

## **Minutes of WSGA Board Meeting**

**January 29, 2015**

Hydnsek called WSGA's 5<sup>rd</sup> Business Meeting of the 2014 board term to order at 6:37 PM on January 29, 2015.

Board Members in attendance: hydnek (Abby Wolfe), HippyChick1620 (Kristine Norton), Martin 5 (Jerry Martin), mc3cats (Chris Brue), Lizzy (Lisa Wasser), AndrewRJ (Andrew Johnson), GrievousAngel, (Kathy McCormack), Verano (Debbie Patton), Mr. Gadget #2 (Gene Reed), tumbleweedpirates (Mike Lowery) and ClayArtist (Patti Stoll)

Board Members absent: None

Proxies: None

Also in attendance: NepoKama (Mitch Eatough, GeoCoin Manager),

Visitors: Mizdirection (Toni Westgarth), and KD7IEM (Melissa), SirKarp

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Hydnsek welcomed the board members, appointees and visitors in attendance.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes**

Minutes from the December 18, 2014 Board Meeting were approved unanimously.

*Comments*

None

#### **Financial Report**

*Report by HippyChick1620*

December 1, 2014 Starting balance: \$16,544.10

##### Income:

- Memberships: \$1253.50
- Campout refund: \$271.57
- Coin sales: \$34.00
- Misc. sales: \$15.00
- (Total: \$1,574.07)

Expenses:

- PayPal fees: \$51.19
- Order shipping: \$37.03
- USPS: \$334.81
- Supplies: \$234.28
- GPS order: \$1,799.88
- Merchandise order: \$2,688.52
- Pathtag reorder: \$477.00
- Chapter alloc: \$1,448.55
- Coin order: \$2,646.19
- (Total: \$9,717.45)

December 31, 2014 ending balance: \$8,400.72 (\$8,143.38 loss)

Hippyck1620 reported that the most notable expenses for December were our new merchandise, 2015 coin order & the purchase of GPS units, all to be discussed in further topics. For January, income is running ahead of expenses. Something to note: The Puget Sound Holiday party brought in \$817; \$222 in memberships & \$595 in merchandise sales. This holiday party generates the WSGA the most income for an event outside of the APE event.

Hippyck1620 also proposed the following annual budget for 2015 along with historical data for reference:

<b>WSGA BUDGET &amp; HISTORY</b>	<b>2013 Budget</b>	<b>2013 Actual</b>	<b>2014 Proposed</b>	<b>2014 Actual</b>	<b>2015 Proposed</b>
<b>INCOME</b>					
Membership	\$5,500.00	\$4,628.00	\$5,000.00	4,841.50	\$5,000.00
Coin Sales	\$4,500.00	\$3,011.50	\$3,500.00	3,005.50	\$3,000.00
Merchandise Sales	\$2,000.00	\$3,439.31	\$2,750.00	1,796.00	\$2,500.00
Campout	\$2,900.00	\$3,142.00	\$3,000.00	2,471.51	\$2,500.00
Ape Weekend	\$10,500.00	\$15,474.80	\$13,000.00	16,256.00	\$15,000.00
Fundraisers	\$800.00	\$285.00	\$300.00	329.55	\$300.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$26,200.00</b>	<b>\$29,980.61</b>	<b>\$27,550.00</b>	<b>28,700.06</b>	<b>\$28,300.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>					
Postage	\$1,000.00	\$876.96	\$1,000.00	\$945.33	\$1,000.00
Internet	\$500.00	\$262.60	\$500.00	\$265.98	\$500.00
Supplies	\$600.00	\$1,029.90	\$1,550.00	\$929.37	\$1,000.00
Dues	\$50.00	\$42.57	\$50.00	\$20.00	\$50.00

PayPal fees	\$600.00	\$697.84	\$700.00	\$848.78	\$800.00
Chapter Allocations	\$1,800.00	\$1,031.55	\$3,600.00	\$3,348.94	\$2,900.00
Campout	\$3,000.00	\$2,963.88	\$2,600.00	\$2,972.25	\$3,000.00
Ape Weekend	\$7,000.00	\$6,351.58	\$7,500.00	\$12,039.06	\$10,000.00
WSGA coin	\$2,000.00	\$3,721.30	\$2,000.00	\$3,123.19	\$3,200.00
Merchandise	\$3,000.00	\$2,335.71	\$4,000.00	\$6,499.96	\$3,500.00
Small Grant Program	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$2,000.00
GeoTour	\$2,000.00	\$2,192.46	\$1,050.00	\$789.18	\$750.00
NW Trails	\$0.00	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
projectors	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$800.00	\$788.38	\$0.00
GPS units			\$1,800.00	\$1,799.88	\$0.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	\$21,550.00	\$21,756.35	\$27,650.00	\$34,870.30	\$28,700.00

### *Comments*

Hydnsek reminded everyone that this is the best time to push for renewals, especially during winter/holiday parties.

