

NSS Vertical Section Annual Business Meeting (Approved)

July 28th, 2021

Online using Zoom

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at approximately 9:00 pm EST. 25 people were present. There was a quorum. The meeting is being held online due to the cancelation of the in person NSS Convention that was to be held in Weed, California.
2. **Presentation:** 2 presentations were given at the start of the meeting due to some people needing to leave early to attend other meetings. Both talks should be available to view on the Vertical Section website soon. <https://verticalsection.caves.org/>
 - A. **Hazel Barton** presented the results of her survey “**Learning Preferences for Vertical Caving**”. B. **Cody Kisner** gave a talk on the “**Effects of Bird Guano on Ropes**”

The business meeting started at approximately 10:00 PM EST.

3. **Officers Reports.**
 - A. **Chairman’s Report:** Gene Harrison. A new NSS committee has been formed to organize vertical training. Vice Chair Bonny Armstrong and contest chair Bill Cuddington were not present. We do have a quorum. We are looking forward to seeing everyone in person next year at the South Dakota convention.
 - B. **Vice Chair Report:** Bonny Armstrong. Not present. No report.
 - C. **Treasurer’s Report:** Ray Sira. The Ally account we had has been discontinued and the money has been transferred to our checking account until we can find somewhere else to invest it. There was no income last year and the only expense was for personal property tax on our trailer of \$20.22. Total in out checking account is \$7685.42. We have no report on the symbolic items account, but it should be approximately \$3300.00.
 - D. **Secretary’s Report:** Ray Sira. 298 people on the membership list but 125 of those memberships have lapsed. We have agreed not to drop anyone until after the next in person convention. If you received an invitation from me, for this meeting, then you are on the membership list. There are 20 members that I do not have email addresses for. Send me an email if you would like to join. A new Google Group has been created to replace the now defunct Yahoo Group.
 - E. **Meeting Minutes:** Gary Bush made a motion to accept the minutes of last year’s business meeting as reported. Bill Boehle seconded the motion. The motion passed with no objections.
 - F. **F. Members At-Large:** Bill Boehle and Rachel Saker. No report.
4. **Committee Reports.**
 - A. **Contest:** Bill Cuddington was not present. Ray Sira had nothing to report. Ray has compiled a data base of all the past climbing times he has been able to find. If you would like to know your past climbing times, he can look them up for you. We will be sending out a message prior to next year's convention asking for assistance.
 - B. **Workshop:** Kurt Waldron. No report but He would have been able to make it to this year’s convention.

- C. **Rebelay Workshop:** Gary Bush. Gear is ready for setting up at next year's convention.
 - D. **Website Coordinator:** Gary Bush. The website is up to date.
 - E. **Education Coordinator:** Hazel Barton. Has been appointed Chair of the Curriculum Committee of the ad hoc Vertical Training Committee for the NSS. They have had 5 meetings and are preparing a report for the NSS President.
 - F. **By-Laws:** Bill Boehle. The bylaws have been tweaked to better define voting at virtual meeting.
 - G. **Equipment:** I will be keeping the equipment trailer for at least the next two years. We still have \$400.00 approved for new equipment that has not been spent.
 - H. **Awards:** Currently unfilled. If you know of someone who would be interested, please let us know.
 - I. **Outreach:** Currently unfilled. No report. Gene asked Rachel Saker if she had [anything](#) to report but Rachel said she has not volunteered for this position, but we could talk about it in the future. Keith Conover reported that the NSS website does not seem to have any link to the Vertical Section website. Rachel suggested that the section should be doing more outside of the convention.
 - J. **2022 South Dakota Convention Liaison:** Bonny Armstrong was not present. Gene reported he has been in contact with the convention staff. The facilities are looking good.
 - K. **2023 West Virginia Convention Liaison:** Gene Harrison. No dates have been set yet.
 - L. **Talent Scout:** Gene. We are always looking for new people to help us out. If you are interested or know [some one](#) [someone](#) who might be, please let us know.
 - M. **Symbolic Items:** Crista Hay. Not present. No report. Bill reported we are looking at having one of the vendors be an official distributor of the symbolic items. Bill hope to be able to talk more with them at OTR this year.
5. **Old Business.** No old business.
 6. **New Business.** No new business.
 7. **Elections**
 - A. **Secretary-Treasurer (1-year Term):** Ray Sira has nominated himself for another term. Gary Bush Seconded the nomination. With no other nominations and no objections, Ray Sira was elected by acclamation.
 - B. **Two "At-Large" Executive Committee Members (2-year terms):** Current executive committee members are Gene Harrison (Chairman), Bonny Armstrong (Vice Chairman), Bill Boehle (Member At-Large) and Rachel Saker (Member At-Large). Bonny and Bill's terms are expiring and do not wish to be nominated for another term. Ray Sira nominated John Bowling. Gary Bush nominated Mike Rusin. There were no other nomination and Gary moved that nomination be closed. With no objections, John and Mike were elected by acclamation.
 8. **The VS Business Meeting was adjourned at 10:35 pm.**

Ray Sira

Vertical Section Executive Committee Meetings. 3 follow up meetings were held by the VSEC on August 5th, August 17th, and August 19 to appoint committee chairs. Minutes will be presented in another document. During those meetings the following appointments were made.

Chair – Gene Harrison.

Vice-Chair – John Bowling.

Contest Coordinator – Bill Cuddington.

Vertical Techniques Workshop Coordinator – Kurt Waldron.

Website Coordinator – Gary Bush.

Education Coordinator – Hazel Barton, PhD.

These Appointments along with Secretary/Treasurer Ray Sira and Member At-Large Rachel Saker are the members of the Vertical Section Executive Committee.