



## Far West Division Board Meeting & Awards Dinner Minutes

Davis, California — Saturday, August 3, 2013

\* Indicates a written report has been received and will be posted separately on the FWD Web site



Meeting called to order: 8:07 a.m., by Division Director Bill Gibson. Adjourned: 4:30 p.m.

**Roll Call:** DD Bill Gibson; ADD Lance Vaughan; ADD Tom Sherry; ES RD Nancy Stromswold; ML RD Jim Simons; SC RD Don Harris

**Proxies:** NC Roxanne Woods for JJ Allen; Prof Pat Tony Atkins for Rich Bailey

**Guests:** Bill Hummer, National Board Member; Josh Jacobson, National Office

**Meeting chair:** DD Bill Gibson

**Secretary Minutes:** Janice Waits

**Parliamentarian:** Josh Masur, Legal (Proxy for Stuart Foreman)

**Agenda:** accepted as submitted, with amendments as needed.

Introduction of staff, proxies and guests by B. Gibson.

**MOTIONS:** passed unanimously unless noted

- Accept treasurers final 2012-2013 financial report.
- Accept 2013-2014 Budget as amended.
- That the Avalanche Level I Program be required, as a part of the senior requirements, in the Far West Division.
- FWD Winter Board meeting, be held in Fresno, CA. Friday, March 7, 2014.
- Not to fill Certified Supervisor position at this time. Contact Lance Vaughan, ADD, for Certified matters.

**PROPOSALS:** passed unanimously unless noted

- None submitted

**FUTURE DATES:**

- September 14, 2013 — Instructor/training updates, Davis, CA hosted by Eastern Sierra & Mother Lode
- November 8-10m 2013 — Tri Advisory Meeting, Yosemite Valley, CA
- December 2, 2013 — Nominations due for Assistant Division Director Position
- February 3, 2014 — Date of Election for Assistant Division Director Position
- February 3, 2014 — Nominations due for Region Director Position in Arizona, Mother Lode and Southern California Regions.
- March 7, 2014 — FWD Winter Board Meeting, Fresno, CA
- March 8, 9, 2014 — China Peak to host Senior OEC and Winter Emergency Care Conference
- August 2, 2014 – FWD Summer Board Meeting/Awards Banquet – location to be determined

**DIVISION STAFF REPORTS**

- Secretarial Items – J. Waits
  - \*Minutes Summer 2012 – approved by email September 2012.
  - \*Election Reports 2013/14 dates and results of 2012/13
- \*Treasurer's Report – K. Dickens – Winter 2012-2013 Report *distributed in meeting*
- \*Registrar's Report – P. Jamison
- \*Legal – Josh Masur – oral report for Stuart Foreman



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### DIVISION DIRECTORS' REPORTS

- \*Division Director Report – B. Gibson
- \*Assistant Division Directors
  - \*L. Vaughan
  - \*T. Sherry
- National Board Report – Bill Hummer, National Board Member — oral report  
*National Board is functioning better, attempting to make itself more assessable, and planning committee focus is on better communication. Bill encourages the Far West to be part of the solution, by voting for National Board Members*

### REGION DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

- \*Arizona Region – C. Grube absent
- \*Eastern Sierra Region – N. Stromswold
- \*Mother Lode Region – Jim Simons
- \*Northern California Region – Proxy Roxanne Woods for JJ Allen
- \*Southern California Region – D. Harris
- \*Prof. Patrol Representative – Tony Atkins proxy for R. Bailey

### PROGRAM SUPERVISORS REPORTS

- \*Avalanche – R. Morrow
- \*MTR – Mountain Travel & Rescue & Tri-Advisory – K. Chulski, absent
- \*OEC – K. Qualseth
- \*OET – Outdoor Emergency Transport – D. Whitcher
- \*Nordic – M. Kelly
- \*Instructor Development – D. Hill
- \*Certified – M. Nolen submitted report. Position now vacant
- National Safety Team – *no report* New supervisor Tim O'Brien, absent
- SAR Liaison, North / South – J. Kretchmann *Oral Report: background checks now required for search team members. Pressure to get more Class 1 searchers, counties being very specific on type of searchers they utilize. Demand still high, most counties do not have own search teams.*

### ADMINISTRATIVE SUPERVISORS

- \*Alumni – F. Shoemaker *no report*
- \*Awards – K. Bergmann
- Communications/WEB – *no report* New supervisor: Rye Livingston to redesign Web page
- \*Communications Newsletter – T. Viall
- \*Community College – Nancy Stromswold, Retiring Coord – Tom Taylor, Incoming Coord
- \*Promotion/Recruitment – J. McGuigan



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### OLD BUSINESS

- Awards Committee response/recommendations at end of these Minutes.  
Regarding: Awards – Request from Southern California Region for consideration by Division of two new awards: Outstanding Mountain Host and Outstanding Alumni.  
Action requested by, Div. Dir. B. Gibson that request be put into a formal proposal and be forwarded to Awards Supervisor K. Bergmann for Awards Committee review. *Note: awards already in place in Southern California Region.*

### NEW BUSINESS

- National IT issues, data base and other technology update. Discussed earlier in meeting. National has a narrow band license, waiting for FCC letter to expand.
- National Office Staff Updates — Josh Jacobson, warehouse manager, National office
  - Use only new forms, old forms no longer be accepted
  - Moving to making everything on line
  - Gift cards not available at this time
  - Brought the FWD a big “thank you” from Darcy

### MEETING ADJOURNED 4:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted, Janice Waits FWD Secretary

### ACTION ITEMS

- To make the Instructor “Activity Log” mandatory and/or have National enable viewing privileges by Program Supervisors of Instructor Activity logs.



