

October 15, 2023
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
HIGHPOINTERS CLUB
FINAL

A meeting of the Directors of the Board of Directors of the Highpointers Club (HPC) was held on Zoom, starting on October 15, 2023, at the hour of 6:00pm (CDT) Shannon Brumund, President presiding.

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

The President called the meeting to order and the roll was taken using presence on Zoom:

2023-24 VOTING MEMBERS, BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

	Name	Position	Term	Present	Absent
1	Alan Ritter	Director/Past President	2024	X	
2	Denis Dean	Vice President / Director	2024	X	
3	Jim Sutton	Director	2024	X	
4	Eric Lichtenstein	Director	2024	X	
5	Laura Newman	Treasurer / Director	2024	X	
6	Shannon Brumund	President / Director	2025	X	
7	Julie Smith	Director/Ecological, Bylaws and Records chairs	2025	X	
8	Douglas Bernero	Secretary / Director	2025	X	
9	George Paynter	Director	2025		X
10	Bill Urbanski	Director	2025	X	
11	Tom Martin	Director/Foundation Liaison	2026	X	
12	Shelly Binford (formerly Messenger)	Director / Awards and Convention Liaison	2026	X	
13	Kathryn Bertine	Director	2026	X	
14	Thomas Shea	Director / Newsletter Editor	2026	X	
15	Scott Brumund	Director/ Assistant Treasurer	2026	X	

2023-24 NON-VOTING MEMBERS, BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

	Name	Position	Term	Present	Absent
1	Justin Sutton	Membership Chair	2024	X	
2	Mark Styczynski	2024 Convention Host	2024		X

Meeting was called to order at 6:03pm CDT. President Shannon Brumund opened the meeting by reviewing Board members attending the meeting. Secretary Douglas Bernero determined that 13 voting directors were present (14 later in meeting) constituting a quorum. The meeting having been duly convened, the Board was ready to proceed with business. The meeting was recorded on audio and using Zoom recording.

First order of business was a proposal to nominate and approve committee chairs. The following persons are proposed as committee chairs for the next year:

- Justin Sutton - Membership
- Shannon Brumund - Merc
- Tom Shea - Newsletter
- Shelly Binford (formerly Messenger) - Awards and Convention Liaison
- Julie Smith - Records and Bylaws
- Foundation liaisons - Denis Dean, Alan Ritter and Tom Martin
- Webmaster – Kathy Mitchler (she resigned later in the meeting, Justin Sutton nominated see below)

Election chair remains open and needs a volunteer from Board. Alan Ritter made motion to approve named committee chairs, seconded by Denis Dean. Motion carried unanimously.

Review of Committee Chair Reports:

Membership Report – Justin Sutton: Membership breakout:

Total members ~ 2,500

Primary members ~ 1,100

Associate ~1,400

Honorary – 95

New members in 2023-133

Primary members renewed-299

38 primary members whose memberships expired with magazine issue #137 have been emailed to encourage membership renewal. We pay account is being maintained to allow membership payments. Social media activity is picking up.

Newsletter Report – Tom Shea:

Issue #138 has been produced and mailed—hope everyone has received. No one on the call did not receive. Issues take 7-10 days to receive. Please with social media efforts with Justin to connect messages and stories to the newsletter consistently. Feedback is positive through social media about magazine format and content. Hoping to drive new membership through magazine and social media. Trying to interest new generation of members working with Lucy Westlake who is youngest female 50 completer, recent Everest summiter and college student at USC. Included “Ask Lucy” section in last newsletter to inspire younger climbers. Encouraging members and readers to contribute more content using contests and other approaches. Please continue to present ideas to Tom and Tommy for improvements and additions to the magazine. Shannon expressed compliments once again to Tom Shea, Editor and Tommy Burns, Co-Editor for the quality of the latest magazine.

Awards Chair—Shelly Messenger: Shelly just became chair. Shannon and Shelly will consider awards nominations in the Spring.

Merc Report—Shannon Brumund: Sales increase following recent magazine mailings. Sales are steady since consistent magazine issues have been restored.

