

Desert Survivors Annual General Meeting 10/19/15

DRAFT MINUTES

Mission San Antonio de Padua, Jolon, CA

I. Call to Order, Establish Quorum, Advise Board absences

Board member and chair pro temp Nick Blake called the meeting to order at 10:12 am; established a quorum; and, announced Board absences of Michelle Bashin (President); Gerry Goss (Managing); and, Dave Halligan (At Large).

Related Attachment: Sign-In Sheet

II. Minutes of AGM 2014

Secretary Norma Wallace distributed copies of the draft agenda and draft AGM 2014 minutes. Nick called for additions to the agenda; there were none. One correction to the Minutes (to spelling) was requested. Bob Lyon offered a motion to accept the minutes as corrected; Martina Konietzny seconded; approval was unanimous.

Related Attachments: 2015 AGM Draft Agenda and Corrected 2014 AGM minutes

III. Finances 10:20 am

In the absence of Managing Director Gerry Goss, Norma distributed copies of the 2014-2015 financials Gerry had distributed to the board at a recent meeting. Nick presented a verbal summary of highlights, including:

REVENUE: most income is seasonal, reflecting the renewal activity each Spring including member dues and donations. The AGM 2014 received a sizeable donation. Renewals were \$11,115 and \$4,441; Extraordinary Donation of \$870; Total member revenue of \$18,139 and Trip Donations of \$526.

EXPENSE: Insurance was \$3,771 and The Survivor, \$3,331.

DISCUSSION: A question arose regarding Directors & Officers insurance followed by a comment regarding lawsuits. Maritza added that members provide in-kind donations and other support; Marisa and Gerry each donated \$250 to DS for this AGM. Kelly Fuller asked whether in-kind donations are tracked, so they can be reported for fundraising. Bob Davis commented that covering exploratory trip costs would support trip leaders. Glee Willis requested service trips.

Related Attachment: 2014-2015 Financials

IV. Activities 10:38 am

Activities Director Bob Lyon reported there are generally 5-6 trips per trip schedule; most are full. As the group ages, there are fewer backpackers. Always interested in ideas for trips. Christmas party at Martina Konietzny's on 12/5; 11/14 another Niles Silent Movie coordinated by Marisa Seaman. Bob and Kelly Fuller are leading a trip to the Mojave Trails/Bonanza Spring, which is one of the proposed national monuments. Marisa spoke and offered shorter trips than the dates she publishes.

Stacy Goss announced the Desert Committee is a wealth of information and resources. One meeting is scheduled for 11/5-6 at Mission Creek near Palm Springs. A second is held annually in March in the Mojave. The Sierra Club Wilderness and Desert Committees come together. Stacy requests DS add these meetings to the Trip Schedule. At the November meeting, DS member Kelly Fuller will speak on funding for desert issues.

V. Website/The Survivor

Communications Director Nick Blake reported he keeps the website up to date. There are two issues of the magazine this year. He cannot do the magazine without articles. He needs submissions, members need to write articles; if articles are missing, Nick needs to write articles to fill space. Bob Davis suggests trip reports written "like a letter home." Nick requests articles on issues. Next deadline is 2/4

(2/8?) Articles welcome any time. The publication schedule is: beginning of March; and, beginning of September. Nick is open to articles not printed elsewhere.

VI. Member Communications 10:50 am

a. Member list and Constant Contact.

Kevin share Member statistics: 452 members on the list; 300+ current members. Approx. 50 have no email; there are physical addresses for all but 30; 75% from California, plus 17 states and 2 countries. States include (in order of total members): Nevada, Utah, Arizona, Oregon.

Constant Contact can track activity. DS stats are above industry average for engagement. Thanks were expressed to Nick on providing most of the content. Kelly Fuller inquired as to the rate of member renewal; Kevin affirmed the majority renew.

b. DSOL replacement.

