

**Minnesota United Snowmobilers Association
General Membership Meeting
Sunday, July 15, 2018
VFW Post 1112, Little Falls, MN**

The Minnesota United Snowmobilers Association held its Quarterly General Membership meeting Sunday, July 15, 2018, in Little Falls, Minnesota.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President Seibel at 10:01. Present were Executive Board members: President Rod Seibel, Vice President Greg Sorensen, Secretary Rick Johnson, Treasurer Scott Wakefield, and Director-at-Large Mark Kavanaugh.

Welcome: By President Seibel

Introduction of Executive Board and Guests- The Executive Board members introduced themselves. Also present were MnUSA Lobbyists Doug Franzen; and Christian Franzen.

Approval of Agenda – Motion by Randy LaBerge, seconded by Scott Haley to approve the agenda with the addition of the 2019 Summer Campout to Upcoming Events. **Motion carried.**

Secretary’s Report -- Motion by Mark LaBaw, seconded by Mike Clevenger to waive the reading of the minutes and approve the secretary’s report as written. **Motion carried.**

International Snowmobile Congress Report: Greg Sorenson attended. His report is attached.

Officers’ Reports:

Treasurer: Scott Wakefield reported on the MnUSA booth at the National Snowmobile Show in Rochester, MN.

Director At Large: Mark Kavanaugh reported that he has attended ACSA webinar and executive board meetings and has been talking with legislators.

Legislative/Trails Report: Doug Franzen reported that virtually all MnUSA’s legislative priorities were included in bills that passed the recent legislative session, but that the Governor’s vetoes negated them so we got nothing and will start over in the next session. MnUSA received kudos from legislators for our support of the DWI bill. With the new money in the dedicated account, there will be a **ONE TIME** bump in the grants next year as recommended by the Minnesota Snowmobile Advisory Committee (MSAC). Clubs can prudently put the extra funds in a savings account as well as the DNR. Work is being done on the Memorandum of Understanding for the 60/40 split.

Business Coordinator’s Report: See attached. In addition, the question of mining companies charging a fee for use of their land for trails was brought forward at the ACSA meeting. No other states were experiencing this problem. DeLyle Pankratz explained that when current leases expire, RGGS Lands & Minerals LTD has indicated they will begin charging an amount per foot for trails on their land. This will be an issue for Itasca County clubs this year and St. Louis County next year. There may be funds paid for use

of sovereign nation land as well. The topic will be passed to the Trails Committee with further discussion at Fall Workshop.

Region Reports:

Region 1 reported on plans for the Fall Workshop. They will be busy the next few months on this project.

Region 3: Thanks to John Olmscheid for Summer Meeting arrangements.

Region 4: The Hutchinson Drift Riders Club is celebrating 50 years this year.

Region 5 has two events upcoming using the MnUSA booth – Kolacky Days in Montgomery, MN July 27-29 and the Southern Grass Drags in Douglas, MN September 22.

Region 6 reported that their clubs are attending parades, Rice Creek Trails will not be holding its swap meet, clubs are holding landowner events, and they are continuing to work on a Snowmobile Friendly Community designation.

Region 7 requests help on manning the MnUSA booth at the Duluth Snocross on Thanksgiving weekend.

Region 8 reported that the Celebration of Life for Terry Pulkrabek who was a very active member will be August 18th and that former Region 8 director Earl Klersy suffered serious injuries when he was hit by a car while mowing his yard. The Region 8 season kick-off will be a pig roast. They are looking at having a booth at the Canterbury Snocross races.

Region 9 discussed bike and multiuse trail development.

Minnesota Snowmobile Education & Advancement Fund (MSEAF): Larry Shepherd announced availability of the blue information signs and the club Ride Right trail signs with the club logo. The first five signs are free, \$30 each thereafter. He thanked everyone for their support of the Veterans Appreciation Rides. The 2019 Veteran's Ride is scheduled for January 12 in Paynesville. Northern Pines Riders Snowmobile Club has issued a challenge wherein they will match donations up to \$1000.

Committee Reports:

Membership/Booth/Charity & Awards:

Janet Widness solicited nominations for the various awards presented at Rendezvous. Nomination deadline is November 30, 2018.

Jerry Hanson reported that memberships are down somewhat. There are 17 clubs whose rosters indicate zero (0) members. If information is available on those clubs, please contact the MnUSA office. The deadline for the SnowGoer promotion is August 10. Help is needed for booths at Haydays and the Duluth SnoCross and possibly the Duluth Winter Sports Show. We need to get the MnUSA name out in front of the general population/non-member snowmobilers. Contact Jerry with event suggestions.

Communications/Website/Social Media:

Scott Wakefield reported that the *Minnesota Snowmobiling* magazine contract is in place until 2023. He also made a plea that business memberships are really easy to sell if we make the effort.

Mark Kavanaugh has added the MnUSA 40th anniversary logo on Facebook.

Safety: Greg Sorenson reported that Snowmobile Safety Week is January 19-27, 2019. New videos and billboards are in process.

Site Selection: Mark LaBaw reported that bids are needed for Rendezvous 2020. The committee is recommending that the hosts of an event can set the deadline where late registrants to events will not receive food. Motion made, seconded and passed by the general membership to support this motion.

Upcoming Meetings:

- Fall Convention and Workshop: October 26-28, 2018, Hampton Inn, Bemidji. Region 1 host.
- 2019 Winter Rendezvous: February 7-10, 2019 at Cragun's Resort, hosted by Crow Wing County Snowmobile Trails Association and the local clubs.
- Spring Meetings: April 26-28, 2019: Arrowwood Lodge at Brainerd Lakes, Baxter.
- Summer Campout: July 12-14, 2019 at Flying Goose Campground, Fairmont, MN, Blizzard Snowmobile Club and Region 4 hosts. Lots of activities are planned and a Facebook page will be set up.

Nominations:

Mark Kavanaugh conducted the nominations for MnUSA officers to be elected at the Fall Workshop. The process for absentee ballots was explained.

Jim Folz nominated Rod Seibel for President. Rod accepted the nomination.

Motion by John Olmscheid, seconded by Randy LaBerge to suspend further nominations for President until Fall Workshop. Motion carried.

Larry Shepherd nominated Greg Sorenson for Vice President. Greg accepted the nomination.

Motion by Mark LaBaw, seconded by Charles Chadbourne, to suspend further nominations for Vice President until Fall Workshop. Motion carried.

Ted Breggemann nominated Rick Johnson for Secretary. Rick accepted the nomination.

Motion by Randy Baudler, seconded by Randy LaBerge, to suspend further nominations for Secretary until Fall Workshop. Motion carried.

Jerry Hanson nominated Scott Wakefield for Treasurer. Scott accepted the nomination.

Motion by Nicole Pankratz, seconded by Jim Folz, to suspend further nominations for Treasurer until Fall Workshop. Motion carried.

Other Business:

-Snowmobile Simulator: Dick Kuttner reported no progress on obtaining liability insurance protecting users of the simulator. Contact the DNR if you need this unit.

-Gary Gorden inquired as to the status of the Sunrise Trail and the stud ban on the natural surface trail. Greg Sorenson said Chisago County Parks will be meeting with the clubs regarding grooming responsibilities. At this time there is nothing changed on the stud ban.

-Invitations – MnUSA has been invited to participate in a tourism and recreation focus group as a part of the St. Louis County Comprehensive Land Use Plan and the Lutheran Social Services Employee Health Fair in Duluth. Executive Board members and directors will cover these requests.

Adjournment: **Motion** by Mark LaBaw, second by Woody Widness to adjourn. **Motion carried.** The meeting was adjourned at AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Johnson, Secretary