

Vertical Section Executive Committee Meeting

June 30th, 2020

Online Via Zoom

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:10 pm by Chairman Gene Harrison. VSEC Members present were Chairman Gene Harrison, Secretary-Treasurer Ray Sira, member-at-large Bill Boehle, Member at Large Bonnie Armstrong and Vertical Techniques Workshop Coordinator Kurt Waldron. Also present were Webmaster-Rebelay Workshop Coordinator Gary Bush along with guests Terry Mitchell, Lynn Ott and our meeting host Rich Geisler. Vice Chairman Mike Rusin joined the meeting later and Contest Coordinator Bill Cuddington was absent. The positions of Website Coordinator and Education Coordinator are currently vacant. The quorum of 5 VSEC members has been met.
2. **Reports**
 - A. **Chairman** – Gene Harrison: This meeting replaces the normal Sunday pre-convention meeting. Gene encouraged us to do more outreach to find people who can understudy those of us who are actively running the different parts of the Vertical Section. John Bowling from California will be the VS liaison for the 2021 convention in Weed California. Special anchors will be installed for us to rig to. Bonnie will reach out to the 2022 convention staff. Rich suggested reaching out to Carol Tideman for all thing's convention related. The 2020 annual VS Business meeting will be held online on Tuesday July 28th at 6:00 pm EST. It will be on Zoom and hosted by the 2020 virtual convention. Gene will have a couple of presentations after the meeting. He asked to let him know if anyone else has anything to present. Kurt mentioned he may not be present at the July 28th meeting. Bill asked Kurt to appoint a proxy if he cannot make it.
 - B. **Secretary Treasurer** – Ray did not have the previous meeting minutes ready yet for approval. They will be ready soon and they can be approved at another online meeting. We currently have 272 people on the membership list with 117 of those memberships due to or have already expired. Emails will be sent out in the next few days to all members we have email addresses to announce the July 28th meeting. It will include a note if their membership has expired and to please contact me to renew it. Gary asked to send him the list and he will update the website membership list. Ray said the list is on the VS Google Docs page and all VSEC members should have access to it. Most of our important documents are now on this page including the trailer inventory and old meeting minutes. There is also a VSEC Google Group that includes all VSEC members. Gene and Mike's VSEC positions will be up this year. Ray asked to have the online membership form changed to remove the option for paying \$10.00 to have the Nylon Highways mailed to them. Bonnie asked if we are not sending out an annual publication, what are the incentives to join the VS. Gary said the Nylon Highways will still be published online. Ray would like to do away with the VS Yahoo Group and change it to a Google Group. Gene and others agreed. Several comments were made about why people should join the Vertical Section that basically boiled down to we are a community of like-minded individuals with a similar interest.
 - C. **Symbolic Items** – Christa Hay has taken over this position. We have not received a report from Christa. Bill mentioned that On-Rope 1 would be willing to take over sales of our symbolic Items.

It was suggested to add a note in the email Ray will be sending out about the availability of symbolic items. Ray asked if we would still share the profits from sales if On-Rope 1 took over sales. Bill said yes. Gene asked if our logo is trademarked. Gary replied no.

- D. Awards** – Ken Alwin was not present. No one has heard from Ken and no one was aware of any current action being done. Terry mentioned that the retiring Chairman traditionally receives a plaque.
- E. Education/Training** – Terry said not much has been done except Tim White presented the committee with a revised Vertical Training Lesson Plan last year. Bonnie made some suggestions for changes, and Tim sent a new version for review. It still needs to be reviewed by the committee. Terry announced that he is resigning as leader of the training committee. Terry will send Tim’s report out to everyone on the VSEC for review, and that we should go ahead and put it on the website after. Gene thanked Terry for all his hard work and asked if there were any recommendations for a replacement. Ray suggested we should have these online meetings quarterly to remind ourselves of things we should be doing. Gene agreed and will consider possible dates. (At this point Ray lost his data connection for a few minutes.) Bonnie is going to reach out to Jon Schow, who set up the VS Facebook page to see about reactivating it and may know some people to moderate it.
- F. Climbing Contest** – Bill Cuddington was unable to attend the meeting. Bonny recalled someone wanting to climb barefoot last year. Ray has made a sign saying proper footwear is required with a photo of what can happen if you do not.
- G. Reblay Workshop** – Gary Bush reported there will not be a reblay course this year 😊. He would like to get some of the cavers who have a lot of experience with reblay’s to help or take over running it. Bonnie mentioned it can be hard to find someone who consistently attends conventions and is not already actively involved in other aspects of the convention.
- H. Vertical Techniques Workshop** – Kurt Waldron has not been able to attend the last couple of conventions but believes we are in good shape. Terry said we have been updating some of the gear. Gene asked that the guides for each station be looked at to see if the need updating. Ray said each climbing system has been individually inventoried with a photo of each system and it is on the Google Drive. We will be adding a fourth frog system and some chest harnesses for the knots systems.
- I. Website Coordinator** – Vacant. Gene said the last issue of the Nylon Highway was from 2016 and that the climbing world records need to be updated. Ray will send Gary the latest climbing contest world records. Ray asked if there might be a way for someone to look up their history of climbing times.
- J. Bylaws Committee** – Terry said the final draft of the revised constitution will be presented for vote during new business. Bill Boehle went ahead and made a motion to “Approve the proposed constitutional amendments for presentation to the membership at the annual business meeting for final ratification”. Mike Rusin seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

K. Special Events – Gene suggested adding some different events at the convention, but Terry stated we would probably have trouble finding people to run them. We often have problems finding adequate people to help with the vertical contest.

3. Old Business

A. None.

4. New Business

A. Polling Test – We attempted to figure out how test voting for when we need to elect new officers at the business meeting. We were unsuccessful at this. Ray will investigate it and we can try in again at another meeting before the virtual convention business meeting.

5. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 PM.