

Desert Survivors 2019 Annual General Meeting Minutes

Sugarloaf State Park, Sonoma County, CA

October 13, 2019

Meeting called to order at 9:30 am by President Michelle Bashin.

A quorum of DS regular members present (15).

1. President Michelle Bashin

Remarks on another successful year for DS: financially sound, new members, successful wild places support, numerous trips.

2. Secretary Barbara Bane

Bane requested member approval of 2018 Annual General Meeting (AGM) Minutes. Charlene Daniels moved to approve, Neal Cassidy seconded. Passed unanimously.

Bane represented DS on numerous southern CA desert issues through comments and attendance at scoping meetings.

3. Managing Director Michael Goertz

The club is financially solid with assets totaling about \$29k. Asset trend is increasing yearly.

Costs: insurance cost has been lowered and yearly satellite phone costs for trip leaders will decrease with purchase of new phone in 2019. Network for Good services (NFG) - membership database, donation management, and trip cost management - will continue to be a large expenditure so needs ongoing yearly evaluation as to cost effectiveness. We have one year to decide if we wish to pay their requested fee increase of \$800.

Group discussion of pros/cons of NFG. Can we add a request to donation page for optional 3% donation add-on to offset NFG fee?

Wells Fargo Bank update: Transfer of DS account to Umpqua Bank still ongoing. Great difficulty is coordinating the various board signatories required at an Umpqua branch in person at same time as Umpqua has few branches (nearest is Walnut Creek).

4. Activities Director Marisa Seaman

Request for new trip leaders and trip ideas. A trip leader meeting was held yesterday and well attended.

Preview of some possible "big" trips in coming year; look for early announcements.

Discussion of timing for paper mailed trip schedules – can we time electronic release to match paper mail arrival? Currently a long lag time between electronic posting and paper schedule arrival.

5. **Communications Director Nick Blake**

Survivor magazine needs article submission.

New website still has some difficulties; rollout not complete.

The club needs a new website manager. This task does not require a great deal of work and already runs very smoothly Nick has been maintaining the site for over 8 years and new blood is welcome!

6. **Volunteer Director Charlene Daniels**

Charlene organized REI presentations in CA this year. Trip leaders report new member participation from these presentations.

7. **At-Large Directors**

- a. **Stacy Goss & Marc Eldridge** – Desert Issues – Update on BLM West Mojave Management Plan (WEMO)
- b. **Dave McMullen**
- c. **Kevin Pope** – Membership. Currently have 371 members; consistent with past trends. Majority reside in CA. Network for Good has increased membership revenue through efficiency of payment. Checks in the mail continue to be a time suck. Email blasts for trips/events go out approximately every two weeks.
- d. **Mike Wells** – Trips – report on year's trips.

8. **Old Business**

Special awards (athletic trophies) to Marisa Seaman and Nick Blake for outstanding work and time this past year.

9. **New Business**

Membership and Board discussion of issues requested for attention in 2020:

- Network for Good: Keep an eye out for increased costs. Consider utility of new functions to DS.
- AGM Prep: In advance of each year's AGM, send the previous year's AGM minutes, financial overview and the agenda to members who have signed up in advance.

- Test email blasts: follow email blasts with a quick follow-up questionnaire to Board members to verify dissemination
- Minuteman Press: Schedule quarterly trip schedule mailings in advance and remind trip leaders of these dates and deadlines.
- DS Table at Events: Create a photo album of DS trips to give people an idea of where we go. Large, laminated photos would also help.
- Lobbying Government on Desert Issues: Consider covering some costs of DS visits to state and federal government to educate representatives on key issues. Need to review non-profits' fiscal limits on lobbying.

10. **Election of 2018-2019 Board of Directors** – The following members were elected to the positions listed below.

President: Michelle Bashin

Secretary: Craig King

Managing Director: Michael Goertz

Activities Director: Marisa Seaman

Communications: Director Nick Blake

Volunteer Director: Charlene Daniels

At-Large Directors

- Marc Eldridge – Desert Issues
- Stacy Goss – Desert Issues
- Dave McMullen – Desert Issues
- Kevin Pope – Membership
- Mike Wells – Trips
- Barb Bane – So. Cal Issues

11. **Call for Motion to Adjourn**

Passed unanimously; adjourned 11:30 AM.