

Annual NSP Meeting 2010

Date: Saturday, Feb. 20th, 2010

Attendees: Al (South Beach), Pres, BOD of NSP National; Bob (South Beach) BOD; Gene (South Florida) BOD; Pete (Central Park) BOD; Phil (Chicago), Tom (Chicago), Dustin (NYC), Chris (Chicago), Brian (Chicago), Carl (Chicago), Philip (Texas), and Bernadette (South Beach)

Location: Royal Palm Hotel, South Beach - Miami Beach, Florida

Start time: 4:30 PM

Minutes: Bernadette

Topics Discussed

Financial Status: Pete reported that NSP National currently has two bank accounts, one with Bank of America (BOA) and one with a small local bank in Boston (BB). Balances are listed below:

BOA - \$2,500

BB - \$3,499.65

Expected expenses

for year 2010 - \$2,500 for insurance plus tee-shirts costs

Incorporation Status: Bob reported that NSP National is currently registered as a Not-For-Profit Corporation with the State of Florida. This was done in June of 2009 by Bob Wright. NSP National was originally incorporated in New Jersey but the filing fees had not been paid for several years so there would have been a hefty fine to reactivate the corporation in that state.

Insurance Issues: Pete reported that the 2010 insurance policy will be renewed on April 1, 2010. The insurance coverage will now run from April 1st to March 31st going forward, with no gap for winter months as in past policies. Other insurance issues discussed included waivers and protective gear. The outcome was as follows:

- Participants in group skates with NSP escort should have signed waivers and insist that participants wear helmets.
- Braking clinics offered by the NSP should have signed waivers and insist that participant's wear full protective gear.

- Two or more generic waivers will be posted on the NSP National website to be used and shared by all NSP Chapters.
- A detailed copy of the NSP Insurance policy will be posted on the NSP National website so that everyone knows what is and isn't covered by the new policy.

Chris's Addendum to Braking clinics: *I didn't see the correction in the (previously revised) minutes regarding helmet requirements for stopping lessons. My opinion is that it should read as follows, based on what's in the insurance document:*

- *Braking clinics offered by the NSP should have signed waivers and insist that participants wear helmets.*

Don't get me wrong - I completely support and almost always wear full protective gear, but that's not what the insurance document says. I just think the message should be consistent, that's all.

Gene's Addendum to Insurance Issues: *We can ask that participants in group skates with NSP escort sign a waiver and wear a helmet, however we can't prevent anyone from joining a group skate on public roads(at least in Florida) if they refuse. An example of this happen during the last Great EsSkate (NSP and police escorted) when some unregistered helmetless skates joined the group. The police told me I could not keep them from skating in the group because they were on public roads. So to insist on something we have no control over its compliance is counterproductive. On the other hand we can insist that anyone doing our braking clinic wear protective gear during instruction. However as a practical matter I would prefer to teach someone without a helmet (if they sign a waiver acknowledging they don't have, or refuse to wear a helmet) how to stop rather, than let them fend for themselves.*

Chris's Addendum to Insurance Issues: The only other question I have about insurance is whether our coverage is based on a particular document (e.g. our certification manual?) to determine which "skating activities" are covered. In other words, are braking lessons the only skating activities covered, or are street skates, trail skates, and whatever else we might come up with etc. also covered, as long as participants wear helmets and sign the waiver?

Dues & Registration: The BODs discussed annual membership dues and a motion was passed - three to one - to keep dues at \$25 rather than lowering them to \$20. The BODs also discussed the deadline for 2010 registration and a motion was passed unanimously to set the deadline at April 1st to coincide with the new insurance policy. The BODs also agreed to include new Tee-shirts with this year's membership.

Gene's Addendum to Dues & Registration: *My motion (which was defeated) was to suspend dues until a program or programs were put in place to use the funds we already have. However the motion to buy t-shirts and include their distribution as part of the \$25 dues for 2010, removes much of my concern.*

Tee – Shirts and Other Accessories: Tom reported on various fabrics, styles, setups, and costs for new tee-shirts. This topic was hotly debated and a consensus was finally reached to

go with the Augusta tee-shirt for men and women. The cost will be roughly \$13.00, including printing. Tom also brought a sample of an NSP windbreaker that could be purchased for \$20 (including printing). A discussion pursued as to what type of accessories would be offered to members and deadline for ordering. The topic was tabled until Tom could find out more details. In the mean time, no one was discouraged from ordering NSP accessories for their chapters. Tom suggested that everyone go to the Clothing4all website, which is a company located in Oregon, for the best prices and the right color "red."

Elections & By-Laws: The BODs discussed the current state of NSP National's By-Laws and agreed to come up with a newly proposed set that will be ready for review by the Chapter directors by April 30th, 2010. Two items in the By Laws that need to be addressed are the election process and the "terms" of the BODs. There was some discussion about the current length of the BOD's term. The BODs were almost sure it was two years but no one had a copy of the existing By-Laws to confirm that. The BODs would like to propose in the new By-Laws that the terms be two years and staggered. A separate proposal will be made to the Chapter Directors for approval of this plan and how it would be accomplished. Three follow-up and review dates for Chapter directors were set:

1st review: May 15th, 2010

2nd review: June 15th, 2010

3rd review: June 30th, 2010

Pro-forms: Bob said he has access codes from K2. Gene said that Rollerblade was going to be using a code system this year and he will provide them to us when they become available.

Miscellaneous:

- *Vertical Banners:* The Chicago chapter was planning to purchase vertical free standing Banners for their Breaking Clinics. The banners cost about \$180.00 each. There was a discussion about whether we could raise sponsor money from K2, Rollerblade, and others in the skate industry to defray costs. The issue of using nation-wide sponsors for local banners became complicated. Al questioned what local chapters could offer sponsors in return for their support? There was also a question raised about the durability of the vertical banners. No resolution was reached as to whether these national sponsors will be approached for their support. (Unless I missed it.)

- *Member Development:* The Chicago chapter reps offered some “Best Practice” tips to encourage NSP registration and support. For example, free registration for participating in some “given” number of skating events. Or, instead of free registration, an NSP accessory – socks with NSP logos, brake pads, swag, etc.
- Pete’s “Best Practice” tip was to have an inventory of helmets and gear available at Braking Clinics for new skaters. This would prevent having to turn new skaters away because they didn’t meet the insurance requirements.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM.

Additional Notes and follow-up to Minutes:

From Chris regarding tee-shirts: This is more of an update - Tom has since found out that the shirts themselves (w/o printing) cost \$13-14 (prices have increased since he last checked). So shirts will probably cost more like \$15-16 each.

Response from Bob, regarding tee-shirts: Hi guys, I would like to point out that with t-shirts at \$16, and annual dues at \$25, we will gain \$9 per member, or about \$900 toward our \$2,500 insurance bill. Since we have about \$6,000 on-hand, it won't impact us this year, But it's not sustainable in the future.

I don't have a problem sticking with this year's plan, but we need to come up with an alternative next year.

From Chris regarding waivers: I don't know if you want to mention the need for waivers to cover the use of NSP equipment. For example, if someone comes for braking lessons, uses one of NSP's helmets, and then sustains a head injury, there needs to be some language covering the fact that the person is using the equipment at their own risk.