Records Chair—John Mitchler(outgoing), Julie Smith (incoming): Discussion about storage locker later in meeting.

Webmaster Report—Kathy Mitchler: Need takeover or hosting URL contract with GoDaddy requiring credit card payment. Kathy announced that she is resigning as Webmaster as soon as possible. Club will search for replacement.

Shannon suggested redesign of the website entirely with a professional redesign (hire a contracted designer). Alan suggested a design that is set up to be easily maintained by the Webmaster. Tom suggested doing a broader strategy to integrate magazine, social media and website with consistent communications and sharing content among all these channels. Scott suggested designer should organize new site to be simpler to get to what you want to see. Julie suggested organizing a subcommittee to specify design elements of a new website.

Bylaws Update—Julie Smith: New amendments will be proposed. Julie’s latest complete bylaws are from 2019. She needs to review meeting minutes since then to incorporate amendments approved more recently. John Mitchler stated that 2019 was last approved version of bylaws. Julie will work to incorporate changes to existing bylaws. Alan believes little was changed in 2020 and 2021. Jim commented that BOD meetings did take place and minutes exist from those years.

Foundation Liaison Report—Denis Dean: In discussion with Dave Covill, the foundation intends to place small signs or placards with QR codes at various state highpoints. The links go to foundation and/or club websites or social media sites pertaining to the club.

Board Election Chair Report—Need to fill position for election chair by the Spring when election takes place. Denis Dean is willing to fill chair for 2025 if reelected next year.

Financial Report: given by Assistant Treasurer Scott Brumund. Continue to reorganize accounts to minimize. Most officers are signers and have information access to accounts. Denis Dean has been challenging to get access.

Scott reports the club is in good shape financially. WePay and RedFox are payment sites for membership. Diane Winger still listed as administrator. Changing administrators is challenging and happening slowly. Bank of the West accounts are closed, two new Wells Fargo accounts are open. Accounts set up for South Dakota and California conventions. Mercantile account in process of moving to Chase.

Newsletter expenses are higher than anticipated. Alpha Graphics is used, could switch to lower cost printer. Funds are higher since newsletter was not sent for 4 or 5 quarters while newsletter editor was in transition. Tom Shea shares desire to switch to less expensive printer and more local to him in New Jersey. Tom also suggested considering raising club dues in future years due to increased costs. May be needed also for website redesign costs.

Scott emphasized club is currently in strong position, dues increase not urgent. Doug suggested a strategy to raise prices for one-year memberships but not for three-year memberships.

Ecological Chair—Julie Smith

Julie sent has written a board proposal for the establishment of a sustainability coordinator particularly for club conventions. The proposal is repeated at the end of the minutes as an appendix.

Motion was made by Julie to approve the proposal by writing the proposal. Seconded by Tom Martin. Vote to approve the proposal was passed unanimously.

Hawaii Access Sign—Kathryn Bertine

Kathryn had been working with the Center for Mauna Kea Stewardship to propose new sign message. The Center went ahead and placed a new sign near the top of Mauna Kea on the road. New sign reads, "O'oma Ika" you have reached the summit of Mauna Kea 13,796' above sea level. Translation thought to be "congratulations" or "you've arrived." Meant to recognize that the summit has been achieved at the sign. Sign has no mention of highpointers or HP Club. Visitors may continue to the higher point considered sacred, but the sign recognizes the summit has been achieved.

The language of the new sign seems very consistent with motion adopted by the Board in Georgia to recognize reaching the highpoint on the Mauna Kea vehicle road as completing the summit.

Tom Martin suggested sending the photo of the sign to Tom Shea for inclusion in the next newsletter.

Storage Locker

Doug Bernero mentioned visit by Don Holmes, John Mitchler, Dave Covill, Julie Smith and Doug Bernero on Sept. 27. Made a preliminary assessment of locker contents and plan to pare down unnecessary or duplicative contents. Julie mentioned creating a policy on number of newsletters to be retained and paring down excess extras for recycling. What to do with summit registers? Need ideas for where to move locally in states or elsewhere. Scott wondered where past issues of minutes reside since incorporation of the Club.

