

Highpointers Board of Directors Minutes, August 13, 2020

The Highpointers Board of Directors meeting was held online (via Zoom) on August 23, 2020.

Meeting was opened at 8:05 PM, CDT, by President Alan Ritter. All Board members were present, and the new members were introduced. Also present were *ex-officio* members Eric Lichtenstein (HP Magazine; NV2021) and John Mitchler (Archives)

OLD BUSINESS:

The minutes from the Board Meeting and the General Meeting for MI2019 were unanimously approved.

The summary Financial Report prepared by Don Holmes was unanimously accepted. Jim Sutton noted that the report contained no information on specific account amounts, etc. Don Holmes indicated that this was the general policy, but that any Board members could request a copy of the detailed information, and he would send it to them.

Konvention Planning Document – Jim Sutton noted that at the 2019 General Meeting, his motion to request submittal of comments by September 30, 2019, and the Board to vote to accept the document, was approved. Since then, no action has been taken. Discussion indicated that Sutton was the only Board member to submit comments [see additional discussion under New Business]. A new motion was unanimously approved that the Board members shall review and submit comments to Gary Szclz by October 31 and vote to accept the final document by December 31, 2020.

Contact information: Board members should review their contact information and send updates to Alan Ritter and/or Don Holmes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Konventions: (Donna Hawkins, Chair): reported she will put out CREW recruitment info in A2Z for next year and will coordinate with Eric Lichtenstein. Hawkins sent a “sorry we can’t see you this year” note to this year’s crew; she is preparing a guidance document for future CREW coordinators; will have it prepared by October 31.

Honorary Members: Tom Martin indicated he needed to change Ohio HP contact to Bellefontaine Library; Alan Ritter will get an updated list from Tom and get it approved by Board via email

Newsletter: (Eric Liechtenstein, Chair): reported he just sent out a A2Z status report; got three of four scheduled issues out on time; he delayed one issue until the status of NV2020 was determined; the 2020 summer issue is also delayed, but should be out in about 1.5 months; he wanted to recognize great efforts of Clint Kaul, Tom Layton, Terry Bird, and Todd and Irina Curry for great efforts to produce and enhance A2Z; still have big problem with content; get lots of pictures but limited text; addition of County HP column is a big addition; see additional details in his report.

Records: (John Mitchler, Chair): indicated he is not receiving much new material for the archives; he is doing an inventory; Don Holmes will confirm his audit.

Highpoint Liaison (position open; Ritter led discussion): No one at present; does anyone know someone who might be interested? Discussion: Eric Liechtenstein could put in A2Z; (side note: also need to find volunteer for the Merc); notices can be great way to get new volunteers; ideally like to have liaison for every HP, to maintain contact with district rangers, or whoever; need someone to maintain contact with all state liaisons; if discussed in A2Z, may get numerous volunteers for state HPs; Gwynn Roberts noted that she volunteered at MI; volunteered again; Donna Hawkins said would assist as co-coordinator; Mitchler: 13 privately owned HPs; two (MI and ND) have permanent easements; ND easement is in form of an extended lease; George Paynter is in close contact on KY discussions; Don Holmes indicated he has contact info for several states.

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Bylaws: (Don Holmes): Nothing to report.

Awards: (Don Holmes): Nothing to report; no Konvention; *ergo*, no awards.

Membership: (Todd Curry, Chair): indicated he distributed report to the Board; 1,207 memberships, with 2,516 total members; includes 189 new memberships in last 18 months, and over 90 this year; honorary membership unchanged; 171 renewed last year, and 76 this year; more are renewing Online rather than by mail; huge effort by Clint Kaul to streamline process, including the following:

Database moved to Google sheets; database is intact.

Updated sign-in form to make it more workable, including drop-down menu on how applicants heard about club.

Mandatory field for phone numbers in case there's a need to contact.

Clint added backdoor for RedFox, a new template to pull data off.

Justin added on-line A2Z request form for missed issues.

Some issues not delivered; due to address changes, etc.; can take two months or more to be returned; (Donna Hawkins noted that new homeowner may hold mail for months before returning to USPS); Clint is working with USPS and NL publisher to get back sooner, so can expedite replacement issues.

Merc (position open): Alan Ritter said we need a new Merc person; will advertise in A2Z need to fill quickly, as we must get materials moved from present location soon.

Elections: (Denis Dean, Chair): had five candidates for five seats; need to find replacement for him for next year.

