

October 2021

Meeting Minutes, October 13th, 2021

National Smokejumper Association Board of Directors

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NATIONAL SMOKEJUMPER ASSOCIATION

NSA October 13, 2021 Board of Directors Minutes

Board Members Present: Bob McKean, Bill Derr, Fred Cooper, Chuck Sheley, Larry Lufkin, Jim Lindell, Jim Cherry, Denny Breslin, John Berry, Pferron Doss, Joe Stutler, and Mike Bina.

Guests: Pete Lannan, USFS Smokejumper Program

Phil Lind, BLM Smokejumper Program

Lynn Sprague, Smokejumper Reunion Committee Chair

Brent Russ, Financial Advisor

1. Call to Order. Bob McKean, President, called the Zoom meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. EST time. He welcomed and thanked everyone for participating on the call given that COVID safeguards prevented having the meeting in-person.

Motion to approve the agenda made, seconded, and without discussion, motion passed.

2. Consent Agenda. Bundled in this consent agenda were A.) Minutes of the March 2020 BOD Meeting handout #3; B.) Facebook report handout #3; and C.) Web Site Report Motion handout #4).

Correction to March 2020 was made to include John Packard as being reelected to the board.

Motion was made to approve A.) the consent agenda and B.) the correction to the minutes; both motions seconded; and with no discussion, motions approved.

3. Bob McKean introduced Pete Lannan, USFS Smokejumper Program, and Phil Lind, BLM Smokejumper Program. Phil said the BLM program is authorized to have 81 jumpers and their current headcount is 74. He pointed out the issue related to the applicant pool shrinking. The BLM had 95 fire actions in 2021 with 12 ground pounders. Pete reported that MSO had 35 rookies and 34 transition and 69 ram-air jumpers. Twelve of the transition jumpers will stay with the rounds. MSO had 191 fires in which 1,021 jumpers were used. Jump stats are down, but there are more opportunities for jumpers to be used as overhead on fires. Number of jumpers have been going down for the past 5 years. Having centralized hiring in ALB is an issue. He reported that jumpers are not being used on initial attack and small fires as such grow in large million-acre fires. He stated that the 'wash out' rate of rookies is high due to their not being physically prepared and having technical difficulties with the squares. After questions were asked and answered, Bob thanked Phil and Pete and offered that the NSA would support their programs.
4. Investment and Treasurer's Report. John Berry reported that the committee did not meet. John indicated that there has been a downturn in the market since September. Assets remain at \$1.25M. The NSA has not had to "dip into" investments. There are 17 new Life Members. Recommendation was made not to combine funds and keep accounts separate. There is a need to track accounts for donations and audit purposes. John indicated that the committee will submit a revision to the Life Membership Policy. The principal in the Montana Community Fund cannot be touched, but the NSA gets annual dividends amounting to approximately \$1,000. Refer to handouts 5A and 5B

A motion to add to the Life Member Fund to fully fund it at \$430,000 was made and seconded, but it did not pass. John Berry, Larry Lufkin and Chuck Sheley were tasked to develop revised language in the Life

Member policy consistent with current practices. After the policy is revised it a motion for board approval at an upcoming board meeting will be submitted.

Motion was made to accept the Treasurer's report. Motion seconded and, following no discussion, was approved.

5. Financial Report. John Berry and Brent Russ gave the financial report. The NSA has \$1.25 in total assets. The Life Membership Fund expenses will cover expenses and not be taken out of the general fund. The recommendation was made to zero out the scholarship account and continue to fund it at \$20,000 annually from funds in the \$700,000 unrestricted account.
6. 2021 Fire Year. Joe Stutler reported on the 2021 fire year. He submitted a written report before board meeting. Following his report, questions were asked and answered.
7. 1971 Rookie Class Reunion and Miss Montana. Joe reported on the success of the MSO 1971 reunion including the attendee's opportunity to fly on Miss Montana.
8. Possible NSA Positions. Refer to handouts #7A and #7B. John Berry drafted bullet points supporting wildland fire fighters' working conditions. The Executive Committee endorsed the draft language emphasizing the NSA focus on advocacy versus lobbying. Motion was made authorizing the president to appoint an ad hoc committee to review the language and, by Thanksgiving, develop a position statement that the NSA could use in advocacy.
9. Trails and FS Museum Updates. Fred Cooper summarized his written report that he submitted. See handouts #8A and #8B. Motion was made, seconded and, after discussion, motion passed that the NSA would have a presence at the Forest Service Retiree's National Reunion August 29 to September 2, 2022, in Lake Tahoe, Nevada.

Motion was made, seconded, and after discussion, was approved that the NSA would invite the Forest Service Museum to have a presence at the NSA Reunion in Boise, Idaho, August 12 and 13, 2022.

10. Keep the Flame Legacy Jump List. Mike Bina summarized his written report that he submitted. See handout #9. Mike encouraged board members to suggest names of individuals who would be interested in making a planned gift.
11. Scholarship Project. Jim Cherry summarized his written report that he submitted. Jim reported that seven \$2,500 scholarships and one educational training grant were awarded. Larry and Jim reported on the success of the on-line application process. The Scholarship and Executive Committee have recommended that the scholarship criteria not be expanded to include siblings of former or current jumpers. See handouts #10A, #10B, and #10C.
12. Membership Fee Revision Recommendation. Refer to handout #11. Chuck Sheley previously submitted a proposal to revise the membership fees to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee approved his recommendation. Chuck then presented the Executive Committee-endorsed proposal to the full board. He emphasized that approving his motion will reduce his work load and will have the advantage of getting more jumpers to join the NSA. Following a motion being made, seconded, and discussed, the motion passed.
13. Reunion. Chuck Sheley and Bob McKean summarized a meeting that the Executive Committee had with Lynn Sprague regarding the reunion in Boise. They discussed the possibility of cancelling the reunion given the COVID pandemic. The decision does not need to be made now, but that it can be made later with the hotel without significant penalty. Safety of the attendees, given their age demographic, is the major focus. A concern is that some of the attendees may not be vaccinated and some may not comply with requests for wearing masks. The board thanked Lynn Sprague, reunion committee chairman, for his and his

committee's work that includes working with the hotel, fundraising, and other organizing materials.

14. Wrap-up. Bob thanked the board for their attendance and participation.

15. Adjournment. Motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded, and approved.

Submitted by Mike Bina, NSA Board Secretary.

October 13, 2021