

Pennsylvania State Snowmobile Association
Report on the Annual Meeting
April 27, 2019

The Pennsylvania State Snowmobile Association held their annual meeting on April 27, 2019 at the Ramada Inn , State College, Pennsylvania. The meeting was called to order at 9:10 am by President Liz Krug.

Roll Call Board Secretary Charles Walter recorded attendance as follows:

Executive Board

President	Liz Krug
Vice President	James Wolfe
Treasurer	Arline LaTourette
Secretary	Charles Walter
Director	Don Mosier (absent)
Director	Terry Wood
Director	Richard Hayes

Regional Directors

Region 1	Chuck Thompson
Region 1	Richard East (absent)
Region 2	Vacant
Region 3	David McCarty
Region 4	Vacant (east)
Region 4	Larry Martin (west)
Region 5	Travis Mathna (absent)
Region 6	Nathan Eckhart (absent)
Region 7	Vacant
Region 8	Janet Auker
Region 8	Doug Blanch
Region 9	Tim Holtz (absent)
Region 9	Randy Green
Region 10	Vacant
Region 11	Scott Watkins (absent)
Region 12	Clinton LaTourette

Approval of Minutes Board Secretary Charles Walter reviewed the minutes from

The 2018 Annual Meeting. Chuck Thompson moved to accept the minutes as written. Motion seconded by Jim Wolfe. Motion to approve the minutes for the 2018 Annual Meeting passed.

Welcome to the Conference President Liz Krug addressed the audience welcoming all attendees to our annual meeting. Liz noted that 99% of those present volunteer to help out at PSSA functions and activities. This is in spite of the fact that many have full time jobs or have to travel a long distance to volunteer. She extended a big "Thank You" to all who volunteer and support the PSSA.

Treasurer's Report Board Treasurer Arline LaTourette reported 2018 financial data as follows :

	Income	Expenses	Net
Operating Fund	130,692	102,898	27,363
Grants	38,821	39,897	- 1,006
Snow Angel	2,265	00	2,265
PowerSports Show	62,383	43,682	18,915
Totals	171,348	142,785	28,683

Arline noted that revenue from the annual PowerSports Show was down from the previous year (\$62,383 vs \$76,300) however; expenses were more controlled so the actual profit was in line with the prior year. She also pointed out that we are presently waiting for \$16,000 due from Pa DCNR for the mini grant program. The current checking account balance is \$8,300 with most of that earmarked for the Snow Angel program.

Membership in the PSSA for the year was up and her message to all was continue to support our organization; grow the membership and support all raffles.

Committee Reports

Safety Liz Krug reviewed the accident and safety statistics compiled by Pa DCNR for the past season. In 2018 Pennsylvania had 32,215 registered snowmobiles with an additional 3,654 limited registrations for a total of 35,869.

Liz noted that there has been a big improvement in accident statistics between 2009 and 2019. In 2009 there were 28 reported accidents resulting in 5 fatalities while in 2019 that number had decreased to 4 accidents with 0 fatalities. The last snowmobile fatality in Pennsylvania occurred in

2017. No conclusions were made for this dramatic improvement in snowmobile related accidents.

Web Cameras Steve Matscherz reported the Marienville Snowmobile Club webcam had died and the club was able to purchase a new one with funding provided by PSSA. Jim Wolfe stated that the club has decided to donate \$225 back to the PSSA. Liz added that in the past year two PSSA member clubs had closed. The PSSA has received financial donations from these clubs and those monies will be used to help offset the cost of future web camera demands.

Snow Angels Rich Hayes reported there was currently over \$5,000 in the Snow Angels Fund. Rich stated the committee has not received any requests for awards and urged members to submit award nominations for eligible individuals to the committee. David McCarty suggested we consider needy elderly people for future awards.

Public Affairs Kathy Woolever reported as of April 2019 the PSSA had a total of 1,644 members. This included 118 premium memberships and 8 complimentary memberships. That is an increase of 134 over a similar period in the previous year. Liz mentioned that a number of clubs that receive PSSA grants have a minimal number of PSSA memberships and do very little to promote the PSSA. She added that member clubs need to include the PSSA on their web sites and post PSSA signs in their club houses. Chuck Thompson suggested clubs include a PSSA flyer with their annual membership applications.

The question came up concerning our ability to obtain email addresses and applicant information from DCNR supplied registration data. In the past DCNR has stated they are not able to supply that information. Henry Hartman suggested we should explore this more as he felt it still might be possible to get some registrant information from the Department.

Pa Powersports Show Kathy Woolever reported that the Committee has started actively working on the 2019 Show. This year the show will again be held at the Lebanon Valley Convention Center from October 25 through October 27, 2019. Blizzard and F&S Yamaha have returned as the major show sponsors. with all vendors offered additional advertising exposure on the PSSA website.

