

Minutes of the  
NSS Vertical Section Executive Committee Meeting  
August 4, 2013

The NSS Vertical Section Executive Committee held a meeting on Sunday, August 4, 2013 at the Shippensburg Inn near the 2013 NSS Convention in Shippensburg, Pennsylvania. Executive Board members present were Secretary-Treasurer Bill Boehle, At-Large Executive Members Terry Mitchell and Ray Sira, Vertical Techniques Workshop Coordinator Terry Clark, and Education/Training Coordinator Bruce Smith. Nylon Highway Editor Tim White could not attend the convention. Contest Coordinator Bill Cuddington could not attend the meeting and Bruce Smith was designated as proxy. At-Large member Miriam Cuddington could not attend this meeting and Terry Clark was designated as proxy. Vertical Section member (and rebelay course coordinator) Gary Bush was also in attendance.

Meeting opened at 7:45 PM by Chair Terry Mitchell.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss and deal with various issues that needed to be addressed before the annual business meeting on Wednesday.

1. Terry Mitchell gave a summary of the development and history of the vertical safety guidelines and procedures recently developed and approved for the JSS and the VS. He also showed some of the lightweight helmets that were purchased by the NSS for use by the climbing contest. New liability releases have been developed and will be used for this years vertical activities.

2. Bill Boehle handed out copies of the Secretary's Report and Treasurer's Report. Relative to Symbolic Items, it was reported that we recently ordered items that have been out of stock for a while. This should help our sales. Additionally, a new pin was obtained to replace the prior pin that was sold out. The new pin came from the supplier slightly different than what was ordered. There is nothing wrong with the pin other than this minor design change from the proof. The supplier is willing to give us a significant discount if we accept the pins as delivered. They will redo them if we insist. Bill Boehle recommended that we accept the pins and the discount, which will improve our profitability with the pin sales. The EC concurred with this recommendation.

Bill Boehle announced that he is not running for Secretary/Treasurer this year. To cover the interim until the replacement can establish new bank accounts, he recommends that he be appointed Acting Treasurer to allow for business activities until the new Treasurer is fully functional. The Chair appointed Bill Boehle as Acting Treasurer until the new Secretary/Treasurer establishes new bank accounts.

Bill Boehle agreed to continue to act as Symbolic Devices Chair. The Chair appointed Bill Boehle as Chair of the Symbolic Devices Committee and authorized him to maintain a bank account (existing) for purposes of symbolic device sales.

3. Awards Committee Chair Bruce Smith reported that there will be one award this year. A Past Presidents Plaque and Gavel recognition will be presented to Dick Mitchell at the business meeting on Wednesday.

4. Education/Training Coordinator Bruce Smith had nothing to report this year.

5. Outreach Committee Chairman Marty Reames was unable to attend convention this year and has asked to step down due to personal issues. She recommends that Jon Schow be appointed to replace her. Jon was on the committee and was responsible for putting together the Facebook page for the Vertical Section, including

generating the initial content for the site as well as responding to questions as they arise. A motion was made by Bruce Smith to accept Marty's recommendation and appoint Jon Schow as Chairman of the Outreach Committee. The motion was seconded by Mike Rusin and passed by acclamation. Jon sent in an email report that we currently have 219 people following the NSS Vertical Section page on Facebook. He posts something to the page periodically, but is looking for others to write some content for the page that could be posted once a month. He suggested short articles on the rappel/climb in Ellison's and other locations would be interesting.

6. Vertical Contest: Terry Mitchell reported the Bill Cuddington is bringing some extra rope to convention to replace some of our older existing rope. He also reported that there may be some rigging challenges due to the high ceilings in the gym, but we should be able to manage. We should be ready to go with the rigging beginning at 8:00 am on Monday.

7. Vertical Workshop Coordinator Terry Clark reported that he will be buying some tote boxes to better store the ropes he maintains for the section. Regarding the safety concerns the NSS AVP had with the JSS at the last convention, he stated that it is up to our individual instructors to decide if they want to volunteer to help the JSS out with their vertical training. He also reported that 12 people have preregistered for the Workshop thus far. Several more are expected to sign up.

8. Rebelay Workshop Coordinator Gary Bush reported that he has a separate liability release worked up for use by those participating in the workshop. The new safety guidelines require that lowering systems be incorporated into the rigging of all ropes. This presents some challenges for the Rebelay Workshop, but John Woods and Terry Mitchell think they have worked out a way for this to be done. We will adapt, as necessary.

9. Webmaster Gary Bush reported that the the website is up to date including the posting of Nylon Highway #58. As usual, we still need new articles.

10. The Bylaws Committee had nothing to report for this year.

11. Nylon Highway Editor Tim White is not at the convention and there is no report submitted.

12. Under New Business Terry Clark reported that the JSS has again asked if they could use one of our ropes on Wednesday morning for its vertical orientation session. A motion was made and passed approving the use of our ropes by the JSS. The new coordinator of the JSS (Zach Schudrowitz) was invited to our Sunday VSEC meeting, but was unable to attend. Zach is a recent member of the VS and has been in communication with Terry Mitchell. Zach seems like he is trying to do the right thing regarding vertical activities. Terry Clark reported that he has some shorter rope lengths that we can't use that he will be giving to the JSS.

Adjournment - Motion to adjourn was made and carried. Time of adjournment was approximately 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bill Boehle

(Rev.1)  
Approved by EC e-meeting 11/27/2013