

Minutes of WSGA Board Meeting

January 30, 2014

Hydnsek called WSGA's 5th Business Meeting of the year to order at 6:45 PM on January 30, 2014.

Board Members in attendance: hydnek (Abby Wolfe), HippyChick1620 (Kristine Norton), jcar (Jim Bertrand), Martin 5 (Jerry Martin), mc3cats (Chris Brue), Geek&Gopher (Ray Harrison), idajo2 (Jo Dunn), Mr. Gadget #2 (Gene Reed), Kathy McCormack (GrievousAngel)

Board Members absent: benandjayme (Ben Hewitt), tumbleweedpirates (Mike Lowery; unable to login to meeting chat due to technical difficulties with Java update)

Proxies: HippyChick1620 for benandjayme

Also in attendance: NepoKama (Mitch Eatough, GeoCoin Manager), Sunshine Geo (Angie Harper, 2014 Campout Host), Jim_Carson (Jim Carson, Webmaster)

Visitors: CacheDFish

Hydnsek welcomed the board members and visitors in attendance.

BOARD MEMBER CHANGE

Psykokiwi resigned as Vice President on Jan. 11 for personal reasons. At hydnek's request, jcar (previous Vice President) agreed to return to finish out the term. The Board approved his appointment unanimously on Jan. 11. Jcar will be responsible for membership and the upcoming elections.

OLD BUSINESS

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the December 12, 2013 Board Meeting were approved unanimously.

Membership

Report by jcar

Jcar reported the 2013 end of year membership totals along with totals from the prior two years for comparison:

Year	Individual	Family	Associate	Total Paid Accounts	Total Members
2013	189	142	16	347	489
2012	213	153	13	379	532
2011	258	107	11	376	483

Jcar reported the Membership Count and Chapter Breakdown:

Chapters	Individual	Family	Associate	Total Accounts	Total Members
Puget Sound	63	40	1	104	144
48 North	20	16	0	36	52
Cache-Cadia	6	3	0	9	12
Inland Empire	9	10	5	24	34
Olympic Peninsula	8	5	0	13	18
South Central	6	9	0	15	24
Southwest	5	4	0	9	13
Unaffiliated	0	0	4	4	4
Totals as of 1/30/2014	117	87	10	214	301

Jcar reported that the only difference he noticed from last year were several more associate members had renewed and family memberships were just a few behind. The club was just three total members short of where we were last year, so jcar thought we were right on track and that we look to be in good shape. We have a good core, as in prior years we need to figure out how to keep those members who come and go.

Jcar also reported that his first goal when he started membership a couple of weeks ago was to get the membership packets out. This is an especially busy time of year with renewals. Jcar got all new and renewing members updated, online and in our offline database (mostly used to create badges and for the annual member mailing). Membership packets were sent out to all members who joined or renewed between September to January 21. Those that paid after the January 21 or at events that jcar was aware of were updated online and will likely be sent out this weekend. This task took far longer than expected and put him behind on the rest.

The second goal, as asked by a couple of board members, was to perform an audit of membership to find any discrepancies. Jcar checked every member online to every member in our offline database. He completed this and he will be correcting all discrepancies. They mostly fell into the categories of correct online but not in the offline database, Family members who had downgraded to Individual, and Individual members who had upgraded to Family memberships.

This task also included going through all the PayPal receipts for the last several months to make sure that all members were accounted for offline and online. Jcar was also

going to perform an audit on last year's mailings to ensure accuracy, but after a couple hours on this, the time it was taking and the few errors being found did not seem to be a good use of time. He will consider other ways to audit this as there were errors but not that many.

Third, we use the online service Constant Contact to send our newsletter. His outstanding task is to get this up to date and resend the newsletter to all those that have not already received it. He hopes to have this completed by next week at this time.

Comments

Several board members thanked jcar for all of his hard work on membership issues.