Keystone Snowmobiler Sub-committee Terry Wood reported that the April issue of the Keystone Snowmobiler would be the last print issue of the monthly news magazine. Kathy

Woolever and Maura Donley stepped forward and created a new digital Keystone Snowmobiler to replace the print publication. May 2019 will be the first publication with seven additional issues starting in August and running through February. The new digital KS will be sent to all email addresses on file. This includes members and non members for a total of over 2,600 email addresses where the new digital copy will be sent. Advertising revenue will be split 50/50 between PSSA and Sotactics (Kathy and Maura).

Liz noted all the hard work and committee meetings that were held in order to get this new KS project up and running. She also wanted to thank Henry and Peggy Hartman for their years of service and dedication to the PSSA.

Discussion on the new KS magazine

Kathy Woolever used the overhead projector to show a sample of a digital Keystone Snowmobiler.

Chuck Thompson asked if non members will be able to look at the site; and if so, will there be any type of time limit. Terry explained that there would be a membership application in each issue. He felt that two levels of access would not be practical because of the current low number of email addresses on file and the need to increase those numbers to generate more interest from advertisers.

Steve Matscherz asked what if anything could be done to accommodate members who do not have access to a computer to receive the digital KS. Steve suggested current members might be able to print copies for those who do not use a computer. Steve felt we need some type of hard copy option to offer those that do not use a computer.

Another member felt there were quite a few PSSA members who lacked computer access. He suggested we could send these individuals printed back issues with annual membership applications and/or raffle ticket mailings.

Other suggestions included setting a dollar figure and charging for a print copy and also research what problems other states have faced that went digital.

Finally, one member stated he did not want anything to do with that "electric stuff" Some people just want to relax and sit down to read their KS.

Bottom line Liz noted the new digital Keystone Snowmobiler is a "work in progress" and there will be changes /improvements in it as we move ahead.

Nominating Committee Jim Wolfe reported two nomination for Board of Directors officers,

A vote of confidence was called and by a raise of hands vote Liz Krug retained her position as Board President. Another vote of confidence was called and Don Mosier retained his position as Board Director.

Regional Directors Reports

Region 1 Chuck Thompson stated there were 8 active clubs in the Northwest corner of the state. Weather wise it was not a great snow. Presque Isle SC has grass drags on September 15th; Tri County SC is having a cash raffle and Marienville SC is doing trail work.

Region 3 David McCarty reported it was not a great snow year. Three clubs in Region and membership was down in all three.

Region 4 Larry Martin reported that the Forest County SC logged only 27 hours of grooming; Marienville SC had 70 hours and the Snow Seekers SC did not have a trained operator so they did not do any grooming. Overall not a good year for snow

Region 8 Roger Auker reported that 2 clubs in the region disbanded this year leaving only 2 active clubs in the Region 8

Doug Blauch stated that we need more help at the PowerSports Show especially during cleanup on Sunday afternoon.

Region 9 Randy Green stated there are three very active clubs in Region 9. These clubs are grooming State forest trails plus some grooming Pa Gameland trails. They also opened a new trail that connects with a trail to a local restaurant. In addition they are continuing to look at a way to open a new 30-40 mile trail that would connect 2 state parks

Region 10 Jessie Berly reported they lost their Regional Director They tried to have a Poker Run but was cancelled the first time due to a lack of snow. The second time there was decent snow and 121 riders signed for the event. One member noted that there is a cell tower within 2 miles of Hyner Mountain but there is no cell service. Felt we need to consider this in making a decision not to offer a printed issue of Keystone Snowmobiler.

Region 12 Clinton LaTourette reported over 25 people attended the groomer training class held in his Region at the NEP Sno Trails clubhouse. He also reported the Ace SC is struggling

to get anyone willing to help out on trail work. Clinton stated that his area had a severe wind storm and he spent over 150 hours clearing trees from the trails.

Bob Kirchner Address

Bob is the immediate past President of the American Council of Snowmobile Associations. He is also a past President of the PSSA

Bob stated that the ACSA represents the snowmobiler interests in 19 snow states. The organization was founded in the 1990's and funded by the manufacturers to address state access issues. Over the years their big advantage has been to access the Federal Highway Administration monies. This month he will be in Washington April 28th through April 30th to discuss state and national issues with our legislators.

Bob noted that there is a new national association known as the United Snowmobile Alliance (USA). He knows many of the leaders in that organization but is not familiar with their goals or activities.

For the past few years Bob has continued to emphasize the need to move forward with a working public/private partnership with the Pa DCNR. The current leadership in Harrisburg is very high on these partnerships and he feels this is a new way to get things accomplished.

Bob extended his thanks and appreciation to Henry and Peggy Hartman for their hard work and years of dedication to the PSSA.

Remarks by President Krug

Liz noted that this past week Randy Green attended a DCNR meeting. Randy reported back that the gist of the meeting was that DCNR has a lot of money available for ATV projects but very little for snowmobiles. Plus any DCNR snowmobile projects take priority over club projects. Not much will be left for grants to clubs. He also reported that starting this year PennDOT will be doing the snowmobile registration for DCNR. There are also talks being held to consider allowing ATVs and snowmobiles on certain PennDOT right-of-ways.