The 2015 budget was discussed and a motion was made to accept the 2015 budget as listed. The budget was approved unanimously.

Hydnsek suggested a change to the budget moving forward, due the developing complexity of the clubs finances. It was proposed that the budget be further delineated into budget categories and line items to increase granularity. Hippychick1620 indicated she has begun to move to implement this proposal.

### **Merchandise Report**

#### *Report by hydnek*

The **2015 Washington coin** should arrive this week from Cache Advance, and will be delivered to AndrewRJ for order fulfillment. We expected it two weeks ago, but the final quality check at the factory revealed discoloration in the translucent enameling, and NepoKama directed a remake. Coin sales should be live on our site as you read this (see below).

Our new **WSGA shirts and hoodies** arrived in December. As previously noted, the TB version of the shirts had an error, so they had to be remade (at the vendor's cost). Since they didn't want the error version back, we are selling the trackable shirts as "buy one,

get one free" and giving customers both shirts. The TB shirts are \$17 (\$20 with shipping), so that's a pretty good deal – and we sold quite a few at the Puget Sound holiday party.

At our last meeting, the Board approved a **trackable nametag**, to be made and sold via GXProxy for \$10 plus shipping. We will receive \$2 for each WSGA nametag sold. Our nametag is now available as one option on GXProxy's [Name Tag Trackable page](#). Their page setup makes it a bit confusing to order, but NepoKama is working with Beverly (GXProxy) to make it clearer. We also list the WSGA trackable nametag on our Swag Sales page, with a link to GXProxy's page for ordering.

Our updated [Swag Sales page](#) has seven new items: the 2015 coin, club shirt (regular and trackable), club hoody, WSGA TB tag, trackable name tag, safety whistle, and mini-pen. I provided the updated content to our webmaster, Jim\_Carson, last week, and it should be live by this meeting. We're using a single sales page for all items, including the new coin, so that folks can order once and pay once (we don't yet have a shopping cart) – and maybe buy something else along with the coin. Pricing for most items has minimal markup to be competitive and ensure sales; we will make our money on the new coin and shirt. All prices include shipping, which is figured so that we sometimes subsidize postage for one item, but make it up on multiples (note that we don't lose money overall on one item, as there is some markup).

Finally, I moved that the Board approve NepoKama (Mitch Eatough) as the new Merchandise Manager. As you know, Mitch has been our Geocoin Manager since 2012, but he's been handling more than just coins. The current manager, HippyChick, agrees it makes sense to consolidate all merchandise all under him (and it takes some load off her). Mitch supports the change. Based on the voting that occurred over email NepoKama was unanimously elected as the new Merchandise Manager. Thanks Mitch for all your hard work.

### *Comments*

AndrewRJ indicated that the coins had arrived at his house and questioned when the sales page would go live. Hydnek indicated that the sales page was almost ready to go and would be live in the next few days.

As a continuation and closure of an online forum discussion, hydnek made a motion to authorize a trackable nametag order from GXProxy for the remainder of the WSGA board members who did not receive one in the initial test order. The motion was carried by a vote of ten aye and one nay.

**Following the end of the official meeting a concern and request was presented by Verano and Martin 5 concerning the Puget Sound and 48 North chapters ability to easily sell merchandise at their events.** A discussion occurred relating historic difficulties with placing batch orders, shipping merchandise in bulk for distribution and the difficulties in having merchandise spread across the state for tracking purposes. It

was asked that the merchandise be brought around the state more often so that it could be directly sold. We agreed that this would be a goal this year for officers to better attend events in other parts of the state and bring merchandise if appropriate. AndrewRJ and Hydnssek both indicated that for planned events, every effort would be made to get merchandise for sales. Martine 5, verano and tumbleweedpirates requested additional sales efforts for their chapters.

### **GPS units for Outreach**

*Report by HippyChick1620*

The board voted and approved the purchase of 12 Garmin eTrex 20's. These were ordered in December and received by WSGA just after the 1st of the year. They have been engraved and are currently getting their first test run with GrievousAngel, who is using them for an outreach event.

