

ANPR Business Meeting Agenda
Sunday, June 24, 2012

Board Members Attending:

Stacy Allen
Paula Alexander
Alison Steiner
Jamie Bertram
Jeremy Kaufman
Liam Strain

Board Members Not Attending

Jason Allen
Jessica Korhut
Alec Chapman
Amy Gilbert
Tod Underhill
Scot McElveen

Other Attendees:

Teresa Ford

Meeting called to order at 7:38 p.m. Central Time

All Board Members: Please send in your bios. and a photo of yourself in an environmental setting (featuring your park if possible) to Alison ASAP.

Approval of May 6, 2012 Meeting Minutes

Minutes from May 6, 2012 approved by BOD

Business report/updates (membership, RANGER – future issue themes & current and upcoming needs and issues; treasury matters)

Teresa: Next Ranger issue's subject theme is technology in the NPS. Emily Thompson has reached out to several people. They will be finishing it up within the month. Mike Soukup, past Assoc Director of Science - has a page worth of material of what was discussed in Boston and is drafting up a paper. We still need information from someone in law enforcement and Stacy stated he would send Emily some points of contact at FLETC. Need to finalize Rendezvous program. This will be the last issue before registration. Deadline for submittals is July 31.

Membership: 111 new members so far. Good track so far. 995 members right now. New members are almost all seasonals.

Insurance: Transition starting July 1. Reminder e-mails have been sent. Extended until July 15. Transamerica will do an open enrollment. 140 people have been reached out to and 73% enrolled in the new insurance. Teresa is pleased with the response. Billing agent called each person on the list and many people signed up that way. Jamie issued checks for those who pre-paid for their Aetna insurance. Curiously many have not been cashed yet.

The final bill from Aetna will be coming in soon. This will be our last bill from them.

Jamie: Investment accounts are now closed and consolidated to the Wells Fargo account. She is developing a budget and annual work plan for ANPR.

Discussion returned to membership and Stacy advised overall membership is slipping in our sister NPS employee-centered organizations as well.

Update on Rendezvous 2012 Indian Wells (Palm Springs), California Rendezvous Theme - "Enriching the Green and Gray"

Planning committee had run into some issues, so Stacy is helping them to hammer things together and resolve issues.

The following RR activities and needs were discussed:

- All day visit to Joshua Tree NP (JOTR) on Tuesday or perhaps Wednesday (still undecided – have to factor in exhibitor needs). Factor into cost of registration (Teresa). Since there will be 3 hours of total travel time (1.5 hours each way), this will be an entire day excursion.
- Service project on either Wed. Oct 31 or Tuesday Oct. 30. Possibly working with Agua Caliente tribe (Jeff Ohlfs at JOTR will assist with coordination) on a 1/2 or 2/3 day project; and potentially include speakers/presentations from the tribe at Indian Palm Canyon.
- Night activities and receptions Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evening.
- Monday opens up program. Superintendent Butler from JOTR and possibly other speakers from nearby parks. Will possibly ask representatives from the Agua Caliente Tribe (i.e. manager of chief ranger from Indian Palm Canyon) to participate as well.
- State of organization program and speakers for one afternoon. David Vela (SE region) might speak on diversity and workplace enrichment.
- Thursday morning possibly agenda – National Parks Conservation Association, business meeting, nominations for empty positions.
- Big issue remains concerning continued tight NPS travel ceilings and concerns and further restrictions affecting government employee participation in such conferences – given the recent GSA scandal.
- Panel discussion – report panel on what was discussed in Boston and engage member discussion on the common issues. Idea would be to include two or three

- of the representatives who attended the NPS Employee Center Organization meeting held at Boston to sit on the panel.
- Stacy: We need to finalize structuring the agenda, checking on commercial transportation for site visits and arranging box lunches. Will have to add these to the cost of registration. Teresa: Need to make it work with exhibitors who typically have been at Rendezvous on the first two days of the conferences (i.e. this year that will be Monday and Tuesday). Need to get with Kendell Thompson to get update on registration of exhibitors.
 - Alison: idea for a possible speaker for Monday or Thursday – William Tweed, author of the book Uncertain Path. Others at Sequoia might also be interested in coming. Could have another panel discussion focused on the future of the park service, wilderness, etc. Stacy suggested that Alison approach them about the subject and see if they would be interested.
 - Alison: search and rescue training session - wants to offer search and rescue training in conjunction with Joshua tree. Working with Jason on this project. Stacy - Try to finalize with Joshua tree and see if they would be open to a field exercise at the park.
 - Alison: Yoga in the morning. She has an instructor who is interested – our membership may not be interested in starting so early though. With this in mind could we start meetings an hour later in the morning, 9:00 instead of 8:00. If a fair amount of the membership wants to be involved Stacy is willing to look into it. Will try to accommodate the need. Stacy also will try to accommodate the exhibitors as well.

