

**BOD Meeting with Membership  
Ranger Rendezvous  
12/12/08  
10:30 a.m. North Ballroom**

The program coordinators for the 2009 Rendezvous at Gettysburg are:

Bill Halainen  
Maureen Finnerty  
Tony Sisto  
Amy Gilbert

Format: Members used to be able to make a motion from the floor and BOD would consider it immediately. The format was changed and forced members to submit a motion ahead of time, which stifled conversation. This year, members can once again make a motion from the floor but it needs to be repeated to Emily Weisner so she can record the motion.

Rick Smith: This is the first Rendezvous that he's been to in four or five years where he is optimistic about the future of ANPR.

Barry Sullivan: There are time constraints in consideration of motions. He has heard discussions about the need for more frequent conference calls amongst the BOD. He'd like the BOD to consider this idea and would like to encourage regular conference calls amongst BOD.

**MOTION made by Clair Roberts**

**The ANPR BOD needs to formally address and proceed towards an authorization for current and retired NPS employees to access National Park sites free of charge.**

Bill Wade: Seconds this motion and volunteered CNPSR's support.

Discussion:

What stops NPS employees from doing this right now? Is it NPS policy?

Bill Wade: Previous Directors have done it by edict and free entry required nothing more than the Director's authority.

Did this change? It may be best to leave the motion general and ask for authorization so permission could be covered in many different forms.

Jin Prugsawan: Would there be a separate access pass to show at the entrance station?

Scot McElveen: We could come up with an appropriate pass recommendation and possibly some guidelines for how the system could work. There is a place in 36CFR where a Superintendent can allow employees in for free, but entrance has to be for educational purposes.

Barbara Goodman: All traveling employees have some type of educational experience at another park. There is no reason that the Director can't identify this as a legitimate reason for free entry. This is a basic request and should be kept simple.

Craig Ackerman: The RM guidelines would have to be changed. They are specific and one would have to meet certain criteria as it stands. Does anyone know if there was Congressional concern on this issue? The solicitors must ask for the authority to make actions. We can't overcome the guidelines in place as they stand.

Liam Strain: What are we discussing? How to create the system or whether this is a concept we want to support? Creating a system right now is not an effective use of time.

JT: If this is a good thing to do, let's make a recommendation and let the NPS figure out how to implement.

Bill Wade: We don't need to solve the problem, let's just push for authorization.

Bill Wade called to end the discussion.  
Seconded.

Liam Strain moved to reopen discussion.  
Jin Prugsawan seconded to reopen discussion.

Kathleen Williams: This is the appropriate place to form ideas and concepts.

Patrick: This might open the door to other worthwhile groups who want free entrance. He worked at the Statue of Liberty on the front line and a person trying to gain free entry was a huge problem.

Kendell Thompson: There are two issues here and we need to make sure we know what we're discussing. One issue is the retiree angle (using free entry passes as a reward system) and the other issue is active employees (using free entry passes for educational or recreational purposes).

Jin Prugsawan: A retiree award program would be great and there should be some perks. However, there are other people in the public who have supported the parks their whole lives, but worked in other agencies. Why shouldn't they get in free too? It's a fine line and there may be other alternatives for recognition than free entrance.

Bill Wade: A recent focus group study on NPS employee morale showed it was incredibly low. This pass could go a long way for the NPS. It is a simple token of appreciation and wonderful idea.

Stacy Allen: We would be asking something for ourselves that is not granted to the American public. This could be a sticking point for Washington, D.C. There is an image that we already think we're special and more perks for just our select group may be the roughest road. The history of fees has become far more visible to the public and it could be a contentious issue.

Patrick Hattaway: Agrees with Stacy Allen, but thinks there is also a different perception – in his experience, the public is often surprised we don't get in our parks for free.

Cindy Orlando: This issue could go either way but this is a cautionary message. Anything to do with fees is a political hot potato right now and is this really where we want to put our energy?

Dana Dierkes: This may be useful to retirees. However, maybe this should be a performance based award for employees. Making the distinction may sell better in Washington, D.C.

Kendell Thompson: Again, we need to define what we're trying to accomplish. Is this an award, or for educational purposes? It's a non-recreational visit when we're learning.

Patrick: If you're visiting to get ideas, making your presence known will not necessarily give you a true experience since you're treated better as a park employee.

Clair Roberts: Sometimes you're treated worse as a park employee.

Liz Roberts: This is all about stewardship enhancement. As employees, we talk to staff, share ideas, and provide information. This is all a learning experience and educational opportunity. We can enhance the stewardship of the NPS by providing this free access.

