

**Minnesota United Snowmobilers Association
General Membership Annual Meeting
October 28, 2018
Hampton Inn, Bemidji, MN**

The Minnesota United Snowmobilers Association held its annual General Membership meeting Saturday, October 27, 2018 at the Hampton Inn, Bemidji, MN. The meeting was called to order by President Rod Seibel at 9:33 AM. Present were Executive Board members: President Rod Seibel, Vice President Greg Sorenson; Secretary Rick Johnson; Treasurer Scott Wakefield, Director-at-Large Mark Kavanaugh.

Introduction of Executive Board and Guests – The Executive Board members introduced themselves. Also present were MnUSA Lobbyists Doug Franzen and Christian Franzen; Bruce Lawrence, DNR Enforcement; and Andrew Korsberg, Darin Newman, and Dave Schotzko (Bemidji Area Supervisor) from DNR Parks & Trails.

Approval of Agenda – Motion by -Randy LaBerge, seconded by Jerry Hanson to approve the agenda. **Motion carried.**

Secretary’s Report – Motion by Jim Folz, seconded by Paul Maruska to waive the reading of the minutes and approve the secretary’s report as written. **Motion carried.**

Treasurer’s Report – Motion by Mike Clevenger, seconded by Paul Maruska to file the treasurer’s report for future audit. **Motion carried.**

Officers Reports:

President: President Rod Seibel reported on area contacts and planning for the Fall Workshop.

Vice President: Greg Sorenson reported on Hay Days, a safety training meeting he attended at DNR, and a scrapbook of historical photos he has discovered.

Secretary: Rick Johnson reported that he attended a public hearing on the St. Louis County Comprehensive Land Use Plan. The presented draft had significant mention of non-motorized recreation and little on motorized. The authors promised to correct this prior to submission to County Commissioners for approval.

Treasurer: Scott Wakefield reported on the presentation he and Nancy made at the State Fair on snowmobiling 40 years ago and now.

Director-at-Large: Mark Kavanaugh noted that boxes of MnUSA materials have been supplied to each region. He has attended ACSA, Midwest Chapter and Camp Ripley Veterans State Trail meetings. The CRVST has received bonding money and will start construction next Spring with the bike and ATV trails.

Business Coordinator’s Report: Thank you to the clubs that are sending in rosters and club officer forms to update their club information on MnUSA’s database. Updating information on your club page on MnUSA’s website does not change the information on the membership

database. Raffle calendars are available from the MnUSA office as well as materials for club safety training.

The club pages on MnUSA's website are available to clubs to post their events. If you are posting an event that would be of interest to the snowmobiling public, please also send an email to MnUSA so the event can be added to the general Event Calendar. You can also paste your club's website or Facebook link to include your club trail conditions. Contact the MnUSA office for assistance in logging into the website and using the site.

Senator Klobuchar's bill - RTP Full Funding Act of 2018 - was filed at the last minute before the senate adjourned. The bill embraces the user pay user benefit model of the highway trust funds and would return all funds generated by off road users to the recreational trail program. The first item in the bill would be an accurate study of the total amount of non-highway dollars generated. The number of off road vehicles, including snowmobiles, will be used in the computation determining amount of funding per state. It is essential that we continue to push the need to register all off-road vehicles and snowmobiles.

For the next few months the Perspectives column in *Minnesota Snowmobiling* will highlight MnUSA's first 40 year. Enjoy the look back.

If you were at Rendezvous last February, you probably rode the Hwy 169 road ditch. We want to thank Laura Preus from DNR for her leadership in getting the snowmobile trail moved out of the ditch. The trail now goes on the road through the Mille Lacs WMA, a much safer and more scenic option.

Legislative Report – Christian Franzen reminded attendees that because of Governor Dayton's veto of last session's Omnibus Bills we will be starting over on our priorities, most likely with many new legislators after the mid-term elections. Terry Hutchinson recapped the previous evening's Legislative/Trails committee meeting. The committee recommendations regarding collector sleds will be presented to the Board of Directors for approval. The committee continues to work on snowmobile trails on WMAs and the snowmobile stickers.

DNR Reports—Parks and Trails: Andrew Korsberg reminded clubs that the 16.5% add-on to the FY19 GIA grants is a one-time event. Darin Newman presented a comprehensive review of the 2018 Minnesota Snowmobile Survey.

