

**CT Region NSP Leadership Meeting  
Meeting Minutes—Monday, October 05, 2020  
Zoom conference 1905-2015**

**Attendees**

**Patrol Directors:** Ken Joyce (Pahquioque); Bob Cassello (Alumni); Ron Fenner (Southington); Kenn Kostuk (Ski Sundown); Mike Smarz (Mohawk)

**Assistant Patrol Directors/NSP Reps:** Eric Schmidt (Pahquioque); Walt Behuniak (Southington);

**Medical Advisors:** Melinda Mingus (CT Region Medical Advisor); Steve Goldblatt (MD)

**Guests:** Mike Bafuma (Awards); Paula Knight (OEC); Rick Knight (NBoD); Bob Bernatos (NBoD Candidate); Wendy Aarnio (NBoD Member/Candidate); John Kane (NBoD Candidate)

**CT Region Admin:** Skip Mudge (RD) Larry Hyatt (Administrative Assistant); Sue-Ellen Repeta (Pequot Section Chief); Tony Philpin (Housatonic Section Chief); Mark Pahmer (Alternate Region Director); Kathy Fitzpatrick (Safety Team Advisor); Jenny O'Donnell (Assistant Safety Team Advisor)

**Absent:** Randy McKee (Lakeridge); Michael Lapierre (Nutmeg Nordic); Scott Dawick (Ski Sundown); Justin Lonergan (Powder Ridge); Kevin Muravnick (Powder Ridge)

**ACTION ITEMS FROM SEPTEMBER 21 MEETING**

- Mike Bafuma: awards highlight video is complete and is about 30 minutes; it includes the Zoom meeting along HD photos; will be on website soon; more work to be done on the webpage coming soon.
- Two Regional positions are still open (Historian and ORM Advisor); Directors should talk to their patrols and try to get interested people to step forward.
- Youth Protection Program training; about 20 people have provided completion certificates and there are about another 17 more to do so.

We are in process of restructuring the Senior Program (Skip, Peter Bayer, Justin Regan, Larry Hyatt) and there is possibly a new position. Watch the website in the next week or so.

**National Board of Directors Candidates**

There is a candidate forum Wed evening that would be a good opportunity to hear from the candidates. The last forums will be Sunday, Oct 18 (at 2000) and Wednesday, Nov 4 (at 2100). Since there is no Fall Refresher this year, it is important to reach out to patrollers to ensure they vote in the elections. Elections open Oct 15 and run through Dec 1.

Bob Bernatos (Board Candidate): addressed the region last meeting. It is important to get the word out to the patrols about the voting this year as the pandemic is impeding our ability to safely refresh in large groups. Maybe the Patrol Directors could do Zoom calls with the patrollers. When patrollers logon to the website to pay their dues they should consider voting at the same time.

John Kane (Past Eastern Division Director and Board Candidate): due to his travels throughout the division and region, most on the call already know him. He understands how the Eastern Division operates and with his work on National committees, he has a good understanding of NSP at that level as well. He's asking for everyone's support in the election. John spoke very highly of Wendy Aarnio doing a lot of things that needed to be done that others didn't want to do. John also spoke highly of Bob Bernatos and his work supporting the important registration and IT functions. Having been RD for a large region in the Eastern Division, he is well suited for the position. John also praised a few other candidates. Byrd White who will be able to fill the void in finance left by Rick Knight who terms out at the end of this year. Donna Gardino has supported NSP with her expertise in governance and planning. Deb Endly is an OEC "master". He is proud of the work done in each of the regions in this division.

Wendy Aarnio (Current Board Member up for Re-election) concurs with what John and Bob said about this year having a very strong slate of candidates. She praised the candidacies of John and Bob. Wendy

also echoed the that Byrd White and Donna Gardino are good candidates and their commitments to the patrol. Wendy would appreciate people's vote and looking forward to seeing the changes now taking place. She was open to fielding questions now or people could email her.

### **Safety Team Report**

- Melinda Mingus reported that there is stress awareness training available for any patrollers that should need it. A survey was sent out to the PDs. She thanked those that filled out and returned them (all but one responded). Melinda can be contacted with any questions. She will have two videos online in Oct. One is from Charlie Epstein, the other is from the Safety Committee.
- There was a successful Safety Event at Powder Ridge yesterday (Sun 10/04/20). The tent is available for the region. Kathy Fitzpatrick is researching the purchase of a frame which would allow CT Region to have a tent specifically for the region. Due to the increase in outside dining and events, the supply of tents may be lagging demand.
- Virtual Safety events are being considered, especially as result of pandemic environment.
- John Kane noted that Melinda had been selected to speak at Powderfall because of the work she has done for our Division. As Powderfall is canceled for 2021, her talk will be rolled over to the following year.
- Safety Captains are still needed for Sundown and Mohawk (although it was expected that Sundown will be covered). There is a YAP at Mohawk that will be contacted for interest. The Team is happy to have anyone show up and join the group to help out at events.
- PPE requirements and the need to change of items like blankets after every patient contact was discussed. Pahquioque will have the mountain's laundering service handle all linens and blankets. Southington area management will be purchasing washer/dryer for patrol use. Sundown is investigating the use of a commercial service. Battison's of Avon is offering Ski Sundown free cleaning. Battison's of Rocky Hill could offer same for Southington (at this time not needed) and Powder Ridge. Sue Ellen had checked at the hospital and they said 80 degrees and soap & water is what's needed to clean blankets contaminated by the virus. It was discussed that as most of the spread is from pre-symptomatic carriers, it would make sense to treat everyone as a potential source of viral contamination, consistent with the principles of Universal Precautions. There is concern regarding the possible retention of the virus with cloth materials. Disposable blankets were discussed. More research is needed and it might be wise to reach out to those who deal with this on a daily basis (spas, hospitals, etc.). Patrollers may need training on the handling of blankets and other contaminated items.

The CT Ski Areas Association 2020-2021 Operating Guidelines have been published and can be found on the region as well as individual ski area websites. Sundown may be limiting inside capacity to 50%, requiring pre-purchase of tickets (online). This may change as the State revises their guidelines. Southington will go with State allowance for inside, online tickets, and walkup tickets if online doesn't sell out. Thunder Ridge is requiring reservations for inside dining, with time scheduled to clean areas between each use. Thunder Ridge is also working with the New York State Ski Areas Association (the State owns three the ski areas). Thunder Ridge is paying for all PPE.

Next meeting Mon 11/02/20 at 7:00 PM.

Adjourned 8:15 PM

Respectively submitted,  
Larry Hyatt