

Minutes of the  
NSS Vertical Section Executive Committee Meeting  
June 24, 2012

The NSS Vertical Section Executive Committee held a meeting on Sunday, June 24, 2012 at the Hampton Inn near the 2012 NSS Convention in Lewisburg, West Virginia. Executive Board members present were Secretary-Treasurer Bill Boehle, At-Large Executive Members Terry Mitchell and Ray Sira, Vertical Techniques Workshop Coordinator Terry Clark, and Education/Training Coordinator Bruce Smith. Nylon Highway Editor Tim White could not attend the convention. Contest Coordinator Bill Cuddington could not attend the meeting and Bruce Smith was designated as proxy. At-Large member Miriam Cuddington could not attend this meeting and Terry Mitchell was designated as proxy. Vertical Section member (and rebelay course coordinator) Gary Bush was also in attendance. Chair Dick Mitchell arrived late from the airport and did not attend the meeting.

Meeting opened at 7:30 PM by Vice Chair Terry Mitchell.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss and deal with various issues that needed to be addressed before the annual business meeting on Wednesday.

1. Terry Mitchell reported that the Vertical Section business meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 27, 2012 in Room G-111 at 2:00 PM.
2. Bill Boehle handed out copies of the Secretary's Report and Treasurer's Report and pointed out that our membership numbers are flat not increasing. Relative to Symbolic Items, it was pointed out that we will have to place an order before next year since we are out of stock for a number of items.
3. Nylon Highway Editor Tim White is not at the convention and there is no report submitted.
4. Vertical Contest/Rebelay/Workshop rigging and facilities. Terry Clark reported that we have the rope from PMI and that the gym facilities are okay. Rigging will begin Monday morning at 9:00 AM. No manlift was provided and we will need to set up scaffolding in order to rig. Terry also stated that he needs to get the registration numbers from the convention staff for those already signed up for the Vertical Workshop.
5. Education/Training Coordinator Bruce Smith reported that the update to the Basic Vertical Training Course was completed and that the changes were accepted by the EC just prior to convention. He has had copies of the course printed and distributed copies to the EC. To get this material out to the membership and other vertical users, it was agreed to distribute copies to those attending the business meeting, the workshop, and any grotto training officers who ask for a copy during convention. A notice to this effect will be published in the convention daily rag sheet.
6. Awards Committee Chair Bruce Smith reported that the Lifetime Achievement Award for Bill Cuddington will be presented at the business meeting on Wednesday. He will be putting a notice in the convention daily rag sheet to get some publicity for this event.
7. The Bylaws Committee had nothing to report for this year.
8. Webmaster Gary Bush reported that the website is up to date except for some pictures that need to be posted. He also asked if we want to update the "look and feel" of the site. Some discussion followed.

9. Outreach Committee Chairman Marty Reames was unable to attend convention this year, but has been in contact via email and sent a report (see Attachment). The report presents the background and status of the committee and proposes a list of action items the committee would like to pursue. The committee also recommended that they be considered a permanent subcommittee of the Vertical Section due to the long term nature of membership recruitment and retention. After some discussion, it was concluded that no specific action on this is required since the committee will continue in force until and unless the EC dissolves the committee previously formed.

The EC went over the committee report and discussed the courses of action proposed. It was agreed that the committee had made great progress in a short time and had come up with some new and progressive ideas.

Motion to Approve NSS Vertical Section Outreach Committee Plan of Action made by Ray Sira and seconded by Bruce Smith.

"Moved that the Plan of Action submitted by the Vertical Section Outreach Committee, consisting of five courses of action, to wit:

1. Enhance Online Communication.
2. Reach out to the Grottos.
3. Educate New Vertical Section Members.
4. Coordinate Fun Events.
5. Submit Articles to the NSS News.

be approved, and further, that the Outreach Committee is authorized and directed to take steps that implement these approved courses of action.

Any implementing steps that could be considered extremely controversial or that require an expenditure of funds over \$100 must first be submitted to the EC for approval.

The Outreach Committee is further directed to make an initial report in six months as to the status of the implementation of the approved plan of actions, and to submit a budget for approval, if needed, for expenditures exceeding \$100."

The motion was passed 5-2 with Bill and Miriam Cuddington's proxies voted no.

10. Under New Business it was noted that for the upcoming elections that Dick Mitchell was probably not going to run for at-large reelection due to his new commitments to the NSS BOG.

11. Terry Clark observed that we are going to have a very busy week. He wondered if there could somehow be better scheduling.

Adjournment - Motion to adjourn was made and carried. Time of adjournment was approximately 9:13 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bill Boehle

(Rev.1)  
Approved by EC e-meeting 1/xx/2013

Attachment to June 24, 2012 VSEC Meeting Minutes

NSS Vertical Section - Outreach Committee  
June 2012 Report

In April 2012, an Outreach Committee for the Vertical Section of the NSS was formed. The initial members of this committee are Marty Reames, Ray Sira, Dave Schmidt, Jon Schow, and Paul Ryan. Additional members of our team are welcomed. If you would like to join the committee and/or would like to help us with the ideas presented here, please contact Marty.

Our understanding of the committee's goal is to promote membership focusing on the younger population of cavers who will eventually become the Vertical Section's leadership.

In the short time we have been together, we have come up with the following:

1 - Enhance On-line Communication - The Internet, especially social media, has become the primary channel younger generations use to communicate. We recommend making it easier for our existing website to be found and creating a presence on social sites, such as facebook, google+, and twitter.

2 - Reach Out to Grottos - Vertical skills are primarily taught through grotto practices. Find and distribute materials to aid them in grotto vertical practice sessions.

3 - Educate New Members - Create a welcome packet that can be given to new members of the Vertical Section. This should include an overview about the Vertical Section, information to aid new members in improving their vertical skills, and ideas on how they can get involved and be active in the section.

4 - Coordinate Fun Events - In addition to the existing vertical competitions and workshops, add in fun demonstrations and competitions. For example, have two climbers dress up in different costumes, such as batman and superman, and see who wins. This will also give us some pictures and content for the facebook page.

5 - NSS News - Write articles periodically for the NSS News to generate interest.

These are our initial thoughts, and it will take some time to fully implement. In addition to the above efforts, I recommend that this committee be considered a permanent sub-committee of the Vertical Section, as recruiting new membership is key to keeping any organization alive.

We request permission from the Executive Committee to proceed forward with implementing these ideas.

Thanks,  
Marty  
NSS Vertical Section Outreach Committee Chair