

Desert Survivors Annual General Meeting 10/12/14
APPROVED MINUTES
PINNACLES National Monument, CA

Call to Order, Establish Quorum, Advise Board absences

President Gerry Goss called the meeting to order at 9:07 am; established a quorum; and, announced Board absences of Barbara Bane (At Large); and, Rich Spelker (VP). Additions were made to the draft agenda (X - New Business).

Related Attachment: Sign-In Sheet

Minutes of AGM 2013

Secretary Norma Wallace distributed copies of the draft agenda and 2013 minutes, and announced several corrections, included in her reading of the minutes. Kevin Pope offered a motion to accept the minutes as corrected; Peter Geoghan seconded; approval was unanimous.

Related Attachments: 2014 AGM Agenda and Corrected 2013 AGM minutes

Finances

Managing Director Michelle Bashin reviewed the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 budgets and explained adjustments including:

Expenses: insurance @ \$3700 is the highest single expense

Fundraising

A. from Amazon Smile, DS receives a percent of sales;

B. the Somersault Foundation, which requires NO PUBLICITY for its support, provides DS with an annual donation, this year in the amount of \$600

C. propose an October appeal based on success of prior appeal

Takeaway: recommend a \$3000-\$4000 financial "cushion" to cover cyclical income/expenses

Related Attachment: 2014-2015 Budget

Activities

Activities Director Bob Lyon brought a draft map showing locations of many of the 900 total trips led/provided by DS in its history including 465 in California; 31 in Utah and 188 in Nevada. He is interested in reviving the Desert Trail sponsored by a "California Desert Trail Association," especially since the Desert Trail Association is apparently dormant. Former DS president Steve Tabor wrote copyrighted guidebooks (trail manuals) based on his experiences leading DS trips. Bob then reported:

Additional trip leaders update:

Martha Schraer offered to be a Trip Planner, gathering together ideas and organizing details to provide support to Trip Leaders.

Stacy Goss is a new leader

Marisa Seaman is a new leader, with a 10/23 trip scheduled to Eureka Dunes

DS will have a table at the Mojave Fest Nov 1 to promote DS and issues to like-minded groups

Trip Leaders discussion included the Desert Trail update and issues related to epi-pens (a prescription drug).

Chuck McGinn reported being in possession of 2 file cabinets of past trip information. These may be relocated; there was apparent consensus about keeping the files in one location.

Related Attachment: Trip Leaders Meeting agenda

Publications: Website/The Survivor

Nick Blake reported time constraints due to an extended work week constrain his available time for DS projects. That said, he updates the website regularly, targeting every couple of months. The Survivor has enjoyed good participation in the number of people submitting articles. Target is 500 words per article (one page). Nick creates message content and graphics for member announcements.

Communications

Kevin reported on his management of the Member List (approx 300 paid members) for Constant Contact (CC) and coordinating CC announcements. Kevin receives message creative and content from Nick, and integrates it into Constant Contact for member announcements. Kevin reviews CC usage reports.

Volunteers

Volunteers Director Martina Konietzny thanked everyone for their support; everyone who helps with tabling for Earth Day Berkeley and Solano Stroll, our two yearly outreach events. She asks for patience with our volunteers, to remember that all volunteers are juggling other responsibilities. Martina continues to oversee the creation and mailing of hand-crafted thank you cards by a group of children.

VIII At Large

Darrell Hunger reported that following last evening's premiere of his Desert Survivors General Information Presentation (PowerPoint), a few members helped clean up the text, and discussed adding more visuals and place names for the existing slides, and obtaining more plant pictures. Members at the AGM generally requested that the presentation be made available online at the DS website for new visitors, and for members to take "on the road."

Peter Geoghan reported progress testing a mapping program using Android / tablet GPS application to create accurate, detailed trip records - called Backcountry Navigator. The goal would be to allow hikers to download a trip map.

Old Business

Bylaws revision. Norma reported that only one of the three changes passed at AGM 2013 was mentioned in the minutes. Nick believes he has a copy, and will forward to Norma for the record. Norma will update the existing bylaws.

Related Attachment: Bylaws Revisions

Meetup. Janet Schraer reported that she pursued this idea with Dave McMullen. Once an event was posted, MeetUp rejected the posting "per criteria." The specific criteria was not referenced. Janet will continue to pursue. Peter is available to help.

DSOL. Judy Kendall reported that this communications tool is defunct. In its place, she is implementing Google Groups, which will be announced via Constant Contact. This tool allows members to communicate about last minute trips and carry on informal discussions, as well as organize carpool. Google Groups includes the functionality of easy searches of past discussions.

Satellite Phone. This resource is available to trip leaders to take on remote trips for emergencies. Trip leaders contact Bob Lyon.

Election of 2014-2015 Board Members

A – Nominations. There being no competition, each named board position was nominated, voted upon and decided one by one.

President: Michelle Bashin by Bob Lyon, seconded by Martina Konietzny. Accepted.

Managing Director: Gerry Goss by Bob Lyon; seconded by Michelle Bashin. Accepted.

Secretary: Norma Wallace by Nick Black; seconded by Janet Schraer. Accepted.

Activities Director: Bob Lyon by Judy Kendall; seconded by Martina Konietzny. Accepted. Judy by Bob Lyon. Declined.

Communications Director: Nick Black by Dierdre Cerkanowicz; seconded by Janet Schraer. Accepted.

Volunteers Director: Martina Konietzny by Nick Blake; seconded by Chuck McGinn. Accepted.

At Large: Nominees and nominators were:

Marisa Seaman: by Martina Konietzny, seconded by Nick Blake. Accepted.

Deirdre Cerkanowicz: by Norma Wallace, seconded by Nick Blake. Accepted.

Judy Kendall: by Ron Cohen, seconded by Nick Blake. Accepted.

Ron Cohen: by Judy Kendall; seconded by Martina Konietzny. Accepted.

Peter Geoghan: by Chuck; seconded by Lynn Buckner. Accepted.

Kevin Pope: by Nick Blake; seconded by Bob Lyon. Accepted.

Elena Gogoleva by Elaine Schwimmer; seconded by Lynn Buckner. Accepted.

There being six positions and seven nominees, a ballot process was implemented by Gerry. Votes were counted by volunteers Gerry Goss and Martina Konietzny. The results were not unanimous, as had been inadvertently announced at the AGM. A slim margin separated the nominees. Those receiving the most votes were, in alphabetical order:

1. Deirdre Cerkanowicz
2. Elena Gogoleva
3. Judy Kendall
4. Kevin Pope
5. Marisa Seaman
6. Nick Blake

Incoming president Michelle accepted the (virtual) gavel from Outgoing President Gerry Goss as members thanked Gerry with applause for his three years' service. Michelle asked that the new board meet immediately following the close of the AGM for one brief order of business.

New Business

Request

AGM 2015 coordination. Michelle requested volunteers and the following responded: Janet Schraer, Ron Cohen, Neal Cassidy, Darrell Hunger, Peter Geoghan

Publicity – Betty Acton was unavailable for this agenda item she proposed to discuss.

Adjournment

Mike moved and Kevin seconded the motion to adjourn. To unanimous agreement, the meeting was adjourned by incoming President Michelle Bashin at 11:12 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Norma Wallace

Board Secretary, Desert Survivors

October 23, 2014

Submitted for Approval at the 10/18/15 AGM

Finalized by DS Secretary Norma Wallace 10/16/15