

BOD Teleconference

Tuesday, July 29, 2008 8:30 PM EST

Board Members attending: Scot McElveen, Curt Treichel, Mike Anderson, Emily Weisner, Gregg Fauth, Todd Stoeberl, Lee Werst

Guests attending: Teresa Ford,

Board Members not attending: Liz Roberts, Ken Mabery, Craig Ackerman, Stacy Allen

There will be no votes this meeting due to a reduced participation and lack of quorum.

Ranger Rendezvous (RR)

Preregistration and a tentative agenda are online and ready to go. Speakers for RR include the Chairman of the NPS committee on the House side; Stewart Udall the former Secretary of the Interior under Kennedy and Johnson; the co-producer of Ken Burns' upcoming TV series of the National Parks; many other potential speakers including Mary Bomar and Governor Richardson.

We may need other speakers that will draw younger employees, so please think about topics that are of interest to a younger demographic.

There will also be training sessions offered. One is a Situational Leadership class, taught by an approved NPS instructor. This class will count toward the 40 hours of supervisory training required per year. There will also be an Introduction to Resource Stewardship Class run by Albright training staff.

48 percent of rooms are already booked so please continue to urge people to book early and the hotel may open up more rooms.

Scot will look at ending RR earlier on Sunday, possibly by noon. This has been done in previous years and allows people more flexibility in returning home.

The Super Raffle may or may not go this year. Dan Moses talked to Gettysburg and they will give us four nights free for RR 2010. This could be a Super Raffle or silent auction item.

No one has been identified to take on the Super Raffle duty but Dan would like to see the raffle go forward, as we get \$3000-\$6000 dollars a year. Teresa has been shouldering this work load. If it doesn't go, Teresa recommends holding a fall fundraising program or Annual Fund Campaign to raise some donation money.

2009 RR

This will be held in December in Gettysburg. If you have any thoughts on program chairs for upcoming RR please direct these ideas to Scot. He'd like to announce names in Santa Fe.

2010 RR

Please think about a location for 2010. BOD agrees that we may want to hold RR 2010 at a concessionaire operated location. Mark Saferstein suggested using the lodge outside Yosemite, which could possibly accommodate us in the off season. Some other suggestions include:

A location in the West (near one of the big parks) or at a location that could give us good prices on rooms. Cities such as New Orleans, St. George, Mesquite, Fresno, Bend, Flagstaff, Death Valley, Olympia/Tacoma, Big Sky, and Reno. Reno and Mesquite might not be our best options since there have been complaints about holding the conference in a casino that allows smoking.

Other locations that we may want to consider in the South or East: Asheville, Atlanta, and Omaha

Teresa reports some complaints about holding three RRs in a row in the West.

We may want to check with membership or put up a form online to offer suggestions.

Guns in Parks

About 90,000-100,000 comments were received by June 30th at a ratio of 2.5: 1 (opposed). The comment period has been extended to August 8th. This ratio is predicted to go even higher.

If the department adopts the regulation without doing much work on the comments, they will be sued by NPCA and several other groups for failure to comply with NEPA. BOD present agrees that adding ANPR's name to this lawsuit would be a good idea. This won't involve any money, but having additional group names on the lawsuit gives it weight.

Strategic Plan

A conversation about the strategic plan has been put on hold for the moment. BOD needs to formulate something shorter that can be accomplished.

BOD Reorganization Proposal

Scot has received a suggestion that will probably be presented at RR to reorganize the BOD to mirror the regions. The BOD would include regional representatives. This structure has been in place in the past and had 10 BOD members that mirrored the regions, with Vice Presidents from both sides of the country. Some members would like to restructure the BOD this way again. This would potentially break the Member Services position into seven separate positions, and the BOD would be about 16 to 18 people.

What will our reply be to this suggestion?

We could accept it provided that the person suggesting can provide enough people to fill the additional positions, which at this time seems unlikely. Further conversation about this idea will follow.

Fundraising

No one is willing to take this position yet, nor run for election next year. ANPR does have someone to run for internal communications and hopefully someone to run for the education/training position.

There is someone in the private sector that would be willing to help out with fundraising but we need someone to take over on the NPS/ANPR side.

Gregg left at 9:30 pm

ANPR Music CD

The project is proceeding and Kendell Thompson has taken up the collection and editing process once again. Kendell also met with representatives from the Centennial Office at WASO to discuss a possible partnership between the NPS and ANPR for this CD. More updates will follow.

I Give

Another idea to raise more money for ANPR is the I Give Program. With this program, shoppers specify an organization or charity to receive some proceeds of the money they are spending.

Teresa has already put up a link to Amazon on the ANPR page, though no one has utilized this to date. Shoppers just need to know to go through the ANPR page to get to Amazon. Teresa will set up several more sites (such as Expedia) and then send out an email in the next two weeks to the membership, advertising this program.

Member ship and Recruitment

We have roughly 1,100-1,200 members as of June 30th 2008. This year we've had 127 new members

We're doing well so far. It seems most of those members not renewing either left the NPS or forgot to renew. Teresa is sending out fewer renewal reminders and far more members are renewing this year than last year.

Reminder: all memberships expire Dec 31st so notices will go out in November.

College Chapter Idea

No actual chapters have been formed yet.

Should we consider lowering the rate or waiving the fee and hope for money later?

We may want to focus on the seasonals we have rather than pouring too much effort into new college members.

However, we also should look at ideas such as college scholarships and using more technological recruitment (such as MySpace, Facebook, blogs, etc.) to continue to reach a younger demographic.

Turner Foundation

We spent \$600 on the survey. Mark Saferstein donated a significant amount of his time (and therefore money) on the survey as well. Mark has asked that in lieu of payment, the BOD do something to further the findings of the survey and increase membership in ANPR. Scot suggested we run a 2 for 1 membership deal.

Another suggestion is that any active member could sponsor a new member as part of an award program, using the Turner foundation money.

Conference call wrapped up at 10:00pm EST.