

July 20, 2024  
**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**  
**HIGHPOINTERS CLUB**  
**FINAL**

A meeting of the general membership of the Highpointers Club (HPC) was held in Rapid City, SD, on July 20, 2024, at the hour of 6:00pm (MDT) Bill Urbanski, Director and Master of Ceremonies hosting.

Douglas Bernero, Secretary, kept the record of the meeting.

Approximately 234 Highpointers Club members and guests attended.

Meeting opened at 6:00pm MDT. Bill Urbanski gave some opening remarks and gave a Board of Directors election update introducing Shannon as Club President and other newly elected and continuing directors and appointed officers.

Club President Shannon Brumund addressed the banquet to present club awards for 2024. The Paul Zumwalt award was presented to Wayne and Jean Wuebbel, the former owners of the Illinois highpoint, Charles Mound. The Wuebbels were invited to the convention but are unable to attend, and the award will be sent to them.

Shannon had two Vin Hoeman awards to present to Jim Sutton and Gary Szec. Two Frank Ashley awards were given to Mike Baer and Justin Sutton.

The final award was presented to Mark Comstock. He received the Jack Longacre award.

Other than the Wuebbels, each recipient was present to receive and give thanks for receiving their award.

A commemorative brick to honor club founder Jack Longacre is being prepared for installation at the Ohio Highpoint Museum in the vocational school on the summit of Campbell Hill, Ohio. The membership was asked whether his name should be spelled "JACK" or "JAKK" on the brick. JAKK received overwhelming support due to Mr. Longacre's tradition of using "k" to replace the broken "c" on his old manual typewriter. The brick will state "JAKK LONGACRE."

### **Keynote Speaker**

Paul Horsted was this year's keynote speaker. He presented highlights, stories and photos of content from his many books on the Black Hills area. He included a case that the summit of the Black Hills and South Dakota highpoint was actually on a different pinnacle away from the 20<sup>th</sup> century fire lookout tower as determined during early surveys of the location in the late 1800s.

### **Foundation Update**

Presented by Highpointers Foundation President Dave Covill. The club is well funded with over 1,000 donations to date. Improvements are numerous at the nearby North Dakota highpoint, White Butte. Several club members visited there this week on a side trip to or from Rapid City. The Illinois highpoint has sold and the new owners have been contacted. The new owners have agreed to provide similar access days that the old owners had scheduled.

### **Old Business:**

Regarding the 2025 California Konvention, Dave Covill, Denis Dean and Tim Webb working on arrangements. Dave stated that Denis will organize finances and registration, Tim is organizing members that want to climb Whitney and Boundary near the time of the convention. Convention will be nothing like South Dakota. Facilities are not as luxurious.

Have a contract with 4- star Creekside Inn Resort in Bishop, CA for discounted rooms one week before and after. Convention reserved to be at county fairgrounds, only place large enough to hold banquet. Changed schedule to be September 18-20, 2025. Concerned that weather would be very hot in July. Cooler weather, less crowds. September will be better timeframe for climbing Boundary and Whitney. Working with guide services to help

members looking for that. Many nearby mountains, parks and activities nearby. Working to provide info for Whitney permits well in advance of convention.

Door prizes were drawn with entry tickets and awarded. Exceptional convention attendees were recognized. Highpoint completers were recognized by group starting with 50 state all the way down to 0 state completers. 50, 49 and 48 completers were asked to gather in the corner for group photos.

### **New Business:**

**Selection of 2026 Convention Site**—Per the bylaws, convention sites are rotated by 4 regions every 4 years. 2026 site must be in the Northeast Region limited to sites near the highpoints of CT, DE, ME, MD, MA, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT, or WV. The floor was opened to nominations for convention locations among these states.

A motion was made to nominate West Virginia as the 2026 convention location by Alex DeLaTorre. Alex presented a number of attractions in West Virginia that would make it an appealing convention location.

Another motion was made to nominate Connecticut as the 2026 convention location by Pat Young. Pat mentioned that he used to live in Connecticut and believed it would be a good place to hold the convention.

There were no other nominations. The two nominated states were presented for a preference vote by members in attendance. The vote totals were as follows:

WEST VIRGINIA – 175 votes

CONNECTICUT - 32 votes.

**West Virginia was elected as convention site for 2026.** Alex DeLaTorre is currently leader of the convention organization as the original nominator for the West Virginia location.

### **Adjournment**

It was moved, seconded and carried to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned by MC Bill Urbanski at approximately 9:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas Bernero, Secretary