Finances

Report by Hippyck1620

Hippyck1620 reported that on December 1, 2013 the club had \$15,501.86. Income for December was \$1,617.00, consisting of:

- Memberships – \$1,059.00
- Coin sales – \$268.00
- Other merchandise sales – \$263.00
- Petty cash adjustment – \$27.00

Expenses for December were \$3,833.50, consisting of:

- PayPal fees – \$62.15
- Shipping fees – \$37.55
- 2014 geocoins – \$1,237.50
- Office supplies – \$374.72
- Chapter allocations – \$376.56
- Campout expenses – \$1,745.02

This left an ending balance of \$13,285.36 and a monthly loss of \$2,216.50.

December saw a loss because the club did two things this year that it generally hasn't been able to do in the past: the club paid for the 2014 coins in 2013 so that sales could begin on the first of the year, and we also paid for the campground for the 2014 annual campout. If the club hadn't had those expenses the income would have come out ahead of the expenses.

Hippyck1620 also proposed the following annual budget for 2014:

	2013 Budget	2013 Actual	2014 Proposed
INCOME			
Membership	\$5,500.00	\$4,628.00	\$5,000.00
Coin Sales	\$4,500.00	\$3,011.50	\$3,500.00
Merchandise Sales	\$2,000.00	\$3,439.31	\$2,750.00
Campout	\$2,900.00	\$3,142.00	\$3,000.00
Ape Weekend	\$10,500.00	\$15,474.80	\$13,000.00
Fundraisers	\$800.00	\$285.00	\$300.00
Total Income	\$26,200.00	\$29,980.61	\$27,550.00
EXPENSES			
USPS	\$1,000.00	\$876.96	\$1,000.00
Internet	\$500.00	\$262.60	\$500.00
Supplies	\$600.00	\$1,029.90	\$750.00
Dues	\$50.00	\$42.57	\$50.00
PayPal Fees	\$600.00	\$697.84	\$700.00
Chapter Allocations	\$1,800.00	\$959.55	\$1,800.00
Campout	\$3,000.00	\$2,963.88	\$2,600.00
Ape Weekend	\$7,000.00	\$6,351.58	\$7,500.00
WSGA Coin	\$2,000.00	\$3,721.30	\$2,000.00
Merchandise	\$3,000.00	\$2,335.71	\$4,000.00
Small Grant Program	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
GeoTour	\$2.00	\$2,192.46	\$300.00
NW Trails	\$0.00	\$250.00	\$0.00
Total Expenses	\$19,552.00	\$21,684.35	\$21,700.00

Comments

Hydnsek said that she had reviewed the budget proposal and thought it looked great and covered all our needs, based on past and planned activities. She noted that we could add the LCD projector that the Executive Committee approved for purchase.

Hippyck1620 said that she would add it into the budget.

Hydnsek said that we've had an ongoing need for a projector to use at presentations, classes, and outreach events. The projector will be held by the Merchandise Manager, and members can borrow it as needed for club presentations. She said that if Eastern Washington members need it, we can always ship it back and forth. GrievousAngel suggested that the club might want to get a second projector for Eastern Washington.

Martin 5 said he would love to have one in Eastern Washington. Hydnsek asked if the club should buy two. Hippyck1620 said she had no problem with two projectors, as long as they were shared amongst the respective chapters. She also said that she'd want to be kept in the loop on who had the projectors.

Hydnsek noted that the club is in the best financial shape in its history, and that since we are a state non-profit, we should re-invest in things that support our goals and members. She said she would order two projectors and have one shipped directly to the Inland Empire chapter. The projectors cost about \$400 each, so she said to add \$800 to the Supplies line in the proposed budget.

Given that conversation, Hippyck1620 said that she was asking for approval on \$22,500.00 in expenses and \$27,500.00 in forecasted income. Hydnsek moved to approve the proposed budget and GrievousAngel seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Website Overhaul

Report by hydnek and jim_carson

Hydnsek is working on overhauling our website. She has created a blueprint, and was meeting with Jim Carson, who's agreed to be our new webmaster, and Kevin Norton, who is also signing on as a web admin. Our current webmaster, Right Wing Wacko (Paul West), has been doing it for 6+ years, and is ready to step down. Hydnsek has spoken to all three gentlemen, and they are ready to move forward.

