Board of Directors Meeting

January 8, 2023

Present: Absent:

Ruth D’Alessandro, President Rita Togni

Larry Langer, Vice President

Carole Howe Secretary

Bev Ashcraft

Sylvia Harris

BJ Barger

Carol Thomas

Cheryl Wiseman

Mary Thibault

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Ruth D’Alessandro, President, at 6:45pm.

**Approval of Agenda:** Motion to approve the agenda made by Larry, seconded by Bev, passed unanimously.

**November Minutes:** Motion to approve December 6, 2023 BOD meeting minutes was made by Larry, seconded by BJ, passed unanimously.

**President’s Comments:** According to Gary current membership is down slightly at 1165, with 6 new members in the last 7 days and 19 new members in the last 30 days. We currently have 16 overdue renewals, and 7 pending renewals. Ski trip registrations have almost ended as there are only 3 openings left for this winter’s trips. However we do have the Valle Nevado ski trip to Chile coming up in August 2024. Gary’s forecast continues to be that membership will decline slightly between now and the end of our fiscal year at the end of April 2024.

To Gary’s surprise the weekly “Ski Gram” newsletter “open” rate during the month of December remained above 65% for the fourth consecutive month. However, it is becoming increasingly difficult to find fresh content (articles and videos) to interest our readers. We also have fewer new events to highlight, other than the monthly Happy Hour.

Gary has been receiving emails forwarded from the club office with questions about membership issues. Since the club office is no longer open every day of the week, our members are finding it more difficult to get answers to routine questions and concerns. Ruth is considering asking Gary to create a “chat box” that would allow members and guests to submit suggestions for activities via the website. This would have to be monitored so that nothing would be posted without pre-approval. There are also “chatbot” apps that would allow us to create standardized answers to many routine questions. We will discuss this again at a later date.

As mentioned last month, Lee Negroni, our part time office assistant is working in the SCWDC office approximately once a week depositing checks, answering the phone and responding to emails. On Dec. 26,2023, we added an additional office assistant, Bill Harris who will be working for 4 hours every Thursday. Lee and Bill will be covering the office for a total of 6to 8 hours a week. Larry has continued updating our software in the office. Also, he and Lee have been cleaning out file cabinets and getting rid of outdated office supplies and equipment. Kudos to Bev, Larry, Lee, and Bill for their assistance during the past few months. We have had several unexpected issues to deal with lately: some easy and others time consuming.

**Budget and Finance:** According to Bev, December was a slower month for our western flight trip sales since most trips have been filled. We still have one condo available for 4 skiers in Aspen. There have been some inquiries about this trip but no commitment date. As mentioned previously, we will lose approximately $8,500 on the Aspen trip if no one signs up for the condo. We received a full refund on the Mt. Batchelor trip because we cancelled early.

Our FY 24 flights ski season is about to start with Whitefish leaving on 1/13/2024. All our remaining western trips are full and waitlisted except for Kitzbuhel which has 3 openings remaining. We are finalizing payments for all trips to our vendors according to the contract timelines.

Recently, the prices for the ski trip Valle Nevado, Chile were finalized and the website was set up and enabled for registration and payment. At this time, 4 participants have signed up for the trip which takes place in August, 2024. This will be our first ski trip in the FY 25 fiscal year. Also, we made a deposit for a FY 25 Telluride ski trip.

We are in the process of making final payments for the Windstar Cruise Trip to St. Maarten. We also received our commission check Club Med for the Turkoise trip which was a big success. Indoor Volleyball continues on Monday nights in DC with a second session scheduled from November 20 – March 11. SCWDC’s travel and sports events are doing very well in FY 24 with an increased variety of choices.

We continue to host 2 tennis parties each month from November – March, however we will not have any tennis parties in February due to scheduling conflicts. Our Saturday night parties have been well attended; they provide an additional social outlet for our members, and are a good source of potential SCWDC members.

**Travel Report:** In other travel news, the VBT (Vermont Biking Tours), boat and bike trip to the Netherlands scheduled for April 2024 is full. The Windstar Sailing cruise to St. Marteen in February is also full. The Viking River Cruise scheduled for October now has 2 openings.

**Old Business:** Last month we discussed the survey Sylvia developed for our members. Sylvia was going to discuss with Gary, our communication chair what our next step should be for this survey. We learned there has been a lack of response to the surveys sent out by the club recently, Sylvia has suggested doing a general survey asking members to suggest future activities and locations they would like to consider i.e. hiking, biking, skiing, travel etc. The BoD believes this is a great idea.

**New Business**: Since Covid, we have not had a Volunteer Party. Ruth understands this party is sponsored by the Bod. She would like the BoD to think about what type of party and when we should have one for our Volunteers. In the past, it has been a Christmas party held at P J Skidoos. Ruth has discussed this with Gary and his input is that no one really wants to dress up and no one dances at these events anymore. She is asking the BoD to think about what time of year and what we should plan to do to honor our Volunteers

Please contact your Program Chairs and ask for names of volunteers to consider for awards. If a member is nominated for an award, the program chair should provide a written statement as to the reason for the award.

This year, we have had two BoD members who have missed 3 meetings and one who has missed 4 meetings since April. At a few meetings, we have only had 5 BoD members present which is a minimum number for voting and conducting business. This is a reminder, that we have four meetings scheduled prior to the new fiscal year. Also, please remind Ruth prior to our meeting date if you cannot attend a meeting.

**Liaisons:** Do the BOD liaisons have any new information/concerns to report from their Committee Chairs.

This is a reminder if you have to miss a board meeting you can contact Ruth or any other board member to find out what we discussed. You should not miss more than 3 BoD meetings in a year. Most of our BoD meetings will be via zoom but we will have a few in person meetings at the SCWDC office.

Meetings through the end of the year fiscal year.

March 4, 2024

March 25, 2024

April 15, 2024

**Motion to Adjourn:** With no further business to discuss a motion to Adjourn was made at 8:55 pm, by Larry seconded by Bev and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Carole Howe

Secretary