

**Far West Assistant Division Director
Lance Vaughan**

Winter Meeting 2014 report

I attended the Winter National Board Meeting in Feb in Denver. Interesting activity occurred and I enjoyed watching Tom Sherry take a seat at the Big Table and soon after lead the entire board in a technology presentation. Our new board members bring new perspectives to the table and will challenge several of the past power bases on the board. I think it is a wonderful thing to watch the new board members engage and take leadership roles while they question and push the board to take more strategic views on industry issues.

Also interesting to watch is the pressure applied but the Division Directors to push the board toward more strategic agenda topics. The Division Directors have a fairly strong voice and we should encourage the DD's to remain strong, challenge the board and push the organization in strategic directions while keeping an eye on program delivery, and enhancing our brand in the industry.

I left the meeting before the widespread outbreak of NSP virus, and headed to Winter Park Ski Area for the National Certified Committee meeting. This Fall I represented the FWD on the Certified Committee conference calls and finally at the Face to Face in Denver and Winter Park. The visit to Winter Park offered marketing on several levels: Winter Park Ski Patrol, Division Supervisors and Division Certified Committees. Oddly the third topic – Division Committees - seems entrenched in several disciplines across the US: Transportation, Certified, OEC, and Avalanche. The Far West offers a flatter organization structure and we seem to place more Division focus on program delivery vs. discipline hierarchy.

The Committee spent hours discussing & creating a framework for National standard criteria for evaluation and training. Conversations were at times lively, passionate, and often geographic based. At the end of a weekend of 18 hrs of meetings we had a framework and I think all sides compromised on each discipline. (We also squeezed in 1.5 days of ski clinics and evaluations.) Two divisions were not represented and in following conference calls we had some re-working and coaching to move others forward. The thoughts and opinions expressed were both enlightening and at times frustrating, but via constant steady pressure we moved the group forward and remain in forward motion.

Program supervisors seem engaged; to the extent the snow coverage allows program delivery. I have talked with Transportation, Avalanche, & OEC and program delivery is underway with a recent spike in activity with several programs. Who knew snow equates to increased activity.

A new ADD joins the board and I look forward to the energy, perspective and ideas Richard brings to the board. An active voice from Southern California will benefit So Cal and the whole Division. Please engage Richard and give him a warm welcome.

At this time I plan to attend the Summer Board meeting to help present the Certified program to the board and continue to network and work with the DD's and board members. I expect to be on budget for the year.

Thank you,

**Lance Vaughan
ADD FWD**