

NSS-CDS Board meeting December 10,2023 1904 hours

Quorum- Yes

BOD Present- Sam LeFlore (SL), Gayle Hall (GH – joined at 7:40 pm ET) Max Kuznetsov (MK), James Chandler (JC), Fred Stretton (FS), Renee Powers (RP)

BOD Absent- Mark Schroder (MS), Tim Waldo (TW)

Members Present- Adam Hughes (AH, Lamar Hires (LH), Christopher Brown (CB), Barbara Dwyer (BD), Cameron Mahaffey (CM), Chris Brock (CBR), Jared Hires (JH), Timmy Young (TY)

SL Called meeting to order.

SL made a motion to accept November minutes. All approved.

Treasurers report

2024 budget was submitted and reviewed. In line with 2023 expenditures with small increases. SL made a motion to accept the 2024 budget. JC seconded. All in favor.

BOD Position

SL- Tim Waldo resigned from the BOD effective immediately.

MK made a motion for Stephen Forlenza to take Secretary position until May 2025. FS seconded. All in favor.

DEMA 2023- NOLA was a success- Many thanks to GH, FS, MS, Emy Stratton, and Pam Wooten for their hard work.

DEMA 2024- Costs in budget However, attendance is questionable due to Formula 1 race running consecutively. Will make final decision in January. GH will follow up on drop dead date for sign up. LH suggested waiting until the last minute to see how the industry responds. FS volunteered to transport booth and goods to Las Vegas.

Underwater Speleology

BD requests submissions for the magazine be submitted within the next 2 weeks. MK will submit a notice regarding training updates. Specifically, DPV revisions.

Winter Workshop

SL- Winter workshop on track with exception of vertical lift. The State will not allow it without appropriate insurance. We do not have. The vertical workshop will be introduced only with a 2-day hands-on which will occur later.

Training Update

MK workbook revisions on going. Arduous task. Taking longer than expected. Assignments given to training committee members. Assistance with IT and Graphic design needed. Requested budget for same.

DPV revised standards previously submitted to board for review and comment.

LH- 1st DPV standard was written back in 1989-1990. Technology has significantly changed. An update of the standards is warranted.

MK made a motion to accept new standards. FS seconded. All in favor.

SL- How do we ensure that the new standards are being complied with? MK suggests a workshop to disseminate new information to the instructor pool. LH agreed.

FS will be working on revision to "Basic Cave Diving- A Blueprint of Survival" by Sheck Exley. AH confirms that we have the right to do so. MK training committee will assist FS as needed with the modernization of the guide.

Lines and Signs

GH- Signs and lines at dive sites? Is there a committee? AH committee was dissolved years ago due to liability issues on state lands. NSS-CDS gives unofficial support by supplying signage and line when requested. GH will reach out to Kelly Jessop to confirm liability issues.

State Park Update

CB is still trying to contact the state representative.

FS Working with Nick Brown to set up volunteer days for January 6-7. State is shooting for December opening for Peacock. Contractor still removing widow makers (Fallen trees precariously hanging).

Still some work to do at Madison. 1-2 days' work left.

New Business

Election process for 2024- SL will review by-laws and work on timeline.

JC- Suggested working on revisions of core courses before specialty courses. MK agreed. SL_ suggested going out to the entire instructor pool for additional assistance if needed.

MK- Workbook will be revised then e-learning. The training committee will meet after the new year to discuss progress and the path forward.

GH-Proposed Explorer of the Year, Volunteer of the Year and Instructor of the Year awards. Will announce at- Winter Workshop. AH will supply plaques and certificates as needed. This should fall within the duties of the Awards Chairperson

SL- Motion to close the meeting. JC seconded. All in favor 2042 hrs.