



National Ski Patrol System, Inc. Northern Division

To: All Northern Division Ski Patrol Members

From: Karl Uhlig, Assistant Division Director

Date: October 2, 2017

Subject: September 15-17 Northern Division Annual Meeting Highlights

Hello everyone. The purpose of this note is to give you a brief summary of the Northern Division (ND) annual meeting held in Big Sky Montana on September 15-17. The format for this year's meeting was changed slightly from past years by attempting to offer additional fun clinics and provide opportunities to meet and greet some of our vendors. As a result, attendance increased from an average of near 45 in the recent past to 65 registrants. We as a Board hope to keep presenting new opportunities each year. Needless to say, if you missed the meeting I'll encourage you to talk to those on your patrol who did attend and learn more details about what happens during the third weekend in September each year.

Sponsors

We had four sponsors step up and attend the meeting. Each set up a booth or table at the Saturday evening banquet displaying sample products and offering both discounts and information. Here is a brief note about individual sponsors:

1. NSP—Josh Jacobson. Josh works for National in Denver specifically in the NSP Store. He brought several products from Patagonia and other sponsors for individuals to try on and ask questions.
2. Sun Mountain Sports—Golf bags, ski bags and other golf related equipment. Sun Mountain donated a golf bag and golf cart to the winners of the golf tourney. Dan Schafer and Jana Barnes are the proud recipients. They also brought their new SkiGlider travel case, one was raffled off and one was auctioned off.
3. Duckworth—A Montana wool company that raises sheep and produces wool products in Montana. Everything from socks to outerwear.
4. Oboz—Hiking boots and outdoor footwear. Several pairs of light hikers were available to check out and try on.

Discounted Registrations

For the first time, this year the Division offered discounted registrations (1/2 the registration) for first time attendees. Five patrollers took advantage of discounted registrations. We should have had 30 though! The Alumni Program also offered free banquet dinners to alumni members. Unfortunately, no one took advantage of the offer.

Mike Huber, current NSP Board Member

Many of you know Mike, he is a long time Casper Mountain ski patroller and attends many Division events. Mike now sits on the National Board. Mike attended the entire weekend and spoke to the Board on Sunday morning, giving an update from the National Board. Mike stressed the dedication of the National Board members who put in a great deal of work to make the National system operate. Recently the National Director John McMann moved on to a new position and career. The National Board recently hired Meegan Moszynski who will be focusing on taking the National Ski Patrol forward. Mike indicated that OEC 6th Edition is now

scheduled to come out sometime in 2019. Finally, Mike stressed that all ND members should be reviewing and voting for the National Board candidates during the month of November.

Marty Hubner, National Alumni Advisor

Marty attended, and also spoke to the Board on Sunday. Marty stressed the good work that Marty Merwin is doing to help individual patrols incorporate alumni into patrol activities. Marty stressed that he agrees that what form the Alumni Program takes in any individual patrol is entirely up to that patrol. Marty Merwin is available as a resource.

Josh Jacobson NSP

Josh presented briefly to the Board on Sunday. The National office has increased staff to a total of 18 individuals who are there to help you. Powderfall is the largest event that National puts together with 800 attending last season's event at Snowmass. The NSP store is working on a single sign on to coincide with the National main site. The Fall catalog mails out October 2nd with the Ski Patrol Magazine and Election Pamphlet. Registration is open and running at this time. There are videos on the National site to better explain both member and candidate registration. Contact Charles Buckman at memberrecords@nsp.org for any registration issues.

Brent Brooks, Division Legal Advisor

Brent offered, at the ND Board's request two By-Law amendments related to managing money allowing the Executive Board, if needed move money between programs without involving the entire voting Board. The Executive Board cannot change the annual ND budget without approval of the entire voting Board.

Fiscal year.

The voting Board approved a shift of our fiscal year from the current Oct 1-Sept 30 to a July 1-June 30. This means that there will be a short year for the 2017-2018 ski season. Please be aware that tax documents will be due to our Treasurer, Jeannette Amrine both in October 2017 and again in July 2018. The change is prompted by a request of the ND by our accounting firm JCCS and will align the ND fiscal with the National fiscal year. Please be prepared for this transition year.

John Fradette, OEC Advisor

As you patrol gears up with OEC refreshers, John stressed to register your courses early and make him the IT in the National database. If he cannot attend he will assign an IT to attend your refresher.

Registration, Bill Lay

The Board elected to make individual patrollers self-register and pay both the Division and National dues to National. National will send the Division dues back to the ND. Patrols can also register but they must register everyone at one time. Neither the National Board or the ND Board propose a dues increase. The dues are:

National \$55.00
Division \$48.00
Total \$103.00

OET, Mike Marlow

This year's Winter Tip Off will tentatively be held at Showdown. Mike is still working out the details regarding costs and lodging. Mike and team will be also working this winter on changing the outline of the Senior Program. Look for details in future Polaris articles.

Young Adult Program, Vicki Motley

The Division offers two \$500.00 scholarships to college students who are 19 years old or younger. No one applied for the education scholarships this year. Please keep this opportunity in mind and look for reminders in the Polaris.

Awards, Erik Saskariassen,

Erik presented the Board with a proposal that he first proposed during the Spring Executive Board meeting. Erik is proposing to create a new award, the Dr. Warren Bowman Award. Many of you know Dr. Bowman was part of the team that created the OEC program and text. Dr. Bowman resided in Billings and recently passed away. The award is to recognize an outstanding OEC instructor within the Northern Division. The Board approved the creation of the Dr. Warren Bowman Award. Please be thinking about a deserving OEC instructor as the season progresses and working with your patrol OEC Advisor to make nominations next spring.

Critical Stress, Seth Larson

Seth has a budget and is available with resources if you or your patrollers are involved in a critical stress incident. Please keep this service in mind as your season progresses.

Region II Advisor, Carl Shiner

Carl reports that he has had a lot of fun being the Region II Advisor but is looking for a replacement. The Region II Advisor is responsible for assisting the patrols with various trainings, IT services, and making sure those patrols have a voice on the Executive Board. The patrols in Region II include: Antelope Butte, Beartooth, Big Horn, Casper Mountain, Huff Hills, North Absaroka, Turtle Mountain. If you are or know of someone who is interested in being the next Region II Advisor please send me an email stating your interest by **October 15th** whether you've previously expressed interest or not. If more than one expresses interest we will hold an election per our By-Laws.

Course Fees

The ND Board reviewed the Division Course fee schedule and made some revisions, likely reducing or eliminating some fees. If you are planning to put on a course please check with the program advisor about whether any Division fees are applicable.

Division Director, John Larson

This year, 2017-2018 is John's last season as Division Director. Our Division By-Laws state that John will appoint a committee in January to accept nominations or letters of intent. If you are or know someone who is thinking about becoming the Division Director please encourage them to be prepared to submit a letter of application.