

## VSEC Meeting Minutes

February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:08 PM by Chairman Gene Harrison. VSEC Members present were Chairman Gene Harrison, Vice-Chair Bonny Armstrong, Secretary-Treasurer Ray Sira, Member-at-large Bill Boehle, Member at Large Rachel Saker, Website Coordinator Gary Bush, and Vertical Workshop Coordinator Kurt Waldron. Education Coordinator Hazel Barton and Contest Coordinator Bill Cuddington were absent. Former Chairman Terry Mitchell was also present.
  - A. **Chairman** – Gene Harrison: He really likes the new quarterly Zoom meetings.
  - B. **Vice Chairman** – Bonny Armstrong: Has been talking to the 2022 convention organizers and will report on that later in the meeting.
  - C. **Secretary Treasurer** – Ray Sira: Ally Demand Notes will be going away. The money will be transferred to our checking account for now. Ray will investigate other choices for an interest-bearing account.
  - D. **Member At Large Reports**
    1. William Boehle: Will talk to On Rope One about taking over selling our symbolic Items.
    2. Rachel Saker: No report.
2. **Committee Reports**
  - A. **Education** – Hazel Barton: Absent, no report.
  - B. **Website Coordinator** – Gary Bush: Nylon Highways 61 & 62 have been added. 61 is 3 years of meeting minutes and 62 has the 3 articles Gene presented at the 2020 virtual convention meeting. Membership still needs to be updated. NSS is updating its web site and is asking all the IO's to move to new servers. Gary asked what domain name we might want would want such as vertical.caves.org. Rachel suggested vertical.caves.org should be left open and we should use something like verticalsection.caves.org. Gene asked that we discuss this more later in the meeting.
  - C. **Vertical Contest** – Bill Cuddington: No report. Gene mentioned we are looking for someone to run the contest in Bill's absence. Ray is willing to do it if we find a replacement for the Secretary/Treasurer position. Gene asked that we all think about who could fill that position.
  - D. **Vertical Workshop** – Kurt Waldron: He has started rewrites on the checklist for the different workshop stations and should have them complete by the next meeting.
  - E. **Rebelay Workshop** – Gary Bush: If there is an in-person convention, we will have a workshop. Rachael suggested we could do a virtual demonstration if there is not an in-person convention.
  - F. **By-Laws** – Bill Boehle: No report
  - G. **Equipment** – Ray Sira: Ray has a new vehicle capable of towing the VS equipment trailer but would still like to find someone else to take it to the convention as he will probably be flying. Gene and Kurt may have someone who could do it.
  - H. **Awards** – Position is not currently filled. No report.
  - I. **Outreach** – Bonny Armstrong: We need to find someone to take over the Facebook page. Gene suggested we should all be on the lookout for people to assist on various projects. Rachael is working on a primer on bolting.
  - J. **2021 Convention** – Gene Harrison: A decision should be made in the next few weeks on if there will be an in-person convention. Rachael suggested having a virtual workshop to demonstrate vertical systems if there is not an in-person convention.
  - K. **2022 Convention** – Bonny Armstrong: The South Dakota convention is yet to decide on a location. It was going to be in Hot springs but may move Sturgis. This is because it could end up being a very large convention if this year's is virtual.

- L. **2023 Convention** – Gene Harrison: It is scheduled for West Virginia. Gene will act a liaison. Rachael has talked to Gary Storrack and he is willing to display his collection of vertical equipment. He will need help building about 48 display boards.
- M. **Symbolic Items** – Bill Boehle: Bill will reach out to On Rope One about taking over the symbolic items sales.
- 3. **Old Business**
  - A. **Minute’s approval** – Gary Bush made a motion to accept the minutes of the December 9<sup>th</sup> VSEC meeting as presented. Bill Boehle seconded the motion. All approved.
- 4. **New Business**
  - A. **China Request** – Gene Harrison has received a request from China to take our Vertical Basic Training manual and translate it into Chinese. Should we ask them to wait until the new manual is finished? Kurt asked who this group is and that he would be unable to participate in this because of his profession. Gene said it would not be unusual for them to do this anyway and it is good they are asking. It was suggested to reach out to some of the U.S. cavers who have done work in China and see if they know who these people are. Erin Lynch was suggested as a good person to run this by.
  - B. **NSS Memorial Bricks** – An order was submitted recently to purchase more memorial bricks.
  - C. **Awards** – Garry Bush mentioned we really need to find someone to take over this position. It has been inactive for a few years now. Mike Rusin was suggested a possibility.
  - D. **Next Meeting** – April 21<sup>st</sup> will be the next meeting.
  - E. **Website Name** – It was decided to use verticalsection.caves.org as the main address. The NSS will now allow private sub domains such as “*grottoname*”.caves.org. Gene requested that anything sent to the old site caves.org/section/vertical be redirected to the new site. Gene also suggested we request vertical.caves.org be redirected to us. Rachael thought that vertical.caves.org should be left available. It was decided to ask the NSS to reserve vertical.caves.org if possible.
- 5. **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 pm.