I am ordering two cases to store them in and once I receive the cases I will ship 6 off to be housed at CacheAdvance for use by our Eastern WA people. The other 6 will remain in our inventory here for use on the west side.

The following report was given by TheWinterTrio concerning the initial test run of the loaner GPSs.

“Armed with the WSGA's flotilla of new loaner GPSRs, GA took on a school of fourth graders and came out smiling in the end!

Today was Science Day at Mill Creek Elementary and GA graciously volunteered to teach 4 classes of 4th Graders all about GPS and Geocaching. There were even 4 temporary Geocaches hidden around the school so they all got some hands on experience. There were some kids in the classes that had been geocaching, but for the vast majority this was their first experience. Half a dozen teachers and parent-volunteers joined in and everyone had a great time. Some of the students said it was their favorite "class" of the day.

So again, a BIG thanks to GA for spending a day at school, and the WSGA for the loaner GPSRs.”

*Comments*

It was clarified that the west side GPS units are currently being stored with HippyChick1620.

### **Small Grant Program**

*Report by AndrewRJ*

The Small Grant Program was started last year as a way to provide funding to support geocaching-related projects in Washington. The application period for the second year closes at the end of January and currently we have no applicants. While this is disappointing I am sure that we will have opportunities moving forward to support this goal.

### **Do we want to extent the application window this year until the middle of February?**

*Comments*

The board discussed efforts to get the word out and then discussed AndrewRJ's proposal.

Several changes to the Small Grant Proposal were mentioned and further discussion is warranted.

Tumbleweedpirates indicated that he knew of one application that would be submitted.

AndrewRJ proposes that the application period be extended for a period of two weeks. The board rejects the proposal with a vote of ten nay and one abstention.

### **2015 Summer Campout**

*Report by LadyCosmic*

Things are progressing with the planning of the campout. Our next step in the planning process is setting up the event page and the registration page. At this time I have collected most of the information needed to get the event page together. I am hoping to have the event page up on Geocaching.com by February 18, 2015. All of the information needed for the registration page has been sent to the Webmaster.

We are looking for people to help us get donations for the door prizes and raffle. I have emailed Kristine (HippyChick1620) and Patti (ClayArtist) to help but we could use a couple more, especially if they have experience.

*Comments*

HippyChick provided LadyCosmic with a few suggestions and indicated she would assist with contacting places.

NepoKama solicited suggestions for the campout pathtag as it was mentioned in the forums that the Torpedo Barn potentially wasn't eye catching enough. The board provided several ideas that NepoKama indicated he could work with. Hydnek requested that a few ideas be developed for review.

## **Ape Mega-Event**

*Report by AndrewRJ*

The 2015 Ape mega-event is Sunday, Aug. 16, at Hyak in Iron Horse State Park.

The event page is up, with 64 Will Attends so far. Following the end of the month we will obtain our insurance binder, and I will apply for the park permit. In addition, notification will go out to the new porta potty vendor to insure we will get what we need.

I have received several offers of help at the event and have begun developing a list of offers.

*Comments*

Hydnsek commented that all the crew chiefs with the exception of one are coming back.

## **Outreach Coordinator**

*Report by hydnek*

At the July 2014 Board meeting, the Board approved my proposal to create an [Outreach Coordinator position](#), who would manage requests from other organizations, maintain our outreach materials, and keep a record of outreach activities. (Full details in the BoD forum thread.)

Pleased to report I've found a candidate. Jenn Holland (Snowflake24) contacted me a few weeks ago about the role, and we've chatted about it via email and at the PS holiday party, and I gave her the description I posted for the Board. She's enthusiastic, understands what's involved, asks great questions, and is ready to go. I feel confident Jenn will do a great job.

The only potential wrinkle is that Jenn just found out she may be going to Japan in April for two years (ESL teacher). However, she still wants to be Outreach Coordinator from afar (wow!), and thinks she can do most of the coordination via email and Skype, and use local folks for fulfillment (as she would anyway). My thinking is that her move isn't definite yet, and we have at least one pending request, so let's confirm her in the role now, so we have someone doing it, and we can work out a go-forward plan with her as needed.

Based on the voting that occurred over email Jenn has the majority needed to be elected, however three members of the board have not voted at this time.

*Comments*

Hydnsek amended her report to indicate that Snowflake24 has been approved by an email vote yesterday.

