the objective. Evaluated in another way, Center Stage would be within 2 degrees of Scarface, so the data that was being used is still in question. The PSIA level III examiners should be able to pick out ski skills on a short run as well as a longer one. Jeff Cripps - on any given program you expect the board to go to their members, review what is best for the program, and bring it to the board. Several times we have gone down to Ohio and there were problems with the event, and our staff felt that we needed to establish a standard going forward. We are spending time addressing a program that is for 1% of the membership. You should be spending time with the 80% that aren't even seniors. We realize that there is some hardship for travel, but that's the way it is. Rick provided additional information about how the Rubric calculations were completed to support their decision making. Tom - PNS is within 1/2 degree of what Twilight is based on his review. Chip questioned that the standard being proposed is a lower grade than what is in senior program standard, so we should probably not establish a lower standard; but regardless why not do multiple runs to accomplish the number of feet requirement.

Kevin - national requirements for certified specify only that you should use the most difficult terrain. Has this been discussed with national? What happens if national then reviews and forces the standard to become so high that we cannot do evaluations in CD at all. Tom - if we push these standards based upon length of run then we are excluding a large part of the division population. We should work to be inclusive, and consider that by changing the date we could almost assure of excellent conditions at Perfect North. Tom Anderson - the only question we are asking is does the certified program deserve a slope standard.

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Meeting adjourned for the day.

**Sunday, September 13, 2015
Board Meeting Continues**

Chris Raudabaugh convened the meeting in JT's absence.

Roll Call by Administrative Assistant - Cheryl Raudabaugh (All listed are present unless noted)

VOTING BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

- o John Thomas Division Director (joined later)
- o Mike Schons Eastern Michigan
- o Les Robinson North Central
- o Dick Jacques Northern Michigan
- o Guy Day Ohio
- o Ron Plumer South Central
- o Don Steen Southern
- o Chip Knappen Western Michigan
- o Jeannine Mogen Western (proxy for Jim Ruzicka)

ALSO PRESENT:

- o Tom Anderson Assistant DD
- o Chris Raudabaugh Assistant DD
- o Julie Stone Assistant DD
- o Marty Jarvi Treasurer (not present)
- o Kevin McQuillan Legal and Risk Advisor
- o Cheryl Raudabaugh Administrative Assistant

OLD BUSINESS

Follow up Action Items - see Action Item List posted. Completed items will be removed from listing. Related detail discussion noted below:

Action Item Review:

Rental Policy Review - Kevin is writing - recommending personal or through rental company should have \$.5million in coverage.

Somalski Funding Review - Needs further discussion. Board had identified that member funds should not be used for funding; so this would then go back to the endowment committee for handling. Dick will re-submit the proposal to modify the P&P in accordance for the spring meeting.

Use of Patrol Funds - (Kevin) NSP Registration Unit funds must be segregated. Would like to see the areas buy equipment for the patrol under their budgets/financials. Some areas are instead providing area money to the patrol to make purchases, and taking as a charitable deduction. Would instead need to establish a separate account for these funds. Chris Stoddard indicated in meetings Friday that Ski Swaps should also be segregated - if used for anything other than approved NSP uses - no equipment or first aid supplies.

Tax Exempt Purchases - Kevin investigating differences by state in arranging for exempt purchases, and to understand when tax should be paid or not. Kevin to work with Marty on the process.

Mountain Host Program - Need to determine a way to track what hosts are there. Suggest adding to the equipment list request of the patrols.

Personal Insurance - JT continuing to review with Chris Stoddard. Up to each individual if they chose to purchase umbrella coverage. Need to make sure that PD's are aware. Some patrols are also purchasing additional insurance.

Records Retention - Kevin - liability release - suggest that you scan the first copy of the full release, then just the signature line for the rest. Should have submitted them in electronic format. Need to finalize a policy for where everyone should upload their files and how. Legal responsibility falls to the registration unit. Could the

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liability release be adapted to cover all events for the patrol year, so that a patroller could complete once and be covered then for all events for the year.

ACTION: For Spring meeting Kevin to develop a process for one streamlined legal release that would be good for the full year.

Break

Budget Revisions review - Dick - should be able to reduce expenses since the STW has been modified to two STW's and more participants. Note - there will also be significantly less revenue based on less participants. Difference is noted for upcoming season actual revenue and expense. No budget change will be made.

Voting for National Board - Chris - need RD's to help drive the push down to the patrols to get folks to vote. The online refresher sign on process has relieved the issue of patrollers knowing how to sign on, but now we need to get the vote to happen. Darcy will help with social media. Historically we sent a letter with recommendations - this year, Chris recommends a weekly email blast. We can send personalized e-blasts, vs a generic letter. Discussion: Patrol Directors are requesting information to help them explain why it is important for their patrollers to vote. We need to promote all four of our Central Division candidates. Need to make sure that we convey the importance to each patroller with an understanding of the urgency to vote. We should have an advocate on each patrol.

Action Plans: Send out a div letter, a region letter, have RD's talk to each PR with why they need to get their patrollers to vote, Chris has a letter drafted that he was going to split into mailings - will send to all along with the stats from Kevin (posted to drive folder). Should also have RD's conf call with their region staff. Division staff - the three ADD's will arrange a call with all of their supervisors to Vote for the central div candidates.