We are looking to move to WordPress and we need to figure out how some current modules, like the database and store, will work with the new technology. Hydnsek is sketching the front end - pages, content, nav - and the guys will be the tech gurus on implementation.

Jim_carson said that the next meeting will go through the requirements and rough costing. He has suggested WordPress because it's well supported and can handle many of the basic needs.

Comments

NepoKama asked whether the new site would have redirects for current URLs. Hydnsek said that there would have to be redirects. Jim_carson noted that if he could get access to the weblogs he would do some analysis on which pages are frequently hit and build redirects from there.

Hippyck1620 noted that the wsgaonline.org domain is paid through 2017. Hydnsek said that we would want to keep both domains for a while, as we will most likely test the new site on geocachingwa.org. She said that she hoped to have it done by the end of March, even if some current modules have to be moved later.

Hydnsek said the new site should have about 50 content pages, a couple forums, and the widgets. A lot of the key content that is in forum threads will now be pages like a normal site. There will be a single, consistent site-wide navigation, not one at the top and another on the left of only some pages. Eventually, there will also be a new shopping cart module.

Merchandise Report

Report by benandjayme and Hippyck1620

Benandjayme reported that the swag sale web page which went live last month has been pretty successful, particularly with regard to the odds and ends we had left of a variety of geocoins. We've now sold all of the leftover 2010 Gold APE coins, 2012 APE event coins, and 2013 APE event coins. We've also sold all but five of the remaining 2010 Silver APE coins.

Mixed in with the strong sales of APE-related coins, we've also had a smattering or orders for hats, 10th anniversary hoodies (most sizes now sold out), 10th anniversary shirts (many still remaining), 10th anniversary pathtags, and APE cachekinz.

Big thanks to Jim Carson for all his help making constant tweaks to the sale page as we've run low and sold out on various items. With his always speedy assistance, we've managed to avoid the need to issue any refunds for orders that we wouldn't be able to fulfill.

Hippyck1620 reported that we have not yet ordered any new merchandise, but now that we are looking at getting a new website with a functioning shopping cart, she thinks it is a good time to start discussing what we want to order. There has been a big request for generic WSGA shirts, and she would like to order some cool water bottles for hiking cachers. Hippyck1620 also bought a cool beanie hat from the Inland Empire chapter

a year or two ago and would like to consider something like that for cold-weather caching. She also mentioned looking at another sweatshirt or zip-up hoodie.

Comments

NepoKama suggested purchasing emergency whistles. He said that GXProxy had anodized aluminum safety whistles with logo engraving available. He said that they cost 55-60 cents, depending on quantity. Several members thought the whistles were a good idea.

Jcar suggested purchasing cachekinz with the WSGA logo. Hydnek said that the club had discussed that idea a couple of years ago, but didn't have the money then.

Martin 5 suggested trackable WSGA shirts. Hippychick1620 noted that generic WSGA were already on the list. Hydnek said that we could offer the option of a tracking number for an additional cost. NepoKama said that we might want to partner with a vendor that already does trackable shirts, since it takes a second custom printing for the tracking number. Hydnek said that our current vendor, Advantage Sports, does trackable shirts. Hippychick11620 said she also wanted to talk to Lookout Lisa at Cache Advance.

Mc3cats suggested purchasing trackable WSGA name badges. NepoKama mentioned that he had posted a possible design for badges a while ago and would love to revive it. Hydnek said that she thought people already had many name badges. She said the last time name badges were suggested, nobody seemed very enthused. NepoKama said that we could do trackable nametags as this year's Ape Event trackable.

Hydnek suggested doing some research and then presenting a proposal to the board in the forum with options and pricing. Hippychick1620 said she would start pricing items and compiling a list in the forum for review. Hydnek said that NepoKama could help with designs.