Julie described the contents of the locker as tidy, maybe 12 file cabinets, boxes with books, summit registers. John Mitchler described other souvenirs, memorabilia, trailhead signs other items given by Stony Burk.

Alan, Denis and Jim expressed ideas on distributing old spare newsletters to interested members. Tom Martin mentioned library near Ohio Highpoint in Bellefontaine has complete set of Club newsletters. Jim suggested providing newsletters to Library of Congress. Tom Shea suggested that Shannon develop more structure to

archive the newsletters. Julie proposed forming a subcommittee to recommend actions on managing the newsletters and other items in the storage lockers. Various board members discussed the need to save some of the extra newsletter copies.

Julie has organized a newsletters and registers subcommittee meeting with Julie, Doug, Tom, John, Dave Covill and other interested board or club members to be held Oct. 30, 2023 at 2pm MDT.

Scott questioned the need to carry insurance on the locker. Board members generally agreed the insurance was not needed.

South Dakota 2024 Convention Update

Will be held in Rapid City, SD, July 17-20, 2024, hosted at Best Western Ramkota Hotel

Shannon reports online registration is being established to simplify registration difficulties. Convention chair Mark Styczynski not at meeting. Dave Covill reported he and Mark worked with Rapid City Chamber of Commerce to organize convention. Ramkota was the best overall option for host hotel. Meeting, banquet and merc rooms provided as long as hotel room booking volumes are sufficient. Guest rooms and suites are offered at \$139 and \$169 for attendees from 7/16-20. Very nice pool and water park for kid friendly location. Looking to secure Lakota guide to provide tour of sacred sites around Black Hills. Group hike of Black Elk Peak to be held Friday 7/19 to provide enough time to complete the summit. Watermelon feast back at Sylvan Lake trailhead on Saturday.

California 2025 Convention Update

Dave Covill reported he and Denis working with Bishop, CA Chamber of Commerce. Previous work performed for Nevada convention in Bishop during 2018, 19 and 20. Convention reserved to be at county fairgrounds, only place large enough to hold banquet. Currently scheduled for July 23-26, 2025. Working to secure large blocks of motel rooms. Motel choices are not high quality, but everything is close. Will use fairgrounds as convention headquarters for merc, meetings and banquet. Well located to rock climbing, Boundary Peak, Nevada, and other California fourteeners. Trying to get favorable permitting and guide preferences during convention to climb Mt. Whitney.

Proposed Amendments

Discussion of section 9.2 in bylaws. Related to Don Holmes proposal. Don was invited to meeting but is not in attendance. Alan summarized section 9.2, any club member may bring proposal to be considered by Board for to bring, discuss and vote to approve. Procedure outlined in Roberts' Rules. Denis Dean opined that legalistically, Board serves as a funnel for proposals from membership. Scott explained the need for motions to be brought and seconded to create a group proposal. Bill concurred with Alan and Denis' comments on this topic.

Considering Don Holmes proposal to change rules for awarding 30 and 40 completion pins, Alan explained the existing rationale for the current requirements for awarding 30 and 40 completion pins. Shannon asked for the Board to make motion to approve Don Holmes' proposal. No motion was made. Proposal failed.

Considering Don Holmes proposal to change rules for awarding 30 completion pins to require 5 completions from each region. Jim expressed that the existing requirement demonstrates something special to travel nationwide to complete 30 highpoints. Shannon said it's easier to sell 30 pin without restrictions. Alan explained 25 pin could be any 25, and any 30 isn't that much greater accomplishment. Shannon asked for the Board to make motion to approve Don Holmes' proposal. No motion was made. Proposal failed.

Current 25, 30 and 40 completion pin requirements remain unchanged.

Bylaws amendments proposed by Scott, he doesn't believe action is required today. Wants treasurer to hold prepaid dues in a separate account. Tax return considers these prepaids as a liability. Treasury currently accounts for this liability, but the accounting is not required by the bylaws.

Scott specified 1, 2, and 3 year memberships correspond to delivery of 4, 8 and 12 newsletters. Memberships were administered this way during the period where the newsletter schedule fell behind. A member

complained believing that the club was enriching itself by collecting dues but not issuing newsletters. Scott wonders if memberships were tied to newsletters rather than years should be required by amending the bylaws.