There are federal monies available for some projects but an 80/20 split is required and the monies can not be used for groomer purchases.

Mini Grants Lori Elliott has been helping Julie finish up on our remaining active grants. In the meantime Lisa Vallimont will be taking over as our new Grant Administrator. Lisa is a snowmobiler plus she has a background in grants. She has already rewritten our latest grant application and submitted it to DCNR for a 2nd round award.

In the meantime, Lori will continue to work on closing out all of our older grant awards. Clubs should send any closeout information on these older awards directly to Lori.

Luncheon and Awards Presentations

Following lunch Liz gave everyone a copy of the original Articles of Incorporation for the PSSA dated June 7, 1972.

2019 PSSA Annual Awards

Snowmobiler of the Year	Don Weaver
Snowmobile Family of the Year	The Danyko Family
Snowmobile Teen of the Year	Jacob Hay
Snowmobile Dealer of the Year	Off Road Express
Government Official of the Year	Honorable Ryan Bizzarro
President's Outstanding Service Award	Henry and Peggy Hartman

Special Award made to Ila Morton in memory of PSSA founding President Lowell Morton

Membership Forum Open Discussion

David McCarty started the open discussion with an inquiry into the status of the video productions for PSSA by Video Mike. Liz stated that after two years of shooting videos from different parts of the state the contract with Video Mike was completed. It would cost PSSA around \$8,000 if we wanted to continue.

One member asked what current legislative issues the PSSA was addressing. At the present time there were no endeavors being undertaken. Question asked as to how many members had taken the time to contact their state representatives. Show of hands revealed that only 1/3 of the audience have ever contacted their local representatives. This led to a discussion as to what the PSSA can do for member clubs and club members. Liz stated that the Regional Directors pass down information to the local clubs and serve as spokesperson for the membership with DCNR. In return she felt the clubs should be doing more to support the PSSA

Bob Kirchner noted the biggest problem is PSSA has no money and neither do our member clubs.. What is necessary is a Pa snowmobile registration fee increase. Bob felt DCNR will lend their support to a registration fee increase as will our local legislators provided we put together a doable proposal for them to support. David McCarty agreed that the only way to gain more funding for the PSSA was through a registration fee increase.

Roger Auker suggested adding the PSSA membership and dues to the price of a club membership. Clinton felt that might have worked if we had started out that way from the beginning but too late to do it now. Neither the clubs nor their members will support a \$15 club

dues increase. Roger also suggested that each club could have a fundraising project to benefit the PSSA.

Steve Matscherz felt we should consider patterning our system after the one developed in New York State. Their registration fee is structured to provide a discount for club members plus club membership includes membership in the state association.

Bob Kirchner stated the New York State system will not work in Pennsylvania because of the way our Legislature functions. He felt we needed to go to the Pa DCNR with a proposal for X number of dollars to run the state snowmobile program for them. They would be receptive to this type of plan

Clinton LaTourette stated we need to agree on a starting point and get the clubs involved at the local level. He fears that if we do not start now to develop a plan for a registration fee increase we will wind up right back here next year saying the same stuff.

Liz Krug brought up the idea of a trail permit. Questions on how it might work on private land versus state park lands or in the Allegheny National Forest. What could you charge, how would it work and who would be responsible for enforcement.

Clinton LaTourette questioned if the mapping project was complete. He is going to talk with Glen Kinsley on the correct way to sign and number existing trails.

Dave McCarty stated there is a growing problem with alcohol use on the trails. This past winter while grooming he saw 3 separate accident sites.

Arline and Clinton LaTourette are DCNR approved snowmobile safety instructors. In past years they usually have 20-25 youth in their classes. This year there was only 1. They feel it is because the training is now being offered online. Asked if this is the trend in other states and also wondered if the online test provider had any connections in Harrisburg. Questioned if anyone on the PSSA Board would be able to look into this new testing service.

Election of Officers

Jim Wolfe announced his resignation as Board Vice President effective May 1, 2019

Motion Dave McCarty nominated Don Mosier to replace Jim as Vice President. Motion seconded by Charles Walter. Discussion was held and since Don was not in attendance at the meeting to accept the nomination it was agreed the vote result would be contingent on Don being willing to accept this position.

Motion for Don Mosier to become the PSSA Vice President passed

Election of other officers Motion from the audience made to accept all nominated officers;
motion seconded and passed by a show of hands vote.

NOTE At a later date Don declined the position as PSSA Vice President.

Voucher Raffle

Results of the voucher raffle are as follows

First Prize	Dave Herrholtz	\$4,000
Second Prize	Jason Starr	\$700
Third Prize	Terry Wood	\$300

Breakdown of Income and Expenses from the Voucher Raffle

Income	+\$10,770
Expenses	-\$1,700
Prizes	-\$5,000
Net	+4,070

2020 Annual Meeting

The 2020 Annual Meeting is tentatively set to be held at the Ramada Inn, State College Pa. on
April 27,2020

President Krug adjourned the 2019 annual meeting at 3:45 pm

