

Association of National Park Rangers

Board of Directors Meeting

MINUTES Accepted 1/24/2023

Dec. 20, 2022

Time of BOD Meeting – 4:30pm AKT, 5:30pm PT, 6:30pm MT, 7:30pm CT, 8:30pm ET

ZOOM link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83537927586>

Attendance (Secretary)

- Members Present: Paul, Rebecca, Tom, Lauren K., Jeanette, Elsa, Shannon, Tim, Bill
- Members Absent: Jonathan, Lauren D., Rick
- Others: Mike Pflaum, Emily Johnson, Melissa DeVaughn, Troy Hunt, Meg Weesner

Approval of Minutes from the previous BoD meeting(s) (President):

- [Nov 2022 Minutes](#)
- Motion to approve by Rebecca second by Tim - motion passes unanimously
- Note: will keep meeting on 4th Tuesday of month for new Board in January for now so next meeting same time on Jan. 24, 2023

Treasurer's Report:

- Financial documents distributed to BOD members, along with interim budget vs. actual for RR45 and for the super raffle.
- Request executive session for one item at the end of this meeting.

Old Business (President):

- [Paul] DECISION NEEDED: Should there be a cap on how much reimbursement for Rendezvous travel expenses any individual Board member can receive from the Board travel reimbursement fund? I believe that the fund was intended to help offset the costs for traveling to the Rendezvous, not to cover all costs incurred. See Bill's board report below for more information.
 - Motion to cap amount at \$700 for Board Member travel reimbursement for travel to Board meeting at Rendezvous (within \$5000 fund) - by Shannon, second by Tim - motion passes with one abstention
 - Note: good idea to document all expenses even if not claiming reimbursement for tax purposes if "donating" those expenses

New Business (President):

- {Meg} I've just visited a score of small NPS units from TX to MS; IN to KS. I've almost always found uniformed staff in the Visitor Centers, and our discussions almost always reveal that

I'm an NPS retiree. I would have loved to have a "rack card" about ANPR that I could give folks to promote membership in ANPR. If board members and other committed ANPR members had an easy way to spread the word when they visit parks, it might have a benefit in getting new members.

- ANPR business cards with website address - template on member page or email Melissa what you want designed
- (Tom/Melissa) Do we need to recruit subject-matter experts (Interpretation? Resource Management? Maintenance? Administration? for example) to write Ranger magazine columns to complement the VRP column that's been ongoing? Anyone have ideas on who to recruit?
 - Margie Steigerwald, Marin Karraker for Admin, other contacts send to Tom/Melissa for subject-matter writers

Reports:

- President:
 - Met twice with Yellowstone leadership to discuss our proposal to fundraise for repair and upgrade of the Museum of the National Park Ranger.
 - Welcomed the winning candidates for our board positions. Thanked those not elected, and encouraged them to participate on Board Committees.
- President Elect:
 - Nothing reported.
- Secretary:
 - Prepared last minutes and agenda of 2022 and drafted turnover email to incoming secretary.
- Treasurer:
 - No additional report.
- Business Manager:
 - I would like to screen share and walk through the website functionality, and also seek input for freshening old pages carried over into the new site. This site will only be as good as the information provided, so it is critical that it be up-to-date and refreshed often with press releases/events/trainings, etc.
- RR45 Manager:
 - I assume I've received vouchers from everyone who is claiming reimbursement for RR expenses? It appears that more is being claimed than we have budgeted, so I may need to do a proportionate reimbursement. I urge each of you to submit a voucher, even if you aren't requesting reimbursement, with your expenses and showing that you are donating those expenses to ANPR so you can get a form allowing you to apply to your taxes, if that's appropriate to your situation.
- Education and Training:

- Bill Pierce is available to schedule an online leadership seminar. I'll schedule with him for a seminar in, probably, late January.
 - Performed editing on Ranger magazine draft
 - Plan to put a "blurb" in a future newsletter re: signing up to be a mentor, or to be mentored
 - Plan to prepare my annual work plan for review with Jonathan & Rick by end of January
 - Will reach out to Returned Peace Corps Volunteers folks re: attending a Board meeting in 2023 to pitch their legislative proposal/support
 - Melissa: do we need to recruit subject matter experts (Interpretation?) for Ranger magazine columns?
- Fundraising:
 - Will have last fundraising committee call with myself as lead on Wed, Dec. 21 at 8:30pm ET
 - corresponded with Shannon and others regarding the proposal to fundraise for Ranger Museum in YELL
 - Sent thank you note to Mountaineers Books for raffle donation; still need to send one to Bose
 - Anything else for my attention before my position concludes? Let me know!
- Internal Communications:
 - No additional report.
- Membership Services:
 - Issues with pro deals please contact me directly and I will try and fix them as fast as I can
 - Virtual Regional meetups
- Professional Issues:
 - No additional report.
- Seasonal Perspectives:
 - No additional report.
- Government Affairs:
 - Spoke with candidates about the Board Government Affairs position
 - ANPR Natural Disaster Assistance Fund - Spoke with Mike Lynch and Jeff Ohlfs, Ranger Foundation about ANPR establishing such a fund; as ANPR members they are supportive and do not see a conflict with the work of the Ranger Foundation.
 - Reached out to Jamie Richards and Dawn Sickey, recommended for the work group; Jamie is not available to meet until after the holidays and have not heard back from Dawn. Will recruit a new Board member to join the work group after the election results are confirmed and announced.
 - Contacted Mike Murray, CPANP, to confirm ANPR's participation with a collaborative work group with NPCA and the Coalition about workforce issues. Brief

Mike on the issues (training, hiring, housing) that ANPR has been working on over the past few years. I also let him know ANPR's BOD is transitioning so a new Board member will be appointed for the work group, but I would help with the transition. Unfortunately we could not find a time when all members could meet prior to the holidays so a meeting has yet to be scheduled.

- Sent Jon Muchin, GAO, the name of an ANPR member/NPS employee/ Veteran who is interested in being interviewed for a study of veterans in "outdoor recreation" careers. Thanks to Melissa and Elsa for helping to get the word out about this study; unfortunately as of this writing, I've only heard from one person. I will send additional names/contacts if I receive them.
- Good news on the legislative front. S. 129 - First Responders Fair RETIRE Act passed the Senate 11/17/22 without amendments and became Public Law No: 117-225 on 12/09/22 with the President's signature. This law allows disabled law enforcement officers to receive retirement benefits as if they had not been disabled.
- Strategic Planning:
 - No additional report.
- IRF Liaison:
 - Was unable to participate in the semi-annual North American Forum call held yesterday, Monday, due to travel across the country. I asked Andy Wright, the North American representative on the IRF Board to record it for me. I'll find out from him what happened.
 - I did submit a report for that meeting, outlining our successful Ranger Rendezvous and inviting other North American IRF liaisons to attend our next RR in Jacksonville, Florida, next year.
 - Have visited 18 units of NPS that are new to me, on my 4-week trip from Tucson to Nashville and back. Two more units to go, and I'll be home on Friday.

Adjourn: 7:40 pm MT (followed by exec session)

- Executive Session Motion passes unanimously (adjourn at 7:55pm MT)

Next meeting: Jan. 24, 2023