

Patroller Committee Has Always Sought Only to Strengthen the NSP

On April 23, 2005 concerned Patrollers from three Divisions and five states converged in Detroit to discuss issues of common concern with the operations and governance of the NSP. During that session the Patroller Committee group developed the ten "Desired NSP Changes" below which were immediately posted on the PC website and remain unchanged today. Contrary to what a few disgruntled NSP "leaders" may say, the Patroller Committee has never sought any operational policy changes other than those points stated below. These "Desired NSP Changes" were endorsed by hundreds of Patrollers from every division who signed onto the PC website in 2005.

1. A democratic membership election process for Board of Directors and reasonable term limits are immediately implemented.
2. The NSP leadership is responsive and accountable to the membership.
3. The National Board of Directors long-term goals and objectives are fully transparent to membership.
4. Dynamic two-way communication between membership, National Chairman and the Board of Directors is the norm.
5. A new mission statement is developed that reflects the activity of the majority of Members.
6. There is a unified membership identity that protects the heritage and brand of the NSP.
7. Patrollers receive a fair return for membership dues and understand where the dues are going.
8. There is appropriate "separateness" of the financial and management interests of the NSP, PSIA and NSAA.
9. The NSP champions efforts that provide liability mitigation or insurance coverage for local Patrollers.
10. The average Patroller is aware, informed and engaged in the future of the NSP.

Similar requests of desired change in elections, governance and/or mission were issued by several Divisions and Regions, representing the majority of Patrollers across the entire system in the past year. After a year of activity, the Patroller Committee believes these ten "Desired NSP Changes" are still appropriate and vital. We are happy the election process and term limits changes will be ratified on April 16, and that the word "Members" was added to the mission statement-- but there is much more to do.

Over half of the ten "Desired NSP Changes" are lofty in nature and somewhat hard to measure. With that in mind, the Patroller Committee suggests the following measurable actions that could be taken by the BOD to show real evidence of listening to Members, showing respect for their concerns and rebuilding trust between the Board and Members.

- a. Solidify the "Members Rights" to be ratified on April 16, and review the spirit of the same within the NSP Policy and Procedures, Bylaws, and Articles of Incorporation.
- b. The Board needs to take responsibility for the strategic direction of the organization and provide appropriate guidance and oversight to the NSP National Staff.
- c. Immediately address the critical and urgent NSP governance/management issues: Selection of Board Chairman; Selection/hiring of Executive Director (with input from the line organization).
- d. Conduct a fair and balanced review of all current NSP programs, partnerships, committees, resource allocations and financial status: Dues increase, BOD Nomination process, education materials contracts, on-line registration, etc.
- e. Actively encourage all Divisions and their Division Directors to work together towards a united NSP that is addressing the needs of the organization and its Members. Let the Division Directors know (and the grass roots Patrollers they represent) that they are vital and trusted advisors to the board, respected for their input and guidance.
- f. Strengthen NSP legal counsel capabilities and constructively focus it. For example, build a plan for managing NSP and Member liability (in concert with the NSAA and the government) by utilizing risk management rather than risk avoidance techniques.

The Petition vote and the fact that thousands and thousands more Patrollers voted in the most recent BOD election than in the last two combined, should be ample evidence that more than just a few "rabble rousers" are looking for immediate and comprehensive changes to the direction of the NSP and the tone and manner by which it is governed. The old BOD chose to either ignore or outright fight the Members, and the organization is not better off for it.

The old guard still tries to make the Patroller Committee the problem and chooses to "shoot the messenger" instead of being leaders and taking responsibility for implementing the changes that the membership are asking for. We hope that this Board will choose another path and return the valued "spirit of family and community" to the NSP, and utilize the knowledge, skills and passion of the Membership to aid the BOD in addressing the challenges ahead.

The Patroller Committee is willing to assist the BOD either as a group or as separate individuals to strengthen the NSP system and to unify the NSP Membership. Together we can address the issues that challenge us, and renew our commitment to serve the skiing community in cooperation with our important industry partners.

Respectfully submitted,

The Patroller Committee Team

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