Report on Employee-Centered Organizations Meeting (at BOHA in Boston, June 14th) Stacy represented ANPR

Stacy's report on the 14 June 2012 BOHA NPS Employee-Centered Organization meeting in Boston:

(Other groups in attendance: Employee & Alumni Association (Mike Soukup who organized the meeting), Coalition of NPS Retirees (Maureen Finnerty), George Wright Society (David Harmon and Brent Mitchell), Global Parks (Bob McIntosh), WASO (Peggy O'Dell, Deputy Director), and Harvard University (Peter Zimmerman))

The focus of the discussion was to introduce/update everyone about the purpose and status of each organization, then to discuss commonalities, areas of cooperation and support of the NPS. Mike has recently been asked to chair the E&AA committee (under Eastern National's Board) and wanted to know what was the status and profile of other organizations that are NPS employee-oriented, and to discuss how these groups could best prosper and be of maximum support to the NPS, especially in preparing and celebrating 2016.

Issues discussed at the meeting:

- a. Update representatives on commonalities and support for each other and NPS
- b. Issues each organization is confronting in sustaining existence
- c. Mission purpose and history
- d. Programs and projects each organization has sponsored
- e. Finances and membership.
- f. Reaching out through education, scholarships, help during catastrophic events, and providing financial resources (*E&AA, ANPR*)

All groups had the same story. Not alone, all are seeking partnerships to stay afloat. No one body was in great shape. All have issues and want to work together.

Issues organizations face:

- a. relevance
- b. decreasing membership
- c. lagging revenues
- d. NPS employees view the E & AA and ANPR as being tired and irrelevant.
- e. Group health program – family oriented providence that ANPR has championed.
- f. Value of the parks - linked to mission of NPS
- g. How we stand with the directorate. How they see we support one another and how we support Washington.

Stacy informed attendees that ANPR was selected by the International Ranger Federation to host the World Congress in 2016, and is currently working with the Coalition and the NPS in sponsoring the NPS oral history database.

Attendees believed more focus on the issues confronting our organizations should be further discussed with members. They thought a discussion (panel) of the issues confronting NPS employee centered organizations at upcoming Ranger Rendezvous was a good idea. All agreed more attention needs to be made to including VIPs in our organizations. VIPs substantially outnumber employees and more attention needs to be committed to including them in the work and mission of the organizations.

Some discussion as to the limitations existing within the formal relationship each possesses with the agency. Peggy O'Dell pointed out that existing general authority limitations and policy does not allow the NPS to officially support or favor our organizations. However, the possibility the agency could assist in providing information to the public, employees, and volunteers about our organizations was discussed. Peggy stated she would examine whether such information and direct links to our individual websites could be provided via the public NPS website to assist in informing users about the work and mission of our organizations.

New business (~8-10 minutes)

Jamie: New sales item idea – a “Ranger Picture Book”. We could use some of the first, second and third place photos from Ranger Rendezvous and invite other ANPR members

to submit photos and a short blurb. Stacy stated that it could be possible if it is effectively produced. He said it should be crafted economically and would need to make a fairly quick return on investment. He didn't see how it would be possible for this Rendezvous but maybe they can be sold in the future.

Jeremy: planning for events at RR. When, where and who will be participating in oral history project? Stacy is checking on this with Rebecca and seeing who will be attending and arranging for equipment and space. Jeremy will also contact her. Need to create something we can use as a selling piece to begin process of creating this history. Link trainers that are out there to what we are doing here to further craft the skill. Use RR to produce a product.

Stacy: Alec Chapman sent in his letter of resignation from the Fundraising board position. Alec felt that he hasn't been successful in raising funds for the organization and thus, has not materially benefited the organization. Stacy: Alec has helped ANPR in many ways and his talents will be missed. Teresa noted that ANPR is a professional and social network and questions our way of dividing up duties within the BOD. Alec did a wonderful job on seasonal issues and in other things.

Stacy: Given the issues, it might better serve our organizational needs and be more effective to return to having regional based representation on the BOD. Then, we could match organization, project, and program activities to individual and collective talents and thereby have more hands engaged on working on the issues and needs – instead of one individual BOD member being handed sole responsibility for a program area (i.e. something to discuss further at RR).

Discussion again shifted to RR.

Teresa: She stated does not need a nailed down agenda at this time (i.e. by the end of July and the deadline for RANGER), but requires organizers to forward write ups on the major activities, etc., being developed for Rendezvous.

Liam: Membership numbers and problems are similar to what is happening everywhere. Stacy: How should we sustain current membership and solicit new membership? Need to look into ways to providing more social media avenues and continue to work with sister employee-centered organizations to further discuss and work toward resolving these common issues, needs and concerns – and adapting to changes within the workplace and society.

Future BOD meetings: August 19, and October 28, 2012
Meeting Adjourned 9:18 p.m. central time