

# Association of National Park Rangers Board of Directors Meeting MINUTES

**October 27, 2020**

5:30pm PT, 6:30pm MT, 7:30pm CT, 8:30pm ET

Zoom Videoconference; or if that doesn't work: Conference Call

- Phone number: 605-313-4812
  - Password: 873615#
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## Attendance (Secretary)

- Members Present: Paul, Bill, Lauren K., Elsa, Reghan, Jonathan, Lauren D., Jeanette, Kayla, Jan
- Members Absent: Tim, Rebecca
- Others: Meg, Chris, Jamie

## Approval of Minutes from the previous BoD meeting(s) (President):

- Approve Past Minutes -Motion Jonathan, Second Elsa, Pass Unanimously

## Treasurer's Report:

- I distributed the financial reports for September, 2020 to BOD a couple of weeks ago. I also distributed the latest budget vs actual spreadsheet showing that we had overcome the earlier projected budget deficit as a result of the revenue generated from registrations and donations from the "virtual" RR43. Based on current projections, we should end the FY with a small surplus. Recommendations:
  - We keep a close eye on expenses for the remainder of the FY and continue to look for ways to generate additional revenue.
  - We abandon idea of producing 1 edition of Ranger magazine as digital only.
  - I will continue to work with the budget/finance committee to review and recommend.

## Old Business (President):

- Review of RR43.0 "virtual"
  - Great Job by RR Committee! Kudos to Jamie, Chris, and Jonathan for bulk of work and being adaptable, finding new platform, etc..
  - Take aways: virtual start time too early for West Coast, new platforms to continue virtual programs in future – possibly regional hangouts, low turnout (?) – maybe include question with rebranding discussion with membership, more exposure with capability to view sessions afterward
  - More evaluations and feedback from membership still coming in
- Status of BOD Election
  - Bill only one with bio sent in so far, need Bios by Nov. 1st

- o Additional nominations: Demmy Vigil for Training

### New Business (President):

- (Wade): Any action needed on email to all of us from Jeel Gandhi about WeNaturalists?
  - o Reghan will try to find out more, connect with organization to discuss if ANPR relationship warranted at next meeting
- (Wade): Discussion with Dr. Will Moreto about a possible research project on Ranger law enforcement.
  - o Tabled for next meeting
- (Wade): Discussion with Mark Saferstein about ANPR assisting in gathering “stories.”
  - o Tabled for next meeting
- (Wade): Should ANPR get a Zoom video conferencing license?
  - o Current subscription using Bill’s, but an ANPR one could be used by any board member
  - o Chris: we already have Google suite available for no extra cost; will put out more info on platform for users
- (Wade): Should the ANPR BOD schedule a “retreat” (a longer - maybe ½-day to 1-day “virtual” meeting) to engage in more detailed discussions about issues, ideas and priorities? Might be a good time to do this soon after the new BOD is seated early next year?
  - o Good idea, will look for possible dates in Jan/Feb
- (Wade): Recommendations from the Budget/Finance Committee (Wade, Chair; Chris Reinhardt, ex officio; Bruce McKeenan; Tom Banks; Jon Lewis; Meg Weesner; Marty Husman; Robert Johnson):
  - More aggressive marketing of Amazon Smile and Giving Assistant funding sources.
  - Reduce emphasis on life member upgrades to Century levels and recommend donations to unrestricted operating funds instead. For those who do want to upgrade their Century status, consider asking them to “donate” an extra amount to help support life member expenses.
  - Donor Recognition:
    - Reduce Century Club recognition in Ranger Magazine to once a year and instead list other donors for the quarter in every issue.
    - Consider establishing level categories for annual donors named after park features.
    - Review the process we are using to “thank” donors.
      - Spread personalized thank you notes across the board to back up Jeanette and Chris.
  - Bill will work on language and Jeanette and Chris will work on new process for after new year.
  - Identify any members out there who have a small business on the side (including authors) who might be willing to earmark a certain percentage of their profits to ANPR for a year. They could get some publicity/advertising in

the Ranger issues, which could help them increase their sales and result in a win-win.

- Tabled for next meeting
- Continue to emphasize donations from BOD (and Committee) members to be able to “set the example” and increase support for grant applications. Also remember that “in-kind” donations of appropriate personal expenses (but not personal time) counts as donation. [Re-acquaint BOD members with Receipt for Expenses form. This is available on google drive in the administrative forms folder.]
- CARES ACT for Tax Year 2020 allows up to \$300 above-the-line donations to ANPR while not requiring itemized tax return.  
<https://www.1040.com/blog/2020/4/3/covid-19-relief-strategy-cares-act-allows-300-above-the-line-charitable-donation-deduction/> Good time to remind membership that they can donate and take advantage of that with standard deduction.
- Increase advertising in Ranger magazine and on ANPR website.
  - Chris available to recruit advertisers on commission basis.
- Explore potential for merchandising ANPR-related items, particularly those that can be sold without accruing an inventory.
- Assure that transfers to and from the Vanguard investment account are completed in accordance with the ANPR by-laws. [NOTE: this should no longer be an issue with the capability to directly transfer funds between Vanguard and Wells Fargo.]

### Reports:

- President:
  - Excellent job on the Virtual Rendezvous folks! We got lots of compliments thanks to your hard work!
  - Met with two Solicitors from the NPS/DOI Ethics Office to discuss who we are, what we do and how we do business. It was a short, substantive and positive meeting, setting the stage for working together to keep us all on track as we move forward.
  - As with everyone else, a lot of time this month was spent preparing for the Virtual Rendezvous.
- Treasurer:
  - Renewal applications for ANPR’s official name and the logo have been submitted to the US Patent and Trademark Office by the legal firm Steptoe and Johnson (pro bono). The applications are in Google Drive.
  - Updated Independent Contractor Agreement with Melissa DeVaughn (Ranger Magazine Editor/Designer) has been signed to be effective November 1, 2020 through October 31, 2021.
- Business Manager:
  - Completed RR 43 wrap up

- o Submitted [Assessment](#) to BOD
- RR43 Manager:
  - o I've been informed that the CVB in Jacksonville has again approved the "grant" to us (in the amount of +/- \$1500) to help offset certain specified expenses at next year's RR.
  - o I will be soliciting for members of the RR44 Management Team over the next month. If you are, or you know someone who might be interested, let me know.
- Education and Training:
  - o Received clearance and further guidance from NPS Ethics regarding mini YouTube project. Attempting to have complete by the end of 2020
  - o Added additional protege to mentorship program. Sent initial welcome and inquiry letter
  - o Participated in ANPR Virtual Rendezvous hosting and developing "dual careers or dueling careers" session
- Fundraising:
  - o Presented at the virtual rendezvous about my trip to Nepal
  - o Wrote letters to Nuun Hydration and Mountaineer Books updating them on our virtual rendezvous - both would like to support us next year, probably with in-kind donations for rendezvous
  - o Wrote to Karen Lee of the NPF to inquire about a \$2500 gift towards publishing next version of Ranger
  - o Looking into applying to the Combined Federal Campaign - deadline appears to be Jan. 31, and we don't want to miss it. Will probably look to Bill and Chris for financial documents
  - o Continue doing little bits of research on possible foundations who we could write to for grants
- Internal Communications:
  - o Continue to mail out ANPR logo stickers to members.
  - o Worked with RR43.0 coordinators to highlight various events over the weekend on social media (Facebook/Instagram)
  - o Highlighted Amazon Prime days as an opportunity to start from Amazon Smile and provide passive donations to ANPR
- Membership Services:
  - o Connected one new member with prodeals
  - o Still working with ExpertVoice to iron out details of member access/promoting the new service
  - o Attended fundraising committee meeting on 10/13
  - o Working on article for winter issue of Ranger
- Seasonal Perspectives:

- o Reached out to new seasonal members before and during RR43 and received no response - looking into if there was an issue with the email, and planning a virtual meet-up (similar to virtual RR hospitality suite)
- o Coordinating with a friend on the George Wright Society board on a grant application for mentorship - looking for contacts, data collaboration with ANPR
- Government Affairs:
  - o Contacted Kristen Brengal, Senior VP Government Affairs, NPCA regarding a scheduled House NR Oversight & Investigations Subcommittee Hearing on “Police Cameras at DOI: Inconsistencies, Failures and Consequences” for 9/29/20. I received data regarding use of body-worn cameras (BWC) from WASO. For the “Green & Gray” side of NPS, 1,026 commissioned rangers currently utilize them in 106 parks. Although not mandatory, many parks have chosen to use this tool. Commissioned Rangers were surveyed in 2018 with 88% believing they are a useful law enforcement tool, 91% believe that the use of BWC will protect them if accused of misconduct, and 92% stated that use of BWC enhances their ability to collect evidence. This data was provided to ANPR/CPANP member Jim Northup as an expert witness during the virtual hearing. I watched the hearing and most of the testimony focused around the death of Bijan Ghaiser by USPP in 2017. USPP does not utilize BWC.
  - o ANPR supports the use of BWC for both commissioned Park Rangers and USPP officers.
  - o Prepared for and participated in the virtual Ranger Rendezvous 43.0. Moderated a session on the 9th WRC in Nepal with two of the four ANPR WRC scholarship recipients. It was an inspiring and fun RR. Congratulations to the RR Planning Committee for a job well-done!
- IRF Liaison:
  - o Two presentations with international themes were made during virtual Ranger Rendezvous 43.0. Lauren Kopplin and Jeanette Meleen gave slide shows of their experiences at the 9th World Ranger Congress in Nepal last year. Jeff Ohlfs and Mike Lynch talked about the International Ranger Federation and the Ranger Foundation (charity focused on Latin America). Former liaison Rebecca Harriet and I helped invite and coordinate the talks.
  - o I started inviting interested ANPR members to form an “International Committee,” and I will be collecting names and contact information for more. I would like to have a committee of 10-12 people who can lead and liaise on the annual World Ranger Day, Ranger Relief, the Ranger Foundation, IRF, sister parks, exchanges, and other international activities.

Adjourn: 8:20 PM

Next meeting: Nov. 24, 2020