

Minutes of General Membership Meeting June 30, 2018

The Highpointers Club Membership meeting was held at The Mount Magazine Arkansas, June 30, 2018. The meeting opened at 7:02 PM; Master of Ceremonies Bill Urbanski presided; he introduced MC emeritus Don Holmes

Don Holmes, as per tradition, re-told his famous Sherlock Holmes/Doctor Watson tent story.

Alan Ritter, Club President, offered thanks to the park rangers, The Lodge staff, and attendees; he reported that the missing T-shirts will be mailed to attendees.

Bill introduced the Club Board, and offered special acknowledgement of Tim Webb, who has served ten years as president; Bill also acknowledged the positive attitude at the Board meeting.

48- and 50-completers: the names of new completers were read off; one new 48- and one new 50- completer were present.

Traditions: the membership participated in the countdown from 50 HPs to one; Penn Watson won the highest number of conventions attended (all but the first two); oldest person present was Homer Gurtler, age 93; youngest was five; biggest family was Shaddox family, with nine members; farthest travelers were from Seattle, plus the all-time winners Sjaak and Lidy Van Schie from the Netherlands.

Alan Ritter led the assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance.

President's Remarks: Alan Ritter thanked the Board for their efforts this year; he noted that he will serve as President for one year only, as he will be working at the World Scout Jamboree next year; he challenged younger members to get involved; the Board needs more and different people to step up so we don't have so much grey hair on the Board; he called the wait and bar staff to come out for acknowledgement by the assembled members and guests

Committee Reports:

1. **Liaison** (Tim Webb) – nothing to report
2. **MI Konvention** (Alan Ritter) – he noted that the Club is checking with the owners of the private IL HP to have it open in conjunction with the MI 2019 Konvention; Mark Comstock, MI Konvention host, gave brief summary of plans; he wants to have a re-creation of sorts for the first Konvention in 1987; the Barraga Lakeside Inn is host hotel; Mary and Terry Groeneveld are working with them; possible side trips may include local sawmills, Mt. Curwood (second highest point in MI), the Whirlygig for beer and bowling, and a possible post-Konvention trip to Isle Royale National Park.

Old Business – none

New Business

Dave Dolan noted that he was diagnosed in 2013 with a lung problem requiring a double lung transplant; his post-transplant bucket list was to climb at least half of the 50 state HPs; has done three so far; said the HPC saved his life

Bruce Marshall reported on Apex 2019; a national event to encourage youth to get outdoors, plus military and veterans; requested liaison assistance; email is: bruce@apexchallenge.com

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HP Foundation – Dave Covill reported that in its 11 years the Foundation has received \$175,000 in donations; they have done projects in 32 states; looking at funding webcams at some sites; he recognized Stony Burk for the new sign on Signal Hill; he requested ideas to improve HPs

Nominations for 2020 HP Konvention:

Eric Lichtenstein and Mick Dunn proposed Boundary Peak, NV; the last time NV was host site was in 1991; 870 hotel rooms are available in nearby Bishop, CA; motion was made and seconded to select NV. Unnamed member in audience proposed UT, but when informed he would have to host the Konvention if selected, he withdrew the nomination with a curt "Never mind."

Nominations were closed and NV was selected by acclamation.

Notes: Sassafras Mountain access is closed through August

For the Good of the Order – nothing to present

Passing of the Flag – no flag available; Alan passed responsibility to Mark Comstock with a handshake
No Konvention speaker this year; after meeting adjourned, was extensive socializing late into the evening.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:02 PM

Allied activities during the Konvention:

Social hour at The Lodge on Thursday evening.

Installation of beautiful new summit sign created and organized by Stony Burk, with large team and two park rangers.

Liars Club Social at the Pavilion on Friday evening with most members attending.

Traditional Pancake Breakfast at The Lodge Saturday morning.

Wendy Comstock Memorial Watermelon Feed at the HP summit, hosted by Mark, Gordie, and Clare Comstock Saturday morning.

HPC and HPF Business meetings at The Lodge on Saturday afternoon.

Attendance Details:

Final registration: 167

Dinner attendance: 160

Guests at banquet: 3 (State Park Rangers Don Simon and Jonathan Wirges; Stony Burk)

Number of no-shows: 10

Number of cancellations: 24

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Sutton, Club Secretary
July 30, 2018