This former tool, it was explained, enabled communication between members. Judy affirmed that (DS member ?) Peter Ruddick had created Geoglyph, a Google group but not a DS project, and that a Gmail address is not required to participate.

VII. Volunteers 10:59 am

Volunteers Director Martina Konietzny thanked all the board and volunteers for helping DS the last year. DS tabled at two fairs in the past year to find new members: the Solano Stroll (9/25) which has 250,000 attendees, and the Berkeley Marina Fair. DS needs new people to be involved. Martina has been on the board 7 years, and does not need to be on the board to continue her current efforts.

VIII At Large 11:03 am

Deirdre Cerkanowicz reported on Facebook activities. She took over the project for DS last year upon being elected to the board, and doubled participation of "Followers." Geographic locations of Followers include Saudi Arabia, California and surrounding states. Facebook is a good way to communicate and Deirdre makes a point of sharing information with and from other groups. She requested Members "Like" the Desert Survivors Facebook homepage, send pictures to Deirdre to post, or post their own. Deirdre is doing her best to promote DS.

VIII. Old Business 11:05 am

Nick invited members to acknowledge the efforts of Marisa in organizing the AGM event, and of Nick for putting together the Year of DS presentation enjoyed under the stars after Saturday evening's potluck dinner. Nick commented that the (this) group exists when things are put in writing.

IX. Election of 2014-2015 Board Members

A – Nominations.

President: Deirdre Cerkanowicz by Bob, seconded by Norma. Accepted.

Michelle Bashin by Judy Kendall, seconded by Karen Rusiniak. Accepted in absentia by Nick Blake.

Some discussion ensued regard the interest and availability of the respective candidates. There being competition for the position of President, Nick suggested a secret written ballot, which he distributed and collected. A team of Nick, Norma and Marisa?? counted the ballots. Nick declared Deirdre the winner.

Managing Director: Gerry Goss by Nick Blake; seconded by Bob. Accepted in absentia by Stacy?

Secretary: Norma Wallace by Nick Black; seconded by Martina Konietzny. Accepted.

Activities Director: Bob Lyon by Norma; seconded by Martina Konietzny. Accepted.

Judy Kendall by Bob Lyon. Declined.

Communications Director: Nick Blake by Kevin Pope; seconded by Michael Wells. Accepted.

Volunteers Director: Martina Konietzny by Kevin Pope; seconded by Bob Davis. Accepted.
There being no competition, each named board position was nominated, voted upon and decided one by one. Each vote was unanimous in support of each candidate.

At Large: Nominees and nominators were:

Michelle Bashin: by Barb Bane, seconded by Nick Blake. Accepted in absentia by Nick?

Marisa Seaman: by Deirdre Cerkanowicz, seconded by Judy Kendall. Accepted.

Kevin Pope: by Nick Blake, seconded by Martina Konietzny. Accepted.

Charlene Daniels: by Bob Lyon; seconded by Michael Scott. Accepted.

Ron Cohen: by Nick Blake; seconded by Martina Konietzny. Accepted.

Dave Halligan: by Norma Wallace; seconded by Ron Cohen. Accepted.

Teresa (_____?): by Bob Lyon. Declined

Neil Cassidy by Judy. Declined.

There being no competition, after the nomination process, a vote was called. The vote was unanimous in support of the nominated slate.

Incoming president Deirdre accepted the (virtual) gavel from meeting chair Nick Blake. Members thanked Michelle Bashin with applause for her term as president. Deirdre asked that the new board meet briefly immediately following the close of the AGM.

X. New Business 11:42 am
AGM 2016 coordination.

Marisa offered to lead the coordination of next year's AGM, which offer was enthusiastically accepted by the membership, with several requests overheard for "come back to the Mission!"

XI. Adjournment

Ron moved and Neil seconded the motion to adjourn. To unanimous agreement, the meeting was adjourned by incoming President Deirdre Cerkanowicz at 11:43 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Norma Wallace
Secretary, Desert Survivors
October 27, 2015