

Highpointers Club Board Meeting, July 27, 2019

The Highpointers Club Board Meeting was held at the Whirl-I-Gig Club, L'Anse, Michigan on July 27, 2019

The Meeting was opened at 1:39 PM by Vice President Mark Comstock. Dennis Dean was excused because he was unable to attend; Bill Urbanski was delayed by traffic, and President Alan Ritter was present on Skype (he was attending World Scout Jamboree).

Because of noise and interference, the Skype connection was poor, and Alan was able to participate only intermittently. Mark Comstock, assisted by Club Secretary Jim Sutton, conducted the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Minutes from last year's meeting distributed electronically were approved unanimously.
2. Treasurer's report: previously submitted by Treasurer Don Holmes, was approved unanimously.
3. Honorary members list - Todd Curry: 99 names on list; no changes since mid-December 2018; list approved unanimously
4. Other old business – none

REPORTS

1. **Conventions** – Donna Hawkins – discussion of set-up for MI 2019 Convention; choice of nametags still up in air; considering lanyards and tag holders for the future; suggestions for next year would be appreciated; new direction signs completed and emplaced
2. **Newsletter** – Eric Lichtenstein thanked various people who supported team during transition; he is thrilled to be doing NL; looking for more interested persons to help him; he stated he received no transition assistance from the previous editor; generating content was difficult at first but more coming in now; first two issues were over budget due to learning curve, but generally under budget now; expects to be under budget next year.

Discussion: Eric Lichtenstein recognizes that NL is in fact a magazine, not a newsletter in traditional sense; he will change title and issues will be noted by season, not by quarter number; consecutive issue numbers will continue; magazine will have seasonal themes; he proposed that membership lists and bylaws be put on the website rather than mailed out as a supplement, as in the past; also wants to initiate incentives for submission of real content, such as an "A-Z swag bag" of pins, shirts, etc. for writers of significant content. Marion Bauman: asked if needed an editorial committee; Eric Lichtenstein indicated he wasn't sure was necessary, but would consider it; he noted that Dave Covill from the Highpointers Foundation was providing significant Foundation content and editorial assistance, as are others; looking for someone to write the Safety on Summits column; the safety issues have not significantly changed over the years; could the old issues be re-run? Eric Lichtenstein has also found issues of SOS on the web.

Jim Sutton: I prefer to have hard copy of membership lists and bylaws, and he would consider purchasing them to cover costs; Donna Hawkins: we could change website to members only, but would need to establish password; Eric Lichtenstein suggested using name and state only; several members: don't want information out but would like ability to contact other members; on-line hacking could be a real problem; all current info is in Cloud storage; Mark Comstock: proposed having Eric Lichtenstein develop a plan to deal with this issue

3. **Records** – John Mitchler – the storage unit in Golden, CO is much cleaned up and organized; Don Holmes: proposed that records to support IRS submittals be dumped after seven years; Mary Groeneveld: urged that some materials be saved for possible future museum display, since is the Club's history. John Mitchler: good idea: material is much more accessible now that storage is cleaned up; he is only maintaining the archives now; lots of stuff needs to be gone through; need volunteers; unknown commenter: before disposing, could materials be digitized so not lost?; not sure, as no budget for this; only doing storage right now; Eric Lichtenstein : could use part of NL budget to digitize important

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documents; would need professional assistance; John Mitchler : also have a huge amount of submitted items (signs, etc.) in archives; Eric Lichtenstein : who keeps membership records? John Mitchler : As chair, I maintain the records but have received nothing in past year; not sure where records are being stored.