Website (Kathy Dalsaso, Chair): Website is working well; the Merc is now on website; getting numerous orders; not receiving much to put on-line; send her articles, etc.

Marketing (position open): No one in charge at present; position was developed by Kathy Dalsaso and Mark Comstock, with Tim Webb's assistance, to develop ways to promote HPC; perhaps do not need to continue; Alan Ritter noted that interviews, etc. could go on-line; Justin offered to co-coordinate or assist on marketing or on-line ideas; Jim Sutton asked about MI2019 interviews; supposed to come out this summer In United Airlines Skyline magazine

Project Volunteers (position open): This item not discussed

Easements (Tim Webb): No input from Tim Webb

Foundation Liaison (George Paynter, Chair): HP Foundation submitted two-page report; revenues: \$14,000; expenses: \$9,000; present balance: \$36,000; completed projects in seven states; currently eight projects in five states; several more projects are proposed; George will send report to the Board members; state of KY got \$2.5 million for three projects, one of which is Black Mountain; currently owned by private company; there is hunting lease on the property, and historical society is also involved; lots of red tape; he will keep working on it.

MI-2019 Convention: (Mark Comstock, Chair): got many kudos for the Konvention; over 200 attended, including lots of new members; had great weather; got four different coverages: United Airlines, two local papers and TV; Donna Hawkins indicated also got lots of new CREW members

NV2021 Convention: (Eric Lichtenstein, Chair): most contracts have been re-negotiated; part of problem is that hotel GMs keep changing; down to two possible dates, depending on availability of vendors and fairgrounds; expect to announce final date in next A2Z; lots of COVID19 hits in area right now, so difficult for vendors to commit; had 87 registrants when cancelled; only 11 refunds; not taking any new registrations at this time; also

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looking for swag ideas for “lost Konvention”; Gwynn is working on it; may do mask; Tom noted should be 3-ply construction [see also in New Business]

PA2022 Convention: (Mark Burd, Chair): question asked if Heard's were invited (hosts for PA2022); Alan Ritter indicated they were not invited but he will pick up with them early next year to get update on plans
NEW BUSINESS:

Membership brochures: Tom Martin asked about ideas for membership brochure preparation and distribution; Eric Lichtenstein indicated he had info on a quad-fold form; Donna Hawkins discussed HP membership card for new members, like used to be distributed, with HP checkoff list on back; (Alan Ritter: could be on business cardstock); Jim Sutton: issue came up some years ago, but were concerns about how might be used; issue was tabled at that time (John Mitchler agreed that item was tabled); Eric Lichtenstein noted it could be included as cardstock page in NL and on a handout; he has a hard copy but not digitized yet; Don Holmes noted that when the Nelsons were doing membership, they had 4,000 printed, but only got about 15 back; Alan Ritter noted that had some kept at welcome center in Kimball, NE and at some HPs; hard to judge effectiveness; [Secretary's note: Stony Burk was instrumental in distributing HP brochures all over the country]

Archives: (Alan Ritter): discussion of archives currently located in CO and AL; John Mitchler and Tim Webb have archives of older documents; Eric Lichtenstein would like to see digitized and get transferred from John Mitchler to a single location; John Mitchler: need multiple sets of archives, because items tend to disappear; should have more than two sets; includes storage of hard copies, etc.; should have electronic archive, but this should not cannibalize current publications; perhaps should only electronically archive materials more than five years old; process not fully thought out yet; Alan Ritter has equipment to do it; he has a searchable complete record and will work to digitize; no decision proposed at this time; consider electronic archives as option for people doing research, etc.; Alan Ritter will prepare a proposal and submit to Board

Yahoo storage problem (Alan Ritter): Yahoo has discontinued full support and archives for HPC site; Alan Ritter was able to download archives; proposed to shift to group.io; seems to be reasonably reliable; can use for free and has no limits on the size of distribution list; also is a fee-based professional version with additional features; Alan Ritter suggest we migrate away from Yahoo; lately stuff is not getting out in a reasonable amount of time.

Donna Hawkins made motion to transfer to group.io; Dean seconded; Discussion: Dennis Dean noted the county HP archive works great; Jim Sutton suggested considering a review before switching but testimony from Alan Ritter and Dennis Dean indicates is probably okay to shift over; Kathy Dalsaso noted that we need to keep history; Alan Ritter said it may not transfer over, but he has history in one large file; Kathy Dalsaso says John Mitchler knows someone who could do it; Alan Ritter will work with John Mitchler to accomplish this; Alan Ritter noted that managers of the sites must monitor to manage posts, take care of spammers, etc.