Martin5 queried if there were thoughts on business cards for the outreach coordinator to give out. This prompted a significant debate over the merits of business cards for the board and other appointed positions.

After some discussion, a motion was made by tumbleweedpirates to produce business cards for all board members. Subsequent voting was split 6 aye and 6 nay. The motion was tabled pending further pricing, design and logistical details. Concern was raised over the lack of individuality on standard cards, but the counter argument was raised that board and appointed positions should be standardized for branding reasons. It was clarified that personal cards created by members would not be restricted in any way. The merchandize manager with possible assistance from others would look into prices and design ideas and report back to the board.

### **Volunteer Awards**

*Report by hydnek*

I gave a full report on the [2014 Volunteer Awards](#) at the December Board meeting, ahead of the announcements and presentations. Most of the Chapter Reps announced their chapter and clubwide award recipients at their holiday parties, and all the award coins have been delivered to the recipients. I posted the complete recognition list, including write-ups, on the WSGA site on January 15, with an announcement on the home page and on our Facebook page.

Congratulations and thanks again to our 2014 Volunteers of the Year – without you, we wouldn't have a club.

*Comments*

Tumbleweedpirates indicated that enjoymoment (Jen Davis) was recognized by the City of Richland for her work on the TriCities GeoCoin Challenge.

### **Unlicensed Use of Ape Image by Oakcoins**

*Report by hydnek*

I've exchanged emails with Hans Nielsen, Oakcoins owner, but have no news at this point, as we haven't had a meaningful discussion yet or connected since the holidays. My goal is to resolve this in the next month, before the Board elections.

*Comments*



AndrewRJ asked that if this issue isn't fully resolved before the new board takes effect, that hydNSEK remains as the point person for this issue. HydNSEK indicated that she would do so.

## **Membership Report**

*Report by Lizzy*

We have had a flood of renewals these past few weeks. Our numbers are off to a good start. We are currently at about 58% of our total membership for all of 2014 and it's only January! We have 15 new accounts since our December report, with 23 total new members. The biggest new member gain goes to the Puget Sound Chapter with 5 new accounts (10 members). We had quite a few renewals come through at the Puget Sound Holiday Party.

The totals for this time last year reflect estimated numbers for family accounts (at 2 per account). This year's totals are exact with most families having more than 2 members. This will skew the comparisons a bit with the conservative estimates for 2014.

The trend for membership is up about 16%, a little high – keeping last year's family estimates in mind. Again for this period, Cache-cadia shows the largest gains over last year's numbers. Congrats to the Cache-cadia Chapter!

I am still in process of mailing out the 2015 member badges. Members should see those in their mailboxes with the next week or two, if you haven't already received yours.

### **Membership Counts and Chapter Breakdowns**

**as of 1/27/2015**

<b>Chapters</b>	<b>Current Accounts</b>			<b>Current TOTALS</b>	
	<b>Individual</b>	<b>Family</b>	<b>Associate</b>	<b>Accounts</b>	<b>Members</b>
Puget Sound	55	39	0	94	170
48 North	17	14	2	33	63
Inland Empire	11	9	7	27	44
South Central	4	6	0	10	20
Olympic Peninsula	7	5	0	12	17
Southwest	3	2	2	7	11

Cache-Cadia	11	5	0	16	21
Unaffiliated	0	0	3	3	3
<b>CHAPTER TOTALS</b>	108	80	14	202	349
<b>2014 YEAR END TOTALS</b>	191	142	19	352	597

Chapters	Totals at 1/27/2015		New This Period		Totals a Year Ago		This Year compare to Last Year	
	Accounts	Members	Accounts	Members	Accounts	Members	Trend	Percent
Puget Sound	94	170	5	10	104	144	↗	18.06%
48 North	33	63	1	1	36	52	↗	21.15%
Inland Empire	27	44	1	1	24	34	↗	29.41%
South Central	10	20	1	2	15	24	↘	-16.67%
Olympic Peninsula	12	17	2	3	13	18	↘	-5.56%
Southwest	7	11	2	2	9	13	↘	-15.38%
Cache-Cadia	16	21	3	4	9	12	↗	75.00%
Unaffiliated	3	3	0	0	4	4	↘	-25.00%
<b>TOTALS:</b>					<b>214</b>	<b>301</b>	↗	15.95%

### Comments

AndrewRJ thanked Lizzy for all her hard work on the yearly transition and working on a serious issues in the membership database.

