

NSS-CDS Board meeting May 13,2024- 1900 hours

Quorum- Yes

BOD Present- Gayle Hall (GH), (signed off at 7:55 pm EST) James Chandler (JC), Fred Stratton (FS), Renee Power (RP), Steve Forlenza (SF), Mark Schroder (MS), Max Kuznetsov (MK)

BOD Absent- Sam LeFlore (SL),

Members Present- Adam Hughes (AH), Ian Parrish (IP), Terry DeRouin (TD)

JC Called meeting to order at 1900 hrs.

GH made a motion to accept April minutes. JC second, All in favor. Motion approved by unanimous consent.

Treasurers report

GH – Details as per April report. \$37,316.74 cash on hand. (See report for details emailed from GH)

DEMA

GH- Did research due to a request for additional funds from the DEMA committee. The data does NOT support the increase of funds. Anticipates losing \$5,208.42 @ 50 % of NOLA sales (\$8,819.42). 75% of Nola sales would bring a net loss of \$902.92. She anticipates a net loss between \$1,000-\$5,000. (See her slides previously sent to the BOD).

RP- Proposed budget is \$4,284.00 increase from \$3,000. AH- Travel budget is \$3,000 the remainder of the total cost is event fees. (\$6,819.42 Total approved budget including travel and lodging). RP-needs refundable tickets due to family circumstances, Chris Brock in same situation. Cannot compromise.

GH- Looking for cost saving measures to implement. Reduce staff, less hotel nights, travel off peak, reduce equipment, etc. RP is not in favor of reducing staff.

GH- Food stipend- food should be personal cost. Scope creep an issue here. MK agrees that food should be a personal expense. Especially due to the budget constraints.

JC- Suggests looking at alternate airfare options to come in within budget. FS- was paid when in military for all of his travel expenses. Doesn't get good sense of the DEMA show and suggests that the CDS pulls out.

MK- We all agreed to be present at this years DEMA. There are assorted reasons for us attending, not just financial.

JC- Agrees to minimize presence at the show to conform to budget. Not in favor of food stipend. There is no motion on the floor regarding DEMA.

GH- Sams proposed motion that he emailed prior to the meeting was already exceeded and is moot.

FS/RP stepping away from DEMA show.

SF- Lets remember why we are all here and why we do this. We do this work free/pro bono. We need to spend money as if it is our own. How can we make this work? Can we generate the additional funds to accommodate the requested increase? Let's be positive and think outside of the box.

JC- Reduced airfare and no food stipend brings us within budget.

RP- Reduced staff causes issues.

SF/JC- Reduce staff and reduce room by 1 to save \$1,000. Issue over.

MK- We must be present. Reconsider option with 2 ppl going.

GH- Deposits for hotel are refundable.

FS- 2 attendees of the same gender makes this fall within budget. JC agrees.

SF- Transferable tickets are extremely expensive. Std tickets you can get a credit. Another compromise might be to show for less days. JC Dema frowns on early departures.

SF/JC- 1 hotel room and standard flight tickets and no food stipend bring us with budget. Fiscally responsible option so we can still attend and not break the bank.

SF- FS are you 100% sure that you are out? YES, RP is Out and so is Chris Brock.

RP- Suggests that a new team take over.

MK- suggests tabling issue for 1 week to convince Steve to assist and to attract a sponsor to supplant funds. Is it appropriate to put a SF tech suit in our booth as they are our sponsor?

JC- Has no issue presenting sf tech suit in CDS's booth. RP- Check DEMA rules on booth sharing.

MK- We are a non-profit and may receive different consideration.

FS second motion to table for 1 week to explore sponsorship. All in favor.

International Conference

AH- Full speed ahead. Conference sponsors and vendors are primary focus. Food ordered, tee shirt completed, design by Jennifer Dillman. AH- has made an executive decision not to accept certain prize donations. AH hasn't seen this much support in years. Seems that vendor/sponsors are competing with each other. 185 have signed up to date expecting 250 due to conference day registrations. Checked in with SGT Johnson regarding the venue. Choptima will net \$9600. AH will do a midyear budget to actual. AH suggests stating what funds will be used for, so sponsors are aware of their use.

Email Blasts

SF- email blasts up and running. Will expand to 2500-member list. Need login credentials to include Facebook, Instagram, X, and LinkedIn. AH- Check with Elisha Bragdon and TJ Mueller regarding login info. Soliciting advertisers within email blast.

Training Update

MK- Entering slow season. The Training Committee is continuing with the training material update. Gear configuration photo shoot conducted at Dive Rite. Went well. In water shoot next up. Rescheduled due to recent events at Dive Rite. DPV workshop Thursday before conference at Ginnie.

Website

Tabled at previous meeting. No discussion regarding same this meeting.

Edward's Sink-

FS-Working with IP to obtain access. IP enjoying new position. Summary for Edward's Sink was emailed to BOD. Lamar Hires, Steve Smith, and Terry DeRouin met with Dennis Martin, owner of the land. Also working on a tax incentive program for CDS owned properties. Edward's Sink would be template for any proposed access projects.

Madison Spring

Workday will be 5/19/2024. FS spoke to Shawn Denev NSFA approved budget and is cutting check for \$700.00. All efforts coordinated with Erica Lewis. All diver super benches at head spring will be replaced.

FYI Orange grove stairs will be replaced sometime late summer.

School Sink

Collapse in School Sink. Bob Beckner recommends no Open Circuit diving until conditions can be surveyed. FS recommends following Bob's advice. JC makes a motion to suspend Open Circuit

diving at School Sink until further evaluation can take place. SF second, all in favor. Motion carries.

AH made a motion to close the meeting at 2031 hours. MK second, all in favor. Next meeting is June 1, 2024, at International Conference.

Zoom Meeting Link