Julie suggested these changes be addressed by a bylaws subcommittee for possible amendment, or this may be more appropriate for inclusion in policies and procedures.

These could be addressed by a Board motion, but Scott was concerned that the policy gets forgotten when Board minutes are lost or motions not remembered.

Scott proposed that a convention reserve account be established to reserve surpluses generated or subsidize losses for annual conventions. Reserve account funds to be used only for conventions. Jim expressed concern that convention hosts might overspend knowing that surplus funds will cover mismanagement of operating a convention. Motion was made by Denis to approve the proposal to establish convention reserve account. Doug seconded. Eleven votes for, two votes against, and one abstention. Motion carries.

Don Holmes stated that a special events fund exists. As such Don proposed could be used for pay for speaker at South Dakota. Scott has no minutes confirming that such a fund was established. Proposed South Dakota speaker has been invited and is well known author and expert on Black Hills area. Paul Horsted is his name. This proposal will be researched and considered at a future meeting.

Scott stated many of his uncertainties about treasury can be clarified by review of past meeting minutes that are currently unavailable.

Justin Sutton volunteered to "caretaker" as current Webmaster and Web Chair replacing Kathy Mitchler. Motion made by Alan, seconded by Jim. Clarified to be an interim role. Motion carries unanimously.

Kathy mentioned the need to have a named Web Host who can pay the bill for web hosting. Scott volunteered to fill the role as Web Host as Assistant Treasurer. Motion made by Jim, seconded by Denis Dean. Motion carries unanimously.

Further Business

As past secretary, Jim provided recent years' minutes for Webmaster to post and current secretary to hold. Kathy agreed to confirm that minutes were received and have or would be posted.

Doug asked for an update on trademarking process. Filing submitted for everything but "Highpointer," including "Highpointers Club," "Apex to Zenith," and club logo. Shannon will provide email updates as process continues.

Next Board meeting scheduled for March 4, 2024.

Jim expressed excitement and enthusiasm for expertise and energy of current Board and club members.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved, seconded and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:07pm CDT.

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas Bernero, Secretary

I, Shannon Brumund, President of Board of the HPC, and I Douglas Bernero, Secretary, of the Board of the HPC, hereby certify that these are the minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting held on October 15 , 2023 .

Shannon Brumund, President

Date

Douglas Bernero, Secretary

Date

Proposal for Highpointers Club Board
Sustainability Coordinator – Volunteer Support Position for Conference Manager

Respectfully Submitted by Julie Smith, Golden, Colorado (V2 – starting 5/22/23)

Case for Change

As dedicated highpointers, our club members are a unique breed of adventurous, active travelers, who love to get out and see the world. We're not satisfied with simply playing the role of tourist in the vast array of places we visit. Instead, we prefer to get our boots on the ground, walk a trail, climb a mountain, and really be in a place. To mindfully experience the beautiful world we live in, with all its treasures, that the common tourist might not be exposed to. After all, that's the point. The journey itself takes us to state highpoints, some well-known and others less known, some easy to get to, others requiring significant physical effort. For us, that's the fun of it. It's easy enough to drive to Delaware, and find the high point on a street corner, but it also gives us a reason to visit the state of Delaware. Denali or Rainier are more ambition endeavors, that let us see parts of our country that few experience. As adventurers and travelers, we have an important responsibility to leave the places we visit as clean as when we arrived and, if possible, even cleaner. In the backcountry, we are familiar with the ethics of "Leave no Trace", and "Pack it in, Pack it Out". Many of us are in the habit of picking up trash that we see on the trail, and packing that out as well. It's a great way to give back to the trails we hike and the environment we love. By keeping trash out of the environment, we protect fish and wildlife, who deserve our respect and protection, being cohabitants of this planet along with us humans. It also makes for a more fulfilling experience to hike clean trails, as we are there to see the beauty of nature, not garbage.