Hydnsek thanked verano, who identified one of the issues, and Jim\_Carson , our webmaster who has been working on fixing some coding issues relating to memberships.

Mr. Gadget #2 asked if there was a way to identify which members in his chapter were expired. Lizzy indicated that she would only be able to easily pull up a list of *all* lapsed

members, not just from the last year and a more detailed report would likely have to be done by hand. Lizzy indicated she would follow up with Chapter Reps on this issue.

### **Chapter Reports**

#### *Southwest Chapter report by verano*

Our Woodland meet and greet event on January 16 was held in Gilliano's Pizza. I thought the meeting room would be more than enough room, but we unexpectedly had over 40 attendees, so we were cozy! I had a lot of favorable comments, and many attendees brought raffle prizes to donate. Next event will be in February, a Chinese New Year-centric event at the Camus/Washougal Chinese Garden, followed by a Pi Day breakfast event in March at Burgerville in Salmon Creek. As previously reported, there will be a Geocaching 101 class at the library in Stevenson on April 4. I plan to host a Centralia event in the spring and I have a volunteer who will host a Wahkiakum County outdoor event this summer.

#### *South Central Chapter report by tumbleweedpirates*

We had a New Year's Day breakfast event followed up with some group caching. We had a Tri-City coin event meetings. We are working on some surprises currently so speaking about much else would be premature. I am working on a couple assistances now to help me with online meetings and educational outreach. I am hoping to abuse them for a while then turn them over as possible reps if they want. Other than that we are looking forward to the opening of a Krispy Cream in Richland, a Buffalo Wild Wings in Kennewick, and our Tri-City Geo Coin event in Pasco at Sacajawea State Park!

#### *Cache-Cadia Chapter report by Mr. Gadget #2*

Activity has been very quiet during post holiday days. So I have nothing worthy to report.

On the horizon, there will be at least a CITO event soon in East Wenatchee. It is possible a couple of other events could be scheduled before spring and youth activities commence to occupy family time with sports and etc.

We may have to reach out and hold events in distant areas of our large chapter area. It is not fair for folks in the upper Okanogan and Eastern Grant County(s) have to travel so far to events held in the Greater Wenatchee area even though the build of our active members are close to Wenatchee.

#### *48 North Chapter report by GrievousAngel*

Things have been a bit slow here after the holidays. We had a really nice breakfast event at Bob's Burgers and Brew (nice venue--I didn't know that Bob's served breakfast) in Blaine/Birch Bay on Monday, January 19. There are a lot (really--a LOT!) of new-ish caches up there, and Birch Bay is pretty awesome anyway. Most people went out caching afterwards, and we had an amazingly mild sunny day for it.

Stephen Winter and I will be spending January 29 at Mill Creek Elementary School for their annual fourth-grade Science Day. We plan to place a bunch of temporary caches on the school grounds (in the areas that are normally off-limits to the kids during recess) and use the WSGA's new GPSrs.

We're looking forward to co-sponsoring/helping with mizdirection's meet & greet on Saturday and are gearing up for Rey del Roble's Great Balls of Fire event in two weeks.

I am not planning to run for re-election because I have at least one chapter member (mizdirection) who is willing to run.

#### *Puget Sound Chapter report by Mc3cats*

On 1/11/15, the PS chapter had its annual holiday party in Renton. This year as in last year, SirKarp (without NWStinkerbella) did the decorating which turn out fantastic as always. We had close to 100 attendees include a few first timers. AndrewRJ was so kind enough to bring some merchandise which combined with membership renewals, the club hauled in over \$800! The new shirts and hoodies were a big hit! As upcoming events go, I have two planned. The first one, which is already listed is on 2/21/15 (GC5K7BY) in the Greenwood Neighborhood of Seattle at a wonderful pizzeria. My last event as chapter rep will be at the place I had my first, down in Tacoma in March. This event is not yet listed but will be next month.

#### *Olympic Peninsula Chapter Report by ClayArtist*

On January 4th, we had our holiday party, which was well-attended by 45+ geocachers and a good time was had by all. We had a special guest, a young geocacher having her first birthday, and we all sang the birthday song, for her. What a look she had! I had a fall on the tile floor, as I was setting up, that cast a bit of a pall on it, for me, and had me a bit crippled for two weeks. Healing well, now, though, and expect no long term problems.