Jamie Roell - \$150 each for the miniature toboggans - fully set up for training demos. Proceeds go to Karen Werner fund for education, and hoping to send funds to Dan Somalski fund in future. (jvroell@comcast.net)

NEW BUSINESS

Consideration of Proposals

F15 P002 Supervisor Meeting Proposal (Jacques)

MOTION # 2: to accept proposal **MOVED:** Don **SECOND** Ron

Discussion - This would allow for planned funding of at least two programs yearly to have a combined attendance of region advisors at a division meeting. Provides for a maximum of \$4k in expenses. Concerns about drawing too much money from our investments. Can be reviewed yearly to insure funds are available. Should make sure it at least goes 3 years to make sure all programs had an opportunity. Purpose was to encourage programs to have a face to face meeting even if they are not currently requesting.

BOARD ACTION: Motion Passed Unanimously. (8 for 0 against)

ACTION - establish budget item for next year (Marty to add account).

F15 P004 RPN Archive Proposal (Jacques)

MOTION # 3: to accept proposal **MOVED:** Les **SECOND** Mike

Discussion - Chuck has years of physical copies of the RPN, this proposal would provide funds to electronically archive the newsletters. Dick has made arrangements, then original documents would be shredded. We can download as many copies as desired for 30 days (Cheryl can move to Google Drive for division archives)
Note, this modifies existing budget.

BOARD ACTION: Motion Passed Unanimously. (8 for 0 against)

ACTION - Dick to arrange for process and Marty to revise budget and add line item / account.

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Presentation and discussion regarding a proposed Certified Hill Standard - continued from Sat.

Les proposed that the board consider the original proposal, although exec committee did not forward.

Discussion: Guy - the proposal as presented was not given to the Certified group for vote before presenting. There are multiple differences in the final proposal vs the initial submission as well. If the proposal comes back to the floor, then all attached documentation/statistics also becomes part of the record regardless of vote.

Mike - per discussion with Patrick, they would rather wait until spring to determine how to re-present. Brian Cobble - All agreed this is an emotional topic that will not die - two camps. The notion that if we go away and talk some more will bring compromise is not going to happen. There needs to be a vote on the proposal. Dick - this is basically the same proposal that we turned down two years ago; it has been voted on already.

It is agreed the certified program deserves a standard, the Patroller Manual and certified national manual establishes that standard at a national level. The degree angle in the certified proposal is technically less than what the senior manual has set. Multiple runs on a steep run should be sufficient to evaluate and can allow for valid evaluation. Need to review the re-certification process to insure the integrity of the program. Chip -The Rubric as defined makes the degree angle less than what is defined by national for senior. We have steep hills that may not be long enough, but could be done on multiple runs which could open up the program to more areas. From a legal perspective (Kevin) the certified national manual reviews a higher level of proficiency vs the specifics of the national senior manual but does not identify what that is, and establishing a specific standard in the division puts it in conflict with national.

What guidance and/or information are we giving to Patrick? Dick - They should instead come back with a plan on how they are going to grow it, broaden it. Guy - important to bring in the newer, younger patrollers to grow into the program. Being able to get to those seniors and making sure they know this is where to go, is the way to make it grow. We need to promote all the programs equally. Tom - look at what the certified members do, those 68 people become the leadership of the division. Does the program deserve a standard? Dick - why do you need a standard? JT - we need to close this issue and move forward as a board.

MOTION #4 To bring F15 P001 forward before the board .

MOVED: Don **SECOND** Les

BOARD ACTION: Motion voted down. (2 for 6 against)

Discussion resumed on what action to provide to Patrick. This board is in charge of all the programs in the divisions, so is not taking any authority away from this program. Mike - the hill standard I understand, but we need to review again the national standard, then just have the advisors recommend where it should be. Kevin, Dick - Certified staff voted on areas to hold previously and that is in the manual that is currently approved and now they want to change it. Relevant areas of the national standard were read to board. Question on why the board is authorizing where the event is held - because it is a division level event. Why is the rotation that was voted on not working? Additional review of history of when representative from Eastern helped establish the program and determination of Scarface as an acceptable slope due to the steepness of the run. Guy highlighted method of testing toboggan from station points on specific hill, to moving along with the candidate down the entire run to evaluate. Variety of terrain used for skiing portion, not all on one slope. Brian Cobble-the crux of the matter is that there are two camps and one camp believes that PNS is not an adequate hill. The time of year that we would go to PNS is not their "best day". Robert's Rules (Kevin) - this has been voted on and we have something that is already in place, so there is no further action to be taken.

ACTION: to be communicated to Patrick/certified program - the board voted previously to approve the manual with hills as currently defined, and the motion to bring forward P001 was turned down. No further action.

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Next Meeting Dates and Location Review

Mid-winter National Meeting - January 2015, Denver Area

Spring Division Business Meeting – April 8-10, 2016, Lisle, IL.

Hilton Lisle/Naperville

3003 Corporate West Drive ~ Lisle, IL 60532

MSAA Meeting – Aug 21-24, 2016, Shanty Creek, MI

Fall Division Meeting - September, 2016, Western, Bloomington, Minn.

Fall Division Meeting – September, 2017, Northern Michigan

Fall Division Meeting – September, 2018, South Central

Risk management meetings - Highland Hills Oct 24 and Granite Peaks Oct 25, 2016

There being no further board business for the weekend,

MOTION # to adjourn meeting

MOVED: Dick **SECOND** Ron

BOARD ACTION: Motion Passed Unanimously. (8 for 0 against)

Respectfully submitted,
Cheryl Raudabaugh
Administrative Assistant

NOTE: These minutes represent the notes recorded during the meeting and approved by the Central Division Board of Directors via email as of September 25, 2015.