Enforcement: Bruce Lawrence noted that of the 7 fatalities last year, excessive speed was a factor in 6, and 5 had not had safety training. There are 18 students in the current Conservation Officer Academy including 5 females with field placement scheduled for mid-December. There is one new Communications person with a mission to be more noticed on social media. His division is expecting to hire 12 additional personnel in 2019. There were 6700 snowmobile safety students last season. Online training is now with only one vendor.

Minnesota Snowmobile Education and Advancement Fund - Larry Shepherd, mentioned the upcoming Vet's ride in Paynesville on January 12, 2019, and thanked Arctic Cat and Polaris for donating sleds. Donations are always welcome.

Manufacturer Reports –

Polaris Ride Command: Ron Potter described the features of this phone app which is updated every couple of weeks and requested user input on items like parking lots and trail conditions.

Arctic Cat Club Promotion: Joel Hallstrom, Business Development Manager, Textron Inc. made a presentation including their rebate program and updates to the Safe Riders Video Collection which is now downloadable.

Committee Reports

Membership - Jerry Hanson reported on membership numbers as of September 30th which are down somewhat from last year, and emphasized the Members Recruiting Members (MRM) program and the ad in SnowGoer magazine.

Site Selection - Mark LaBaw is looking for a venue for the 2020 Rendezvous.

Charity/Awards: Janet Widness indicated that award nomination forms are available on the MnUSA website.

Old Business

Winter Rendezvous—Cragun's – February 7-10, 2019

Spring Meeting—April 26-28, 2019 at Arrowwood Lodge in Brainerd

Summer Event—July 12-14, 2019 in Fairmont.

Snowmobile Simulator: is still unavailable to clubs due to insurance issues.

Other Old Business

New Business

Fall Convention and Workshop – October 25-27, 2019, Region 2

International Snowmobile Safety Week – January 19-27, 2019

Take a Friend Snowmobiling Campaign– February 9-18, 2019

Other New Business

Election of Officers:

Mark Kavanaugh explained the nomination process. Nominations made at the summer meeting were Rod Seibel for President; Greg Sorenson for Vice President; Rick Johnson for Secretary and Scott Wakefield for Treasurer. Nominations were opened for President. There were no additional nominations. **Motion** made by Jim Folz, seconded by Curt Berg to close nominations and cast a white ballot for Rod Seibel for President. **Motion passed.**

Nominations were opened for Vice President. There were no additional nominations. **Motion** made by Larry Shepherd, seconded by Mike Clevenger to close nominations and cast a white ballot for Greg Sorenson for Vice-President. **Motion passed.**

Nominations were opened for Secretary. There were no additional nominations. **Motion** made by Craig Swanberg, seconded by Randy LaBerge to close nominations and cast a white ballot for Rick Johnson for Secretary. **Motion passed.**

Nominations were opened for Treasurer. There were no additional nominations. **Motion** made by Jack White, seconded by Curt Berg, to close nominations and cast a white ballot for Scott Wakefield for Treasurer. **Motion passed.**

Motion by Jim Folz, seconded by Janet Widness to destroy the absentee ballots. **Motion passed.**

Region Reports

Region 1: Jim Folz: Been preparing for the Fall Workshop. Thanks to the Fertile club for supplying the folders. Proud that two of manufacturers are located in this Region.

Region 2: Jack White: Planning for the 2019 Fall Workshop. Clubs are doing trail cleanup and ready to groom.

Region 3: Tom Jann: One new director, Jason Hendrickx, and all directors re-elected at the Annual Meeting.

Region 4: Dick Kuttner: Preparing for next summer's Campout. Trail opening likely late due to wet fall.

Region 5: Mike Clevenger: Down two directors. Several events coming in early December. Lots of trail damage from tornados. Will host 2020 Campout. New Prague will celebrate its 50th anniversary in March.

Region 6: Roger Letcher: there is a new trail in northern Washington County. Losing lots of trail mileage to development.

Region 7: Randy Laberge: Lots of problems with beavers and downed trees. Hope for the best for Bob Klein with his upcoming cancer surgery.

Region 8: Mark LaBaw. Everyone enjoyed the annual boat ride and pig roast. Workers are getting ready for the Waconia Ride-In.

Region 9: Charles Chadbourne: Heartland Trail is being worded on. Pine Ridge Drifters club has disbanded. Mark Miller retired as a director.

Motion to adjourn by Mark LaBaw, seconded by Janet Widness. **Motion passed.**

Respectfully Submitted by Rick Johnson, Secretary