

2015 Vertical Section Business Meeting

July 15, 2015

Waynesville High School, Waynesville, MO

Call to Order: VS Chairman Terry Mitchell called the meeting to order at 10:07 am in room 23. The number of members present was 16.

Approval of minutes from last year's meeting - July 16 2014. Approved as published.

1) Officer Reports.

- a) **Chairman's Report:** Terry Mitchell. Terry introduced the members of the VS Executive Committee and reported that unlike the past two years, the VSEC had not conducted any official business over the past 12 months.
- b) **Treasurer's Report:** Ray Sira reported the VS has 3 bank accounts with a total of \$11,334.12. Payment for the 2014 Vertical Workshop is still pending. A full report was available at the meeting and will be published in the Nylon Highway.
- c) **Secretary's Report:** Ray Sira reported we have 228 members. He sent out 133 emails to people whose membership had expired. 15 addresses bounced and 40 people renewed their membership.
- d) **Editor's Report:** Tim White was not present. Bruce Smith reported that Tim is willing to be reappointed as Editor for another term. Gary Bush said that Nylon Highway #59 is on the VS web page, and NH #60 has been started. Bill Boehle is working to convert more old issues of NH to .pdf files.

2) Committee Reports.

- a) **Climbing Contest:** Peter Hertl. There was a general discussion about the contest results and the current tasks of purchasing prizes and preparing the certificates for presentation at Friday's Contest Awards ceremony.
- b) **Vertical Techniques Workshop:** Kurt Waldron. 25 people are pre registered. *(13 of these ended up being no shows.)* The convention staff will give us a list. Kurt said the ropes and equipment are ready, but he is not totally sure of all his instructors.
- c) **Education:** Bruce Smith. No report. Looking into "tweaking" the basic course.
- d) **Awards:** Bruce Smith. No awards were presented this year.
- e) **Bylaws:** Terry Mitchell. No Bylaw changes were considered this year.
- f) **Symbolic Items:** Bill Boehle's report is included in the Treasurer's report. We had a total of about \$455 in sales income this past year. He is looking into new items.
- g) **Web Page:** Gary Bush reported that everything is up to date. The NSS has its own computer servers now. Peter Hertl suggested putting the Vertical Workshop power point presentation on the website.
- h) **Out Reach Committee:** Jon Schow was not present. Terry read an emailed report from Jon. The VS Facebook page has 547 likes. He is looking for people to share trip reports or any other vertical stories on Facebook. Ray Sira suggested sending an email to contest participants. Peter Hertl suggested we may be able to do a mass email through the NSS.

- 3) **Old Business:** None
- 4) **New Business:**
 - a) Dick Mitchell asked Bruce Smith about the NCRC Manual of U.S. Cave Rescue Techniques, and if there are any conflicts with what the Vertical Section teaches.
 - b) Ray Sira told us he is the self-appointed "VS Statistician" and has produced an historical record of the previous Climbing Contest data; contestants, times, etc., which he will show during the follow-on Vertical Session.
- 5) **Elections:**
 - a) **Secretary-Treasurer (1-year term):** Ray Sira was nominated for another term. There were no other nominations. A motion was made and carried to suspend the rules, and Ray Sira was elected by unanimous consent.
 - b) **Two "At-Large" Executive Committee Members (2-year terms):** Bill Boehle and Miriam Cuddington were nominated for the two positions. Peter Hertl was nominated but declined. The rules were again suspended, then Bill and Miriam were re-elected by unanimous consent.
- 6) **The VS Business Meeting adjourned at 11:09 am.** The Chairman asked everyone to reconvene in 10 minutes for the **Vertical Session**.

The Vertical Session began at 11:25 am, 7/15/2015 in room 23 of Waynesboro High School.

- 1) **Opening Remarks.** Chairman Terry Mitchell reported that during the break the elected members of the Executive Committee, consisting of himself, Mike Rusin, Bill Boehle, Miriam Cuddington (represented by proxy), and Ray Sira had met briefly to elect the coming year's Chairman, Vice Chairman, and the Appointed Positions on the EC. These are all 1-year terms of office. Terry said that he has been re-elected to another term as Chairman, and Miriam Cuddington has been re-elected as Vice Chairman. Bill Cuddington was re-appointed as Contest Coordinator, Bruce Smith was re-appointed as Education Coordinator, Kurt Waldron was re-appointed as Vertical Techniques Workshop Coordinator, and Tim White was reappointed as Editor.
- 2) **The Vertical Session.**
 - a) **Ray Sira - Climbing Contest database.** Ray has compiled all available climb times from the Vertical Contest and created a spreadsheet. Graphs were presented showing overall winning times from 1969 through 2014 and Bill and Miriam Cuddington's times over the years.
 - b) **Vertical Techniques Workshop:** The new power point presentation for the workshop was viewed.
- 3) **The Vertical Session Adjourned at Noon.**

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ray Sira, Vertical Section Secretary-Treasurer June 26, 2016.