

VSEC Meeting Agenda

April 21st, 2021

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:08 PM by Chairman Gene Harrison. VSEC Members present were Chairman Gene Harrison, Secretary-Treasurer Ray Sira, Member at large Bill Boehle, Member at Large Rachel Saker, Vertical Workshop Coordinator Kurt Waldron, and Education Coordinator Hazel Barton. Vice Chair Bonny Armstrong, Contest Coordinator Bill Cuddington and Website Coordinator Gary Bush were absent.
 - A. **Chairman** – Gene Harrison: Has been talking to various people in preparation for the convention.
 - B. **Vice Chairman** – Bonny Armstrong: Absent, no report.
 - C. **Secretary Treasurer** – Ray Sira: 2 new members since the last meeting. Gary Bush has the most recent membership list and will be updating the website. The Ally account has been closed and the funds transferred to the Wells Fargo checking account until we can find a better place to put it. A Google Group for the VS members has been created and Ray will start adding members soon.
 - D. **Member At Large Reports**
 1. William Boehle: He still needs to talk to William Shrewsbury of On Rope 1 about taking over the symbolic items sales.
 2. Rachel Saker: Has been considering ways of having a virtual presence at the convention in addition to the regular meeting. Perhaps a virtual workshop or climbing contest where people would submit videos of climbs.
2. **Committee Reports**
 - A. **Education** – Hazel Barton: The vertical training survey has been sent out and there has been over 600 responses. There were some surprising results that cannot be discussed yet. Gene would like to see a presentation at an upcoming VS meeting. Hazel said she is planning on that. He also asked if it recorded if the people responding were NSS members. I did not. 300 people asked for more information. Hazel wants to write it up and publish it as a paper before submitting an article for the NSS News. About 50 respondents had little vertical experience. Rachel suggested it would be good to approach Grottos about how they do vertical training. Gene asked how many non-cavers responded. Hazel said the survey only went out to caving groups and only cavers responded. Gene asked why the VSEC was not asked to review the survey before it went out. Hazel said it was reviewed by her committee members and was submitted to the ethics board at her university. Any review by the VSEC would have set the process back many months.
 - B. **Website Coordinator** – Gary Bush was absent, but Ray reported that the new Vertical Section Web site verticalsection.caves.org is working.
 - C. **Vertical Contest** – Bill Cuddington: Was absent. Ray is willing run the contest in Bill's absence if we find a replacement for the Secretary/Treasurer position.
 - D. **Vertical Workshop** – Kurt Waldron: He is still working on rewrites of the checklist for the different workshop stations and should have them complete by the next meeting.
 - E. **Rebelay Workshop** – Gary Bush: No report.
 - F. **By-Laws** – Bill Boehle: No report.
 - G. **Equipment** – Ray Sira: Ray will probably take the equipment trailer to the 2022 convention in South Dakota.
 - H. **Awards** – Position is not currently filled. No report.
 - I. **Outreach** – Rachel Saker: This would be a good time to reach out to people since it will be 2 years without a convention. Gene asked Rachel to put together a list of things that could be done and that people could volunteer for.

- J. **2021 Convention** –Gene Harrison: The convention will now be virtual. We are looking for presentation for the vertical session. Rachel has been working on something that she may have ready by convention but cannot talk about it now. Gene would like to hear about what Rachel has been working on with bolting. Bill suggested that presentations should be videos and not live. Gene asked Bill if he would take on the task of soliciting presentations.
 - K. **Elections:** Gene Harrison asked whose term was up this year. Ray said Bill Boehle and Bonny Armstrong’s terms are up. Bill has said he will not be running for reelection.
 - L. **2022 Convention** – South Dakota. Bonny Armstrong is the Vertical Section liaison for the convention. Bonny was absent and there was no report. All members present expressed their desire to attend.
 - M. **2023 Convention** – West Virginia. Gene Harrison will act as Vertical Section liaison. Rachael has talked to Gary Storricks, and he is willing to display his collection of vertical equipment. He will need help building about 48 display boards. We will need a space to set it up that can be locked.
3. **Old Business**
- A. **Minute’s approval** – Bill Boehle made a motion to accept the minutes of the February 10th VSEC meeting as presented. Kurt Waldron seconded the motion. All approved.
 - B. **China** – Gene passed it on to Bonny but has not heard back yet. Gene would like to send them a response asking them to wait until new material is published.
4. **New Business**
- A. **Hazel Barton** was asked by Geary Schindel to chair an ad hoc committee for the NSS on Vertical Education. Hazel said she would only do it if the Vertical Section was an integral part of it. This committee will report to Geary and the Board. Gene thought the NSS Safety Committee (which Hazel is Chair of) should be involved. Gene also asked for Hazel to let us know who is on the committee after it has been put together.
5. **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 pm.