One of our local geocachers, DiscGolfBirdie, is planning an event in March: Pi Day Pie Exchange. Other than that, all is quiet on the OP front.

#### *Inland Empire Chapter report by Martin 5*

**Past Chapter Events:**

3rd Annual IE Chapter WSGA Christmas Party GC5H1E3 was held on 12/20/2014 26  
Attended logs and approximately 40+ attendees.

Thank you to Mr. & Mrs. Gadget #2 for coming to the party from the Cache-Cadian  
Chapter to attend. We also had an attendee from France and one from northern  
Virginia.

**Upcoming Chapter Events:**

Mardi Gras 2015 Worldwide Flash Mob- Spokane GC5K025 02/17/2015

9th Annual WSGA Winter Party GC5J51B 02/21/2015

International Pi Day – 2015 GC5JBV 03/14/2015

**Upcoming Area Events:**

4th Annual Pre-Game Tailgate Party GC5K2GP 02/01/2015

by Martin 5 in Spokane Valley

FTF Friday: Caching in the Snow GC5JNNK 02/06/2015

by mineral2 in Lewiston

IT4 Booking Celebration Party! GC5KM8R 02/07/2015

By quadsinthemudd in Spokane

4th Annual Presidential Hike GC5JW1F 02/16/2015

by Martin 5 in Spokane Valley

FTF Friday: March Madness GC5JXG6 03/06/2015

by mineral2 in Pullman

FTF Friday: Off the Beaten Path GC5JXT1 04/03/2015

By mineral2 in Asotin (Washington)

**Other areas of interest:**

Lookout Lisa (Lisa) is still working Spokane Parks to come up with a geo-tour this summer to help promote their parks.

The TC Life (Rich) is still working with Pend Oreille County on a 20 cache geo-tour they would like to set up this summer to promote their parks.

Information was given to both of the above park systems in reference to the WSGA grant program.

CacheDFish is working on setting up a Geo-Cruise to Alaska in September. More information will be given out following a meet and greet on 02/07/2015 in Spokane.

See GC5KM8R listed above.

Geocaching HQ (formerly known as Groundspeak) contacted me directly in reference to a request they had received from the local Coast Guard Auxiliary for a class on geocaching. I will be presenting to them on February 13th.

It has been rumored that there will be a Cache Machine in Spokane Valley in March. Thus far no dinner event has been published and we have not been contacted to verify routes / caches like we did for the Coeur d'Alene CM three years ago.

#### *Comments*

The Chapter Reports were accepted on mass.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Park Liaison Manager**

*Report by Hydnek*

As of Jan. 16, Nicole Bliss has resigned her appointed role as Park Liaison Manager to focus on her family (she's pregnant with her second child).

As y'all know, this is arguably our most important appointed role (part of our founding mission), and the holders have done a lot to build park relationships and support caching on public lands in WA State.

It's also a challenging position to fill, as it requires a blend of skills, temperament, and knowledge. Our [Park Liaison Program](#) thread provides an overview. Nicole had three suggestions - Moun10Bike, Prying Pandora, BenandJayme - all of whom would be great, but all of whom are Groundspeak employees, and based on past discussions, won't want to take this on. Of course, we have nothing to lose by asking them.

If you have suggestions, please send them my way. As the originator and first holder of the position, I'd like to vet candidates to ensure we get a good fit, as Nicole was. If we don't find someone before I leave office, I will pass the baton to my successor. ;)

### *Comments*

The board suggested several other people who may be a good fit for the position of Park Liaison Manager.

## **Associate Member Status**

### *Report by Hydnek*

As the 2015 memberships roll in, both Martin 5 (IE) and Verano (Southwest) have raised the issue of adding family memberships for Associate members. Inland Empire has families who live in Idaho, and Southwest has folks in Oregon. Plus, we have scattered Associate members in British Columbia and other locations, who may be individuals or families.

So, it's time to revisit our handling of Associate memberships. As the person who introduced Family memberships in 2011, here are some background and suggestions for us to discuss and reach a decision.

### **Background**

Associate members are currently defined as follows (from our [membership/dues page](#)):

Associate, \$12. Out-of-state members; all benefits as Individual accounts except voting rights.

Historically, WSGA had two categories of membership, Individual and Associate. When we added the Family membership option in 2011, we discussed how to handle Associate memberships, and decided to treat them as Individual to keep it simple.