When it comes to our convention, it is more challenging to minimize waste, but it can be done, with some planning. By minimizing our waste, we can make a big difference in our environment, set an example for other organizations, and be true to our ethics as responsible, adventurers. We could even "boast" about it in our magazine, on our website and social media, branding ourselves as a responsible organization, possibly increasing our appeal to prospective members, especially millennials and younger. Anyway.

Following is some information that underlies, or drives, my proposal. I think it's important that all of us decrease our waste and our impact on this planet. We're in a scary situation currently, and I think cumulative grass-roots efforts such as what I'm proposing can add up pretty quickly in terms of helping our planet recover from the damage that we've inflicted upon it over the last several decades.

In the 1970s, plastic waste was a new thing, having taken hold in the form of single-use plastic, introduced as an extremely convenient way to live. Just use the plastic once, and then throw it away. Cheap and easy. Housewives would never have to do dishes again, if they didn't want to. And then, as the population grew, we began to realize that the throwaway lifestyle might not be such a great thing, after all. At least, not great for the planet or the wildlife. Scientists were becoming aware of the longevity of plastic filling landfills, filling at unprecedented rates with plastics that take hundreds of years to break down. And, worse, when they do finally break down, they tend to break into tiny microscopic fragments, that are strewn by wind and birds, and mistaken for food by wildlife. These issues were brought up in the 1960's and 1970's, when total plastic production was about 8 million tons per year.

Now, after an additional 50 years, the problem is worse than ever, and our waste is implicated in wildlife stress, decline and extinction. The oceans now contain 80 million tons of plastic, and we continue to dump 8 million tons of plastic into the ocean every year, despite our knowledge of the impacts to marine life. Tiny plastic particles, now known as microplastic, which

are particulates smaller than 1 mm, are filling our oceans, and most of the plastic in the oceans is known to come from inland sources, so it's not limited to coastal communities. Plastic finds its way to inland waterways, streams and lakes, and ultimately to the ocean. We now have gigantic plastic gyres in the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans. It is estimated that there are now over 5 trillion particles of microplastic in the ocean, more microplastics than there are fish. Fisheries are dying off because the tiny hatchlings try to eat microplastics, mistaking them for food, and choking and dying in the process. Whales are beaching on coasts in unprecedented numbers, with wads of plastic in their guts. 80% of sea turtles are at risk of extinction, largely because of plastics.

Currently, in the U.S., only 9% of plastics are recycled. Yet, plastic, as well as aluminum, glass and metal, is infinitely recyclable. And, in addition to the problem of waste, these materials all consume energy and materials in their production. For example, a 500 ml plastic bottle creates 6 ounces of carbon dioxide emissions, which adds up quickly with so much of it. Our carbon footprint has more than doubled in the past 50 years, causing continued global warming, which is stressing much of the wildlife on the planet. We can make a difference by simply keeping our waste within our economy, a new term called "circular economy", in which we continue to use what we've already extracted from the environment, instead of just throwing it away. It is always more efficient to re-use and recycle than it is to make new. Our efforts at the annual Konvention can help our planet heal, to create a better highpointing experience for future club members.

Sustainability Coordinator – Position Description

1. Assist the Konvention Manager in planning waste reduction efforts for the Konvention.
 - a. Assist Manager as needed in determining waste reduction and recycling capabilities for venues that are under consideration for the Konvention.
 - b. Help evaluate capabilities of caterers to provide service with minimum waste, and determine if there is a cost difference.
 - c. If needed, research availability of local services to help with event waste reduction, recycling and composting, get costs and logistics, and report to Manager.

2. Plan logistics for the Konvention Zero-waste implementation.
 - a. Work with anyone who is making club purchases of items and supplies for the Konvention, to make low-waste choices.
 - b. Recycling and composting receptacle needs and placement.
 - c. Signage.
 - d. Work with Merc to make sure refillable water bottles with club logo are available for sale at the Konvention.
 - e. Sustainability Volunteers.
 - i. Determine volunteer effort needed. Note, the more the venue or caterer can do, and the more single-use containers we can eliminate at the source, the less volunteer help needed.
 - ii. Scope volunteer efforts, post a request for volunteers, along with position descriptions, and manage volunteers.