2014 Geocoin

Report by NepoKama

NepoKama reported that delivery of the 2014 coins has been delayed. Oakcoins was expecting them to ship from the factory in China on January 25th, but they did not arrive in the package shipped to them that day. The factory is currently closed for the New Year celebration in China, and will reopen next week. Oakcoins expects them to ship once the factory reopens, and at this point is guessing that they will get them to us around February 12th. They will let NepoKama know as soon as they hear back from the factory with confirmed dates.

Comments

Hydnsek said that it was ironic we had started this coin the earliest ever, but still encountered delays. She asked the chapter reps to inform their members of the delay. NepoKama said he planned to look at other vendors for future coins, since there have been unexpected delays and other issues with Oakcoins on the last couple projects.

2014 Summer Campout

Report by Sunshine Geo

We reserved 19 RV spaces and the group site for tents at Sun Lakes Dry Falls State Park. We have access to a small picnic shelter and the ranger will provide extra tables for our pot luck. There is an extra large fire pit in the group site for our gatherings.

The prices are:

- RV – \$70 member/\$85 non member
- Tents – \$30 member/\$45 non member
- Dinner – \$7 member/\$10 non member

Hydnsek will be working on the registration page soon and when it goes live Sunshine Geo will have the event page up about a week later.

Sunshine Geo is going to ask Cache-cadia to host the Friday night s'mores and Inland Empire to host Sunday's breakfast.

Sunshine Geo is working with Cache Washington (Tambe) on a design for the campout pathtags. She will post a picture in the forum thread.

Sunshine Geo is working with Mr. Gadget #2 and others to create a sunshine puzzle art of 42 caches just NE of the campground. He believes that the location picked will be spectacular that time of year and that he has great hiding spaces. He will be taking the responsibility to hide and maintain the caches. In addition to the sunshine geoart, Sunshine Geo is putting together a letterbox hybrid hiking tour of steamboat rock challenge to go live for the campout. She will also have information about all the local Earth Caches in the goody bags for the campers.

Comments

NepoKama noted that he would be happy to help with pathtag designs and that we currently have a Pathcash balance of \$100.50, so a chunk of the tag cost will be covered already.

Hydnsek congratulated Sunshine Geo on her work and said she was glad Sunshine Geo was hosting.

Mr. Gadget #2 said people should be prepared for a lot of road miles to get all of the sunshine caches. He said it may be a shock to the locals to have so many vehicles invading their home turf. Hydnek asked if there was a way to warn the locals. Hippychick1620 suggested calling the local chamber of commerce or police department to let them know.

Sunshine Geo asked if there is a protocol for requesting donations. Hydnek asked Geek&Gopher if he could comment on that. Geek&Gopher said that he would share his knowledge with Sunshine Geo directly.

Park Liaison Report

Report by Louie Bliss

Auburn Parks and Recreation reached out to us recently, so Annette of Peach&Pete met with them last week. They are applying for the Small Grant and Auburn would match funds for placing series of geocaches, possibly an official GeoTour with Geocaching HQ and host Geocaching 101 classes in April and CITO's to drum up excitement about geocaching in Auburn parks.

We are super excited about this and it looks like a great new partnership. Also, Louie Bliss is going to follow up with the park ranger at Mercer Slough regarding the necessity of a policy update and whether permission is still required. Since it went so well with the new ranger, sounds like it could be pretty positive. She will update the club when she hears from them.

Comments

NepoKama said that he is also working with Mt. Vernon and Buckley on coins for their Parks Departments.

Mc3cats said that he had recently met with a librarian at Seattle Central Library. They are interested in the possibility of doing a library GeoTour or teen geocaching classes with the WSGA. The Central Library turns 10 this spring and they are looking at possibly looking at doing something to celebrate Seattle's libraries. He said that his contact, Mary, would be getting back in touch with him on what they wanted to do.

Small Grant Program

Report by benandjayme

We made a few tweaks to the proposal for the new Small Grant Program following the discussion at our last board meeting. The revised proposal was unanimously approved by an email vote after those revisions.