- At the time, we had few Associate accounts, and they were mostly individuals, so it seemed an easy call. Until now, no Associate member requested anything different, so we focused on our primary, Washington-based members.
- With so few Associate accounts, it seemed dicing things finely, and creating more work for the membership manager, to create two categories for them, each with a handful of memberships (maybe 3-6). (Keeping in mind that our other two membership categories, Individual and Family, have 140+ accounts.)

But we have grown, and now have more members just across state borders - a tribute to the robustness of our club.

### **Proposal for Membership Change**

So, it's time for a change. Based on feedback from the affected chapter reps, officers,

and members, I propose we split the Associate Member category in two: Associate - Individual and Associate - Family. Dues and benefits would be the same as the primary Individual and Family categories, except Associates don't have voting privileges (for Board elections).

The Board is currently discussing this proposal in the Board forum and email.

### **Next Steps**

If the proposal passes, there are several operational changes needed for the revised Associate categories to take effect:

- It will require a [Bylaws](#) change, specifically to Article 3.3 on categories of membership. Once we vote on the changes, I can update the Bylaws. Here's my recommendation (green is proposed revisions) for the changes:  
3.3 - WSGA has **four** categories of membership:
  - Individual Membership - one person, Washington State resident.
  - Family Membership - two or more people under one account, Washington State residents.
  - **Associate Membership Individual - individual account with residency outside Washington State.**
  - **Associate Membership Family - group account with residency outside Washington State.**
- The [Membership page](#) will need to be updated to reflect the split Associate categories. Both categories and dues schedule would need reconfiguring. I can work with Jim Carson on this; will require some database changes.
- The [Member database](#) will need updating with Jim Carson's help - splitting the Associate category into Assoc-Ind and Assoc-Fam (suggested names for brevity). Then assign all the memberships currently in Associate to the correct new categories. (If any are unknown, like lapsed ones, put them in Assoc-Ind.) Lisa would manage this with Jim Carson's help.

The [Why Join WSGA?](#) forum topic and the [Membership Benefits Flyer](#) (PDF with member forum) will need to be updated. I can do that, as I did the current ones.

### *Comments*

Verano and Martin5 thanked us for discussing this topic as it was important to their membership.

Tumbleweedpirates asked several clarifying questions that were answered concerning who qualified and how that would factor into their chapter allotments. It was answered that associates membership of either type is identical to regular membership, except without voting rights. Chapter allocations would reflect the additional family membership.

A motion was made to change the bylaws as stated above and add an Associate Family category. The motion was approved unanimously.



## Elections

*Report by HydNSEK and Lizzy*

It's time for our annual Board elections. As you know, all Board members serve for one year, with elections held each March for terms running April 1 to March 31. There are 11 elected positions: 4 officers and 7 chapter reps. The officers can come from anywhere in Washington, while Chapter reps must reside in their chapter area.

Tonight, we'll open nominations for the 2015 Board election. The nomination deadline is Feb. 15, and elections will be March 1–15. If there are no contested positions, we can approve the slate by acclamation.

The Vice President is in charge of the election process. This year, that's Lizzy. The first order of business is forming the Nominating Committee, which is comprised of the Vice President and two other Board members. Its functions are to solicit nominations for all positions and to verify that all nominees are current WSGA members, understand the responsibilities, and accept their nomination.

### *Comments*

Lizzy called for volunteers for the nominating committee. GrievousAngel and HippyChick1620 agreed to assist.

Lizzy asked if any of the current board members were planning on running again for their current positions. HippyChick1620 (Kristine Norton), Martin 5 (Jerry Martin), Lizzy (Lisa Wasser), Verano (Debbie Patton), Mr. Gadget #2 (Gene Reed), tumbleweedpirates (Mike Lowery) and ClayArtist (Patti Stoll) indicated they were running again in their current positions.

HydNSEK (Abby Wolfe), mc3cats (Chris Brue), AndrewRJ (Andrew Johnson) and GrievousAngel (Kathy McCormack) all indicated they were stepping down.

Mc3cats nominated SirKarp as Puget Sound Chapter Representative. HydNSEK nominated AndrewRJ as President. GrievousAngel nominated mizdirection as 48 North Chapter Representative.

SirKarp, AndrewRJ and mizdirection all accept their respective nominations.

The board express their pleasure that only one position (secretary) currently has no one running prior to opening up the nominations to the rest of the WSGA. HydNSEK indicates that she will publicizing the opening of nominations shortly.

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The meeting was adjourned by HydNSEK at 8:47 PM.