Vicki Allen: Stewardship would be enhanced and you certainly could permit retirees to get a senior pass upon retirement. But the upcoming generation needs to get more involved in parks as well and it may be worthwhile to grant seasonals access so they can become more involved without having to pay so much money.

Dan Moses: Called to end discussion

Bill Wade: Seconded

*VOTE:*

**Yes – 6**

*Emily Weisner*

*Liz Roberts*

*Mike Anderson*

*Gregg Fauth*

*Craig Ackerman*

*Todd Stoeberl*

**No – 2**

*Stacy Allen*

*Scot McElveen*

*Motion carried 6-2 by the BOD.*

Who is going to do the work at this point? The membership needs to be involved to help.

Clair Roberts and Rick Smith will work on this issue.

Bruce McKeeman: Would like to make the 2010 Rendezvous in New Orleans.

A show of hands demonstrated a considerable interest. The BOD will consider this for 2010. We may also want to consider holding a Habitat for Humanity workshop if we go to New Orleans.

### **Supernaugh Fund**

ANPR started collecting money several years ago from the members. Bill Supernaugh was the merchandise chair, hard worker, dedicated member and a friend of ANPR.

ANPR brought three scholarship winners to Rendezvous this year. It depleted our funds, as we paid for transportation, registration and lodging. It appears we may not have money for this fund in 2009 so please consider giving to the fund.

Members can donate with a check, made out to ANPR and directed towards the Supernaugh fund. A reminder email will be sent to the membership about the fund.

Liam Strain: Could the recipients provide a short article on their Rendezvous experience?

Vicki Allen: We could try to incorporate the article into park newsletters so a broader audience could read about Rendezvous

Dana Dierkes: If you decide to make a donation and write off on taxes, ANPR will provide receipts.

Michelle Torok: She is Bill Supernaugh's daughter and would like to thank everyone for donating to the fund and the creation of the scholarship.

Bruce McKeeman: We could also get the scholarship article published in the *Arrowhead*. We should work with Eastern National on this.

Cindy Orlando: Could there be an article published on InsideNPS? We need to check with Bill Halainen so word can get out to other superintendents.

Patrick Hattaway: We could combine a blurb about ANPR with a link or an article about the scholarship winners. We could also provide a link to the ANPR website.

Liam Strain: it's an award from the NPS and it should be recognized on InsideNPS.

Wendy: *Outside* magazine may also be contacted to gain a wider publication.

Dana Dierkes volunteered to help with InsideNPS publication.

\*After passing the hat: \$518 was donated to the Supernaugh Fun, along with two checks. This is enough to provide at least one recipient scholarship money to the Gettysburg Rendezvous.

Volunteers to review scholarship applications would be much appreciated.

Dana Dierkes: We should discuss ANPR's mentoring program. This could possibly lead to more gaining more mentors. This is a program that Bill Supernaugh really got started and Bill Pierce has taken over the program. He is looking for mentors and mentees. This is a life long program.

There is information on the website. In addition, a sign up sheet for mentors and mentees will be placed at the registration desk for the next few days. Jin Prugsawan will develop the sign up sheets.

Also – the American Park Network will be planting 175 trees (one for every attendee at Rendezvous). Thank you to Mark Saferstein for making this happen! He also provided us the sign at the registration desk.

**MOTION made by Liam Strain**

**ANPR will explore the possibilities of becoming a carbon neutral organization and report back to the membership on their findings.**

Seconded by Barbara Goodman

Barry Sullivan: Applauds the effort but this will take a fair amount of work to assess the carbon consumption for the Board and ANPR, and then develop a number. This will not happen overnight and will require a good deal of effort.

Patrick Hattaway: We could modify the motion and state that ANPR will continue to move towards carbon neutrality, especially in regards to *Ranger*.

Mark Saferstein: The American Park Network took the same track and went through a very complicated process to figure out their carbon footprint. This would be a very subjective measure for ANPR and the BOD's actions are fairly small. It may be easier to raise awareness of being green, rather than try to precisely measure our carbon footprint. He believes we should advocate modification and make it less about finding a precise measure and more about exploring green initiatives.

Scot tabled the motion for a later discussion and vote.

Dana Dierkes: Would like to know who is on the BOD and their positions.

- Brief BOD introductions to the membership. Absent from Rendezvous: Ken Mabery, Curt Treichel.

**Meeting adjourned for the day at 11:30 a.m.**