Call for vote: motion passed; Alan Ritter said it will take to September 15th to complete transfer; he will work with John Mitchler to get history transferred

Honorary Members List: (Tom Martin); Honorary list and other information is being put into the Bellefontaine library, and is available for lending, etc.

Konvention Handbook: (Gary Szelc): he received comments from Jim Sutton and Don Holmes; will need to add “extraordinary events” section to deal with events like COVID19; handbook has section for CREW

“More than 50 states”: (Gary Szelc): discussed idea of these types of articles for A2Z; Jim Sutton noted that Kathy and Mark also developed and promoted that concept several years ago, which discussed goals beyond just doing HP's; Donna, Kathy and Mark will follow up

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Masks (Donna Hawkins): she sent some emails out; feels should go forward; Gwynn says can get five-color format; ties are more expensive than elastic; Donna Hawkins will be sending ideas to Eric Liechtenstein this week; Donna, Eric Liechtenstein and Gwynn will continue work on this.

Board Meetings (Bill Urbanski): meeting on-line is great idea and we need to do more of this; suggest we do this 2-3 times per year; Alan Ritter: is there any conflict with bylaws concerning open meetings; Bill opined that Board meetings do not have to be open to public; John Mitchler: generally Roberts Rules do not allow secret meetings; Alan Ritter should check with Roger Rowlett on this point; general discussion of management of membership and how to manage this issue; Alan Ritter: suggest we take under advisement and explore options on how to handle; Bill: he will review bylaws and report to Board by October 31; Jim Sutton suggested coordinating review with Don Holmes, and suggested that not enough business to have quarterly meetings; consider two on-line plus one meeting at the Konvention; Bill concurred with this proposal

Adjournment: Upon unanimous vote on motion to adjourn, the Board Meeting was adjourned at 10:01PM CDT.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Sutton,
Highpointers Club Secretary
August 19, 2020
Final version submitted for vote, February 2023

ACTION ITEMS AND DUE DATES:

Konvention Handbook: Comments to be submitted to Gary Szalc by October 31, 2020. Board to vote to adopt by December 31, 2020.

Contact Information: Board members send updated contact information to Alan Ritter and/or Don Holmes; Alan Ritter to distribute complete updated list to Board members and ex-officio members. No date specified but complete as soon as possible.

CREW document: Hawkins will coordinate with Eric Lichtenstein for CREW volunteer announcement for NV2021; no date specified; she will also prepare a guidance document for future CREW coordinators and submit it to Board by October 31, 2020.

Honorary Members: Alan Ritter will get updated list from Tom Martin and distribute it to Board for approval; no date is specified.

Highpoint Liaison: Gwynn Roberts volunteered to coordinate, and Donna Hawkins volunteered to co-coordinate on this position; no date specified.

Merc: New manager needed ASAP; Alan Ritter will get announcement in A2Z; no date specified.

Elections: Dennis Dean noted that a replacement for this position must be recruited before next year's election. No date specified.

Marketing: No one in this position at present. Justin Sutton offered to coordinate or assist in marketing. Board must recruit volunteers or determine whether position is still needed. No date specified.

Foundation Liaison: George Paynter will send copies of the Foundation Annual Report to the Board. No date specified.

NV2021: Eric Lichtenstein will publish final date for 2021 Konvention in the next issue of A2Z.

PA2022: Alan Ritter will coordinate with hosts (Heards?) early next year to get update on 2022 Konvention and report to Board. No date specified.

Archives: Alan Ritter will prepare report on alternatives for digitizing and storing archival materials. No date specified.

Yahoo storage problem: Alan Ritter will complete transfer of records from Yahoo to group.io by September 15. Alan Ritter and John Mitchler will coordinate efforts to transfer club history out of Yahoo. No date specified.

"More than 50 States": Donna Hawkins, Kathy Dalsaso and Mark Comstock will coordinate on additional outreach to generate additional articles for NL on this concept. No date specified.

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Masks: Donna Hawkins will send mask ideas to Eric Lichtenstein by August 31. Donna, Eric Liechtenstein, and Gwynne Roberts will continue to design masks. No date specified.

On-line Meetings: Bill Urbanski will review Club Bylaws in coordination with Don Holmes to determine if on-line meetings are permissible, and how to manage. Report due to Board by October 31, 2020.