4. **Highpoint Liaison:** George Painter – idea was to have contact person to connect to HP in each state; Mark Comstock: included guides list, etc., but list is outdated; Melissa Barbour: suggest putting an article in the NL and request additional information; Marion: helpers are used less now that more information is online; if going to pursue this effort, we need a chair to organize; the regional liaisons are inactive; Gwynn Roberts – volunteered to write an article for the NL
5. **Bylaws** – Don Holmes- Discussed under new business
6. **Awards** – Don Holmes – nothing to report
7. **Membership** – Todd Curry – have been in transition from October; records have been caught up by mid-March, with a lot of help; have a good process in place now; total membership: 2,419; 1,068 paying members, 1,052 associate, 99 honorary; 69 new members plus 80+ associate members; urged members to check when dues are coming due, and to inform club of address changes;
8. **Mercantile** – Mary Groeneveld – operating by cash or check only right now; hoping to get Merc up online; working with Kathy Delsaso on this
9. **Elections** – Dennis Dean absent; nothing to report
10. **Website** – Kathy Delsaso – substantial report; accounts indicate that many clearly go to site for info; 95% go to get maps, but few drilling down to get more information; site mimics the NL to get brand power; also, has added low points, tri-state corners, etc.; communication center attracted porn, etc.; not worth it to develop filters, not many specific “wishes” have been submitted
11. **Marketing** – no report
12. **More Than 50 States** – Comstock – no report
13. **Project Volunteers** – Marion Bauman – in 2017 proposed project volunteers’ group; discussion was restricted at that time; the Foundation continues activities independent of the Club; sees no role for a Club group at this time; may be developed in the future depending on the outcome of Club-Foundation discussions
14. **Easements** – Tim Webb – Nothing to report
15. **Foundation Liaison** – George Paynter – are six committee members, three each from Club and Foundation; developed a draft agreement by end of 2018; first draft was reviewed by both Foundation and Club boards; redrafted in Spring 2019; committee voted to approve it but then received other ideas; committee met this week [July]; will work through comments and re-draft; committee name may change since there is also a long-term Liaison Committee as well; also working on a projects list; need submittals to the Club and will coordinate with the Foundation; also making good progress on Kentucky, and working with design engineer; perhaps will also be able to get easement or property transfer from owner;

Discussion: Dave Covill: Foundation is paying Club \$600 to support inclusion of Foundation items in NL; Eric Lichtenstein : would like to see more input from Club relative to project selections; George: not many suggestions from Club; Donna Hawkins: but many donations over the years saying to use as the Club sees fit; Dave: recommended that Eric Lichtenstein write an article on this subject in the NL

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16. **MI 2019 Convention** – Mark Comstock – 207 registrations; Mary Groeneveld: had many helpers for this convention; noted that the museum has bags, souvenirs, etc.
17. **NV 2020** – Eric Lichtenstein – most contacts are in place; will be headquartered in Bishop; information on hotels, etc. available; dates are July 23-25, 2020; it will be HOT; multiple hotels available; Mick Dunne is co-host; Mary Groeneveld is doing T-shirts; Dave Covill will have climbing info; T-shirt design (Gwynn Roberts) will be selected by vote
18. **Convention Handbook** – Gary Szalc – draft was submitted May 31, 2019; Mary: unclear who is responsible for nametags; Jim Sutton: offered motion to receive comments by September 30, 2019, then vote to accept handbook; seconded by Comstock; motion approved

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Amendments to Bylaws** – Don Holmes – global language changes consistent with current practices; discussion of whether or not to include family members as associates if not living at same address; Sutton: proposed amendment to include names even if not living at same address; Comstock seconded; motion defeated on vote of 4-6 with 2 abstentions; motion to accept proposed Bylaw changes passed
2. **Don Holmes** - \$66 re-imbursement for projector screen approved; closing P.O. Box in Golden, CO; proposed using membership address as HP Club address
3. **Don Holmes** – how to categorize Foundation support check? After discussion determined that should be listed as “Sales”
4. **Tom Martin** – working with Joint Vocational School Board at Ohio HP; has HP display there now, and wants assistance to add items to display; also asking Foundation for assistance; needs agreement between JVSJ and Club concerning items; concern about disposal and security of items; would like to have Board designate him as liaison; Board approved; John Mitchler: have some items here now; should I give them to Tom Martin? Board response: not until we have agreement; Alan Ritter (via Skype): recommend Board defer discussion until more information is available
5. **Eric Lichtenstein** – archived NL items were to be transferred to Eric Lichtenstein ; not completed yet; not clear how impasse can be resolved; also need for Internet access to Justin Sutton; he will work with Kathy to accomplish

Meeting adjourned at 3:40 PM for Club Board photograph

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Sutton, HPC Secretary