We made several announcements of the new program's rollout (WSGA website, WSGA Facebook page, Cachers of Puget Sound Facebook page, etc.) immediately after the program was approved.

Per the approved proposal, applications will be accepted 2/1-2/15, evaluated 2/16-3/15, and grants announced on 3/16. Although benandjayme was not yet aware of any applications that might be submitted, he had heard quite a bit of excitement about the announcement of the program.

Comments

Hippychick1620 said that the board needed to promote the Small Grant Program. The social media announcements have been great, but not everyone sees them. Word of mouth is always a great way to reach people. She asked mc3cats to encourage his Seattle Library contact to apply.

Hydnsek reminded the board that this is a statewide program and encouraged members in other areas of the state to let their locals know about the program. She said she had also told Moun10Bike in case he would like to apply for Northwest Trails.

Hydnsek thanked benandjayme and Hippychick1620 for driving the program forward.

Chapter Reports

Puget Sound Chapter report by mc3cats

First, off, a couple weeks back we had our annual holiday bash and a nice turn out thanks to the lack of snow in the low lands. During our event, we recognized a number of volunteers, but we had a surprise for one special volunteer. When I was done recognizing my volunteers, jcar and I surprised Hydnsek with a very nice WSGA plaque and a couple of coins to honor her service as WSGA President! Jcar and I blind-sided her with this honor but it was a work in progress. Jcar really gets most of the credit for putting the plaque together. Anyway, it was an honor long over due considering the president doesn't get a whole of recognition since the president is busy honoring others.

As for future events, I have one pegged for 2/22 in Burien, a pizza event that I have to get the event page posted.

Comments

Hydnsek said thanks to everyone and that it's been an honor and a privilege to serve WSGA and its members for the past five years. Hippychick1620 mentioned that there is a picture of the plaque in the forums. Hippychick1620 noted that mc3cats and jcar did a phenomenal job surprising Hydnsek.

Hydnsek mentioned that SirKarp did an awesome job with the decorations for the event.

Hydnsek said that she has an event planned for March 30 in Redmond – “hydnek's Retirement Party and 10,000th find” and her annual Cougar CITO scheduled for April 28.

Olympic Peninsula Chapter report by idajo2

Since our last Board meeting, the Olympic Peninsula Chapter has remained in “hibernation” while I’ve focused on medical issues I’ve been juggling during the past year - it has, unfortunately, been a slow process. I sincerely hope the new OP Chapter Rep(s) - whoever she/he/they might be - will be willing (and able) to hop in and energize the cachers in this area! I wish I’d been able to do more this past year but fate decreed otherwise! I’m looking forward to seeing an atmosphere of excitement and anticipation reborn within the OP geocaching community and I’ll do my best to assist the new Rep(s) in whatever way possible.

I was able to represent the OP Chapter at the Puget Sound Holiday Party, in January, and, in spite of a traffic-related tardy arrival, I had a great time - it was great to see old friends and meet quite a few new folks. Thanks Chris and to all of those who devoted their time and effort to - once again - to make that event a memorable one!

As my days as the OP Chapter Rep wind down, I want to sincerely thank my compatriots on the Board. Thanks, too, to Abby, and the Exec Committee for leading the charge with such enthusiasm and vision! And, many thanks to each and every one of you - who (by the very nature of your presence) has made my years of volunteer WSGA experience so meaningful.

Comments

Hydnsek and HippyChick1620 both expressed that idajo2’s presence on the board will be missed.

Cache-Cadia Chapter report by Mr. Gadget #2

Last event was our holiday party where we had two new members join WSGA. Starting next month I will be placing the caches for the Camp out Geo Art series. A CITO will be in April but have not nailed down the exact location yet.

Inland Empire Chapter report by Martin 5

The IE Chapter has had two events since our last meeting: In December we hosted our 2nd annual Christmas Party at a Spokane area Round Table Pizza. We had a great turnout and we had 3 new associate members join from across the border in Idaho and two

new family memberships sign up! CacheDFish also had a laptop set up where people could join or renew their memberships on-line, plus we had paper applications on hand as well.

This month we hosted a 5000 Days of Geocaching event at Cache Advance. Also a great turn out, especially for being on a Thursday evening. CacheDFish was able to secure 10 event coins which the chapter offered for sale post-event to the event attendees on a first come, first serve basis. They all quickly sold at cost.

The IE Chapter-2019s biggest event is coming up in just a couple of weeks on Saturday, February 15th in Spokane Valley. It is our annual winter party. All of you are invited! (GC4AVG9) We are going with an Olympics theme this year and have a link for voting on your favorite IE caches from 2013 listed on the event page. We will also have a computer or two set up for on-line renewals of memberships, as we have noticed we have quite of.

We are in the planning stages for an April CITO, but don't have a location locked in yet.

48 North Chapter report by GrievousAngel

48 North had a holiday party in Marysville in December and a dinner event at a Mexican restaurant in Oak Harbor this past week. Both were pretty well attended, although by different groups of people. I'm planning to have something on Guemes Island (or the ferry dock in Anacortes) on April 19 so we can do the complete Guemes blackout, including the cache that requires a beach walk. I've organized a couple of hikes (under my own name, not "WSGA 48 North")—Lord Hill a couple of weeks ago and Boulder River last Sunday--hoping to get 48 North cachers out on the trails.

The Lord Hill hike was quite well attended; the Boulder River one considerably less so, possibly because of the number of caches to be found (20+ vs. 1), possibly because Lord Hill is a "park" and Boulder River is a "wilderness."

48 Norther ConwaySuz held a geocaching workshop (sponsored by her employer, Snohomish County Water Department) for Snohomish County teachers last Saturday at Cama Beach. WSGA donated a couple of memberships for raffle prizes, and Ranger Tina and I helped Suzi. I told the teachers about the WSGA and particularly the Small Grant Program.

Southwest Chapter report by Geek&Gopher

Nothing going on here and planned. We asked local cachers GeoJerry, the Cackleberry Clan and they said they couldn't do it. We emailed Bears&Me and have not received a response back.

NEW BUSINESS

2014 Board Elections

Report by hydnsek and jcar

Hydnsek reminded everyone that 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, Chapter reps must reside in their chapter area. The Vice President is in charge of elections.

Jcar reported that the first order of business is the formation of the Nominating Committee, which is comprised of the Vice President and two other members of the Board. Its main function is to check those nominated and to contact them to make sure they know the tasks/responsibilities and accept the nomination. Jcar said he would pick two Board members at random if nobody volunteered.

Jcar said he also wanted to get an idea of which Board members would continue in their present roles and who would like a new role. Finally, jcar asked whether anyone wanted to nominate somebody for a Board position.

Comments

Hippychick1620 and GrievousAngel volunteered to serve on the nominating committee.

Jcar said that tumbleweedpirates had mentioned that he planned to run for another term as the South Central Chapter Rep. Hippychick1620, Martin 5, Mr. Gadget #2, and GrievousAngel said that they planned to run for another term in their current positions.

Mc3cats said he would like to step down as Puget Sound Chapter Rep, but if there was no qualified nominee he would run for another term. Hydnsek said that benandjayme had told her he did not plan to run again for Secretary due to his new job.

Hydnsek nominated Lynette Fuge of FugeFinders for Puget Sound Chapter Rep. Geek&Gopher nominated Ben Hewitt of benandjayme for President.

Martin 5 said that he was trying to convince CacheDFish to run for a Board position. CacheDFish said that he would consider, but he needed convincing. Hydnsek said that she would support him for President or another officer. Jcar mentioned that Secretary and Vice President were also open. CacheDFish said that he might want to get a bit more involved so that he could get a better understanding of each role before accepting a nomination. Hydnsek nominated CacheDFish for Vice President so that he would be on the list.

Jcar said he would send out an announcement to the club's members that nominations are open, and the nominating committee will check with those nominated.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:21 PM.