

**Minnesota United Snowmobilers Association
General Membership Meeting
Saturday, April 27, 2019
Arrowwood Lodge at Brainerd Lakes, Brainerd, MN**

The Minnesota United Snowmobilers Association held its Quarterly General Membership meeting Saturday, April 27, 2019 at Arrowwood Lodge Brainerd Lakes, Baxter, Minnesota, in connection with the annual Spring Meetings.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President Seibel at 10:03AM. 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 and Christian Franzen.

Approval of Agenda – Motion by Mike Clevenger, seconded by David Murphy to approve the agenda. **Motion carried.**

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

Officers’ Reports:

President: Rod Seibel attended a Region 1 meeting.

Vice President: Greg Sorenson reported on an accident on the Munger trail and commented on emergency training for EMT’s. He attended the Region 2 annual meeting at the Ridgerunners new clubhouse. He also encouraged people to sign up to participate in the Rider Assist Directory (RAD), use of helmet ID tags, and requested anyone interested in participating in a motorcycle ride to the Summer Campout to contact him.

Director At Large: Mark Kavanaugh reported on the Washington DC Fly-In/American Council of Snowmobile Association (ACSA) meetings, and thanked the organization for the support he has received during his eight years in leadership positions of MnUSA.

Treasurer: Scott Wakefield reported good publicity for local clubs as they provided groomer tractors to assist in removing 57 snowed-in fish houses from Lake Waconia.

Secretary: Rick Johnson attended the New Prague club’s 50th anniversary celebration, and Region 7’s joint regular and annual spring meeting with the local DNR.

Business Coordinator’s Report: Nancy Hanson

- Thank you to the clubs for sending in rosters. Updated rosters are being printed with about a two week turnaround. Businesses are invoiced for memberships the month prior to the membership expiration date.
- Charity surveys are still being accepted.
- Signs will be ordered May 15th. If you need signs, please use the order form on the MnUSA website.
- At our last Minnesota Motorized Trail Coalition meeting ATVAM provided information on a virtual version of the simulator which they are developing for ATVs. MSEAF will look into what would be needed for a snowmobile version.
- Parks and Trails Legacy Fund will again have a presence at the DNR Building during the State Fair. Very few comments on how the funds are used are made from motorized trail enthusiasts. Please stop in at the Fair, check out the display and support the activities you enjoy.
- The Minnesota Recreational Trail Users Association has made its recommendations to the DNR on the Federal Highway Recreational Trail Program grants. If your club applied for a grant, expect a letter sometime in June to let you know if your grant is being funded.
- Mark Kavanaugh, Jerry Hanson and I will be leaving this evening to attend the American Council of Snowmobile Association's Washington DC Fly-In. There is movement in DC for an early reauthorization of the federal highway bill and we will be talking to our legislators about the importance of funding for the Recreational Trails Program in any new bill.

Legislative/Trails Report: Doug Franzen gave an update on the legislative process and MnUSA's legislative priorities.

- Sales tax exemption for trail building materials is in the House bill, not Senate. It appears to be a good chance for passage.
- Legislation for 60/40 split is dead for this year but DNR will continue to work with MnUSA on this.
- Allowing clubs to be reimbursed for purchase of online safety training for students has a good chance for passage.
- Vintage/Collector sled registration bill was withdrawn due to objection/confusion on intent of language.