

June 2020

Meeting Minutes, June 4th, 2020

National Smokejumper Association Board of Directors

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NSA BOARD MEETING NOTES

JUNE 4, 2020

Call to order, review and approval of Agenda

Because of Covid 19, this Board meeting was held on Zoom with members calling in. Bob McKean called the meeting to order and the agenda was approved. Bob announced that John McDaniel has resigned from the BOD after many years of hard work handling membership. Chuck Sheley plans to honor his commitment and dedication in an upcoming issue of Smokejumper magazine.

Consent Agenda

Two items were in the Consent Agenda: Minutes from the October, 2019 Meeting and John Berry's Treasurer's report. Both were briefly discussed and approved as written.

Information Items

Three items were reviewed and discussed, all described in handouts that the BOD read prior to the meeting. John Berry, Denny Breslin, Larry Lufkin and David Atkins have worked on updating and clarifying our bylaws to ensure that we meet the terms required by Montana State law for a non-profit organization. The NSA is legally located in Montana. Terms for Board members are required by Montana law. This group reorganized the BOD into 3 year groups by length of time on the BOD and has started a yearly process to reconsider Board membership. Reelected unanimously at this meeting were Chuck Sheley, Larry Lufkin, Fred Cooper, and Jim Cherry. We also are required to have an annual meeting. We agreed that the spring meeting in Boise will be the designated annual meeting. We also make an annual report to the State of Montana, that includes BOD membership, the organization's legal address, and our IRS 999. In the future, the annual report will be posted on the website, and mentioned in the Magazine, most likely in the President's report. There was a discussion about whether Chuck's membership on the Board while being our paid executive was a conflict of interest. Previously, Guy Hurlbutt had told us it wasn't, and Jim Lindell reaffirmed that position. We agreed to continue with Chuck serving both roles. There is no specific guidance in the bylaws about the particular makeup of the Executive Committee. That is flexible and up to the Board. We agreed that no change was required there. This bylaws group will bring a final version to the October meeting for ratification. We also discussed adding Pat McGunagle to the Board and considered whether there would be a conflict of interest with his current position as a West Yellowstone jumper. No decision was made.

Investment Report

John Packard and John Berry talked about how surprisingly well our assets have done considering the big drop in the stock market because of the coronavirus. We are primarily invested in Vanguard funds. They are tried and true. Our asset distribution between equity, fixed and cash assets is within 1 percent of what our investment policy requires. The Investment Committee recommends that we ride out the current situation. The overall increase in assets, mostly in equities, covered all but \$7000 of our required \$45,000 of additional operational needs. We receive \$1000 to \$1500 a year off our principal in the Montana Community Fund. Our total net worth at the time of this meeting is around \$990,000.

Budget

Larry Lufkin described the process we are using to develop a budget and John Berry went through the numbers in each category. A few adjustments were made as required. The current Scholarship amount is \$20,000. Last year, we spent \$22,500 on scholarships, awarding 9 instead of 8 because there was a tie between worthy candidates. The budget, after this discussion, was passed unanimously.

Request for NSA Endorsement of USFS Covid 19 Preparedness Letter from National Wildfire Institute to Secretary Perdue

Bill Derr reviewed the National Wildfire Institute's letter, who it had been sent to, and ongoing discussions related to it. The NWI received a polite, but non-specific response from Secretary Perdue. Bill requests no action from the NSA BOD regarding the letter at this time.

Trails Report

Fred Cooper reported that fifteen projects had been planned for this year. All were canceled on April 16th due to Covid-19. In mid-May, it appeared that restrictions were lifting and some squadleaders were asking about doing some of the canceled projects. Some projects in California will proceed. Others are being considered but are still moving targets. Fred emphasized that we need to balance our can-do attitude with caution and projects that are proceeding need a bail-out plan.

Scholarship Report

Jim Cherry reported that we will give 8 \$2,500 scholarships this year. Applications are due by June 15th. At the time of our meeting, only 8 applications had been received, but Jim says that usually a number of applications will come in just before the deadline.

Keep the Flame Legacy Jump List

Mike Bina updated us on this program, which targets giving via a person's estate or will. Fifteen current or former Board members have been approached and 6 of that 15 have planned Legacy gifts. Thirteen other older jumpers have been approached. One has joined and at least 3 others are considering. Mike emphasized that this is a no pressure approach and is not a requirement for being a Board member.

Q & A on Written Report

Chuck Sheley provided more info on his written report. This year's canceled reunion has been rescheduled for June 4-6, 2021 in Boise. The reunion account has been canceled and all reunion expenses are being handled out of current accounts. Chuck made a total of 5000 mailings regarding the reunion, 2500 with the initial announcement of this year's reunion, and 2500 more to announce the cancellation and rescheduling to next year. The Kansas account that John McDaniel used for membership has also been closed. An upcoming edition of the magazine will feature and thank John for his contributions.

Identifying and Recruiting New Board Members

We talked collectively about the need to seek out new board members. The BOD is in agreement on the importance of seeking new board members and giving them clear information on expectations, travel

expense reimbursement, our various programs and any other pertinent information. A group was formed to tackle this issue. It is made up of Bob McKean, Chuck Sheley, John Berry, and Mike McMillan.

Information and Odds and Ends

Mike McMillan reported on his efforts to photograph and archive crew photos and individual photos from the different jump bases. He has completed the work in Alaska and will look for opportunities to do more of this kind of historical preservation.

Mike also mentioned his ideas about the NSA engaging with current jumpers through an effort to provide wildfire mitigation work for unemployed jumpers. Mike's idea would be something like sponsoring a Wildfire Mitigation Task Force for current smokejumpers when they are laid off. There are currently 22,000 jurisdictions with FEMA approved Wildland Fire Management Plans. Mike will do some work to flesh out the details of how something like this might work and bring it back to the Board.

We had talked earlier about our October meeting being in Portland, OR, but with Covid 19 we will hold off on any decisions yet.

Bob did an interview for a German group making a documentary for leaders in the health field. They wanted to know how Bob's experience as a smokejumper impacted his leadership style and decision-making in subsequent years.

John Berry explained how NSA helped facilitate a \$10,000 in kind donation of disinfectant to the Grangeville Smokejumper Base.

In Attendance via Zoom:

Bob McKean, Charlotte Larson, Jim Cherry, Chuck Sheley, Bill Derr, John Berry, John Packard, Fred Cooper, Larry Lufkin, Pat McGunagle, Mike Bina, Mike McMillan, Denny Breslin, Bill Lindell, Tom Boatner