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### **Awards Committee Report / Response to the Board on new awards proposals Reported by Ken Bergman, Awards Supervisor**

The FWD BOD directed the FWD Awards Advisor to evaluate the two proposals:

1. Shall the FWD establish an "Outstanding Mt. Host Award?"
2. Shall the FWD establish an "Outstanding Alumni Award?"

I have taken the following actions in response to your directive.

1. Polled the FWD Awards Committee for their opinion.
2. Polled the Region Directors on the size and scope of the Mountain Host Program
3. Polled the NSP FWD Alumni on their level of activity in the NSP.

**FWD Awards Committee Response:** The awards committee is split on both these proposals. Some members advocate for the establishment of the awards, some against, and some with no strong opinion. The committee was not able to give a clear recommendation.

#### *Summary of Awards Board responses*

1. The mountain Hosts and Alumni are NSP programs and should have an NSP awards.
2. There are very few mountain hosts or active Alumni; any superior contributions to the NSP can be handled with the existing awards structure (Merit Stars, Certificates of Appreciation and Distinguished Service Awards
3. There are multiple Mt. Host programs but very few are NSP members. Any one who deserves it can be recognized at the Patrol or the Regional level.

Because the FWD Award Committee is unable to provide clear direction to the FWD BOD I did some research to determine the need for establishing the two new awards.

#### **Proposal #1: Shall the FWD establish an "Outstanding Mt. Host Award?"**

##### **Findings:**

There are multiple ski areas with large, active Mountain Host programs. However few of these programs are NSP member programs. Most are independently run by the resort and not affiliated with the NSP. Many of the Mt Hosts are paid resort employees. The three largest NSP Mt. Host Programs are Snow Valley (36) and Bear Mountain (15) in the Southern California Region and Sierra-at-Tahoe (86) in the Eastern Sierra Region. These resorts were enthusiastic for adding the award. Sierra-at-Tahoe Patrol Representative Katie Dumont said: "I think this would pull the ranks of Hosts and Patroller together, and this is a good thing. It would make our Hosts feel more included in the NSP Program as a whole. They would be getting recognition! Awesome!"



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Bear Mountain in Southern California Region has an active program with about 15 Mt. Host per season. Bear uses their mountain host program as a stepping-stone to patrolling. Their Mt. Hosts are registered as Bear Mountain NSP Patrol members, not as NSP mountain hosts. Bear calls them “Mountain Security” and uses them for hill set up, traffic control, witness information, and non-injured courtesy transportation. Bear uses the “Mountain Security” program as an integral part of their recruitment. Mountain Security personnel are required to patrol 14 days a year and pay the same dues as a regular patroller. Once they take the OEC class they are allowed to move up.

The Table Below shows the number of registered NSP Mountain Hosts and their Regional Affiliation.

Mt Hosts	
Northern	0
MLR	3
ESR	88
SoCal	52
AZ	0

**Conclusion:** The research shows there are a number of Mt Host Programs in the Division but few of those are affiliate with the NSP. There are three large programs comprising 140 Members. Given that only three patrols would be involved in the award, Mt Hosts should be recognized with a Yellow Merit Star, National Certificate of Appreciation or an award at the regional or patrol level.

#### **Recommendation:**

1. The FWD should make efforts to reach out to existing Mt. Host programs and bring them into the NSP.
2. The proposal for the award should be revisited once there are a reasonable number of participating patrols. I suggest that when 10 or more patrols are actively involved in the program, the Division may wish to reconsider the proposal.
3. **Use of the program as a recruitment tool and stepping stone into patrolling should be utilized by all patrols.**



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### Proposal #2: Shall the FWD establish an "Outstanding Alumni Award?"

#### Findings:

The FWD Division currently has 364 registered Alumni. An email inquiry was sent out to all Alumni asking them if they are still active in the NSP and if so, how many days a year they are active. The following table summarizes their response.

#### Alumni Data:

Total	364	
Responses	53	14%
Active	21	6%
1-2 days	10	4%
2-4 days	3	1%
5-10 days	4	1%
11+ days	4	1%

Mt. Baldy and Homewood have the most active alumni patrollers.

**Conclusion:** The data shows that 4 alumni would be considered active enough to be considered for an award. Given the small number it should be possible to acknowledge their contributions with a Distinguished Service Award, Yellow Merit Star, National Certificate of Appreciation or an award at the regional or patrol level.

**Recommendation:** It is my recommendation that the establishment of the award be abandoned.