

## VSEC Meeting Minutes

December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:08 PM by Vice Chairman John Bowling. VSEC Members present were Vice Chairman John Bowling, Secretary-Treasurer Ray Sira, Member at Large Rachel Saker, Website Coordinator Gary Bush, and Vertical Workshop Coordinator Kurt Waldron and Education Coordinator Hazel Barton. Absent were Chairman Gene Harrison, Member at Large Mike Rusin and Contest Coordinator Bill Cuddington.
  - A. **Chairman** – Gene Harrison: Was unable to attend due to other commitments.
  - B. **Vice Chairman** – John Bowling: Nothing to report.
  - C. **Secretary Treasurer** – Ray Sira: A motion was made to except the minutes as posted from the August 5<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> VSEC Meetings. Motion was passed with 1 abstaining.
  - D. **Member At Large Reports**
    1. Rachel Saker: Talked about how many young people can't attend the conventions but still would like to part of what is going on.
    2. Mike Rusin – Not present, no report.
2. **Committee Reports**
  - A. **Education** – Hazel Barton: Is hoping to write the report on the vertical training questionnaire soon, after some other work related business is finished. Hazel will have more to report under new business.
  - B. **Vertical Contest** – Ray Sira: Gene has photos of the space for the 2022 NSS Convention vertical activities. Ray questioned that the high ceilings may create a challenge for rigging (we may not have enough long ropes). Bonnie Armstrong was the 2022 convention liaison but Gene has also been working with the convention staff. Rachel suggested adding other events to the contest. Gary said we have tried that in the past but it is not always possible to get enough help. Ray asked for everyone to talk to members of their Grotto and encourage them to come and help with running a stop watch for a while, even if they are not climbing.
  - C. **Vertical Workshop** – Kurt Waldron: We may be able to borrow some longer ropes for the workshop. Gary mentioned borrowed ropes could be a liability issue. Rachel suggested reaching out to other rope manufacturers for donations of ropes. Kurt is confident we can come up with the ropes we need.
  - D. **Rebelay Workshop** – Gary Bush: The gear has been cleaned and inspected. Hazel asked if it would be possible to set up a rope course in the nearby trees. Gary said this is always a possibility. Ray said it is nice to have it close proximity to the climbing contest. Hazel said she will be in the area before the convention and could look at the site. She will check with Bonnie and Gene.
  - E. **Website Coordinator** – Gary Bush: In the past we have published the meeting minutes in the Nylon Highway. He would like to move them to their own separate page on the website. Ray suggested having a link to the Vertical Section's Google Docs page where he is storing the minutes, so that we only need to update them in one place.
  - F. **By-Laws** – Bill Boehle: No report. Ray will invite him to the next meeting. John questioned what the By-Laws committee does.
  - G. **Equipment** – Ray Sira: The trailer is at his new house and he will be taking it to the next two conventions. We still have \$400 allocated to new equipment.
  - H. **Awards** – Position is not currently filled. No report. Last award was to Bruce Smith. Ray asked if we could have a list of previous award recipients on the VS website. It may take some work to come up with a list. Rachel may be interested in taking on this position.
  - I. **Outreach** – Position is not currently filled: No report.
  - J. **2022 Convention** – Already discussed.

**3. Old Business**

**A.** No old business.

**4. New Business**

**A. NSS Vertical Training Commission** – Hazel Barton: The charter has been unanimously approved by the NSS BOG and sent to the VSEC members. A number of Vertical Section members were involved in writing it. The national coordinator will be Ron Miller and the education coordinator will be Hazel Barton. Tomorrow they will start the process of appointing people to the Board of Regional Coordinators. The board will consist of the national coordinator, the education coordinator, a secretary/treasurer and 6 regional coordinators. The goal is to have the board seated by January and start working on the by-laws. Another goal is to have the first training in time for this year's convention but that may be too soon.

**B. VS/VTC Coordination** – Hazel Barton: The Vertical Section has a tremendous tradition in the NSS. The attention that the VTC has gotten over the last year can only be good for the Vertical Section. If we don't embrace this we could be left behind. The VS can be the conduit to funnel people to the VTC. The VTC currently will have no presence at the convention. The VS should be the place for people to bring forth and discuss ideas. The VTC also does not see itself running vertical workshops at the conventions. John sees the Vertical Section at a fork in the road where we could become irrelevant. Gary said it is important that we make it clear to the VS membership that we fully support the VTC. Rachel says the VS need to dramatically change its ways or become irrelevant. Hazel sees the VS and VTC being close partners. She also thought the VS meetings should be more like the US & International Exploration meetings.

**C. Side Note:** The 2022 convention has a scissor lift.

**D. Next Meeting** – February 9<sup>th</sup> will be the next meeting.

**5. Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 pm.