

**Desert Survivors 2018 Annual General Meeting Minutes**  
Mission San Antonio de Padua, Monterey County, CA  
October 14, 2018

Meeting called to order at 10:15 am by chairperson Nick Blake.  
It was determined that enough Desert Survivors members were present for a quorum

1. **President Deirdre Cerkanowicz**

President's Report – Deirdre is stepping down after 3 years as President. She encouraged everyone to sign up for *Geoglyph* to stay abreast of desert issues and to follow Desert Survivors (DS) on Facebook.

2. **Secretary Michelle Bashin**

Michelle requested member approval of 2016 & 2017 Annual General Meeting (AGM) Minutes. Dave McMullen moved to approve, Marc Eldridge seconded. Passed unanimously.

3. **Managing Director Michael Goertz**

DS finances have steadily grown over for the last 5 years. The club is financially solid with assets totaling about \$20k.

Insurance – Following renegotiation of our insurance policy, the company reduced DS liability insurance from \$3,700 to \$1,700 and then rebated DS another \$400.

Network for Good (NFG) – Annual cost of NFG in 2018 was \$1,690 plus 3% of donations, significantly more than PayPal, but with additional functionality. PayPal has no annual fee and applies a similar tax on income. The Board is tracking the costs and benefits of NFG to assess whether the additional costs are worth it. Benefits include easy membership renewal and automatic renewal option, online trip payments (e.g. Crooked Creek and Death Valley) and automatically updating membership lists.

Posting DS Financials – Jerry Goss noted that at last year's AGM it was suggested that the previous 2 years of financial reports be available for review at the meeting. Discussion followed about whether to post financial reports online, send a link to the reports or bring paper copies of the reports. (Note: Secretary did not find any mention of this suggestion in the last 2 years' AGM Meeting Minutes)

Wells Fargo Bank – Karen Rusiniak proposed that DS change banks because of Wells Fargo's poor track record with consumers and investments. She provided a list 6 alternative banking options that the Berkeley City Council had reviewed and recommended for a similar move.

Emergency Satellite Phone – Chuck urged the board to look into other satellite phones. He found that our current phone performed poorly on the Crooked Creek camping trip. Barb agreed to research phone options and report back to the Board.

4. **Activities Director Marisa Seaman**

This AGM included new activities (music, guest speakers) and entailed additional costs. Marisa welcomes member feedback on this meeting and ideas for meeting themes. She encouraged DS members to step up as trip leaders, to co-lead camping and backpacking trips as well as local excursions like the Ruth Bancroft Garden. Trip Leaders are required to take a 16 hour Wilderness First Aid class every 2 years.

5. **Communications Director Nick Blake**

The fall edition of *The Survivor* is in the mail. Please send stories and photos from your DS adventures to Nick for the magazine. The April membership drive has become a DS institution with a solid renewal record. In 2017, DS experimented with a year-end donation drive. The approach brought in over \$2,000 in contributions. We will conduct a similar effort in 2018.

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 7 years and new blood is welcome!

6. **Volunteer Director (Mike Wells for Charlene Daniels)**

Charlene organized 4 presentations about DS at REI and tabled at the Petroglyph Festival in Bridgeport. Additional presentations are planned for January and April 2019 in Sacramento and Davis for Earth Day. These presentations are making a difference. Trip leaders have noticed an uptick in new members on camping and backpacking trips.

7. **At-Large Directors**

- a. **Barb Bane** – Barb completely overhauled the Trip Leaders Manual. The last time it was updated was 1999.
- b. **Stacy Goss & Marc Eldridge** – Desert Issues – Conglomerate Mesa developers unexpectedly pulled out of the project after encountering push back from several environmental groups including DS. Marc's write-up on Conglomerate Mesa for the *Survivor* was later published in *Backpacker Magazine* and *Friends of the Inyo's* newsletter. DS along with The Center for Biological Diversity and other conservation groups enjoyed a rare legal victory in the lawsuit against the United States Fish and Wildlife Service on its reversal of proposed threatened species designation of the Bi-State Sage Grouse.
- c. **Martina Koneitzny** – Continues promoting DS at REI with trip schedules and *The Survivor*.

- d. **Kevin Pope** – Membership and Email Blasts – We currently have 384 members and are seeing an increase in new memberships. 85% of our members are in California. A third of DS members contribute more than the \$30 membership. Kevin sends out email blasts every few weeks with trip schedules, party invitations and meeting details. Network for Good (NFG) has helped keep membership lists up to date.
- e. **Mike Wells** – Trips – Mike took over Death Valley Trip for Marisa, organized the Yampa River rafting trip and a late-April trip to Centennial Flats and to Fossil Falls.

**8. Old Business**

Insurance Questions: In case of an accident, 1) Does the insurance policy protect Board Members from liability if an accident happens at their house? 2) Does the insurance policy cover children? 3) Do we need liability waivers for all our activities (day trips, AGM, etc.)?

Note: Sierra Club has everyone sign a liability waiver at every outing or meeting that includes an outing.

**9. New Business**

Motion by Dave McMullen to amend the bylaws in two areas: Memberships and Special Board of Directors meetings.

**Article III. Memberships**

The section to be changed now reads as follows:

Section 1. Classification and Number of Memberships: There shall be two classes of membership: regular and honorary memberships, collectively referred to as memberships. Up to two adults and their minor children may hold one membership, but no person shall hold more than one membership. There shall be no limit on the number of memberships. Memberships shall not be transferable.

**The revised section would be changed as written in bold:**

Section 1. Classification and Number of Memberships: There shall be two classes of membership: regular and honorary memberships, collectively referred to as memberships. **Each membership applies to one individual adult.** No person shall hold more than one membership. There shall be no limit on the number of memberships. Memberships shall not be transferable.

Dave McMullen moved to approve, Michelle Bashin seconded. Vote: 36 yes, 2 no. Motion passed.

**Article IV. Directorship**

The section to be changed now reads:

Section 10. Special Board of Directors Meetings: Special Board of Directors meetings may be held at any date, time and place decided by the President, or if the President refuses or is

unable to act, by any three directors. Notice of the time and place of any special Board of Directors meeting shall be sent to each person who holds a directorship by United States mail, postage prepaid, addressed to that person at his or her address as it is shown on the records of the corporation. Such notice shall be mailed at least ten days prior to the meeting.

The revised section would be changed as written in bold:

Section 10. Special Board of Directors Meetings: Special Board of Directors meetings may be held at any date, time and place decided by the President, or if the President refuses or is unable to act, by any three directors. **Participants in Special Board of Directors Meetings have the authority to make non-financial decisions or recommendations on behalf of the organization. A Special Board of Directors Meeting must include at least three Board Members.** Notice of the time and place of any special Board of Directors meeting shall be sent to each person who holds a directorship by **electronic mail** addressed to that person at his or her address as it is shown on the records of the corporation. Such notice shall be sent at least **three** days prior to the meeting.

Dave McMullen moved to approve, Michelle Bashin seconded. Vote: 34 yes, 4 no. Motion passed.

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

President: Michelle Bashin

Secretary: Barb Bane (Barb will take on the task of Secretary as long as Desert Survivors can improve its telephone conference ability. Nick will research conference speaker phone).

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
- Kevin Pope – Membership
- Mike Wells -- Trips
- Deirdre Cerkanowicz – Social Media

11. **Call for Motion to Adjourn**

Bob Lyon called to adjourn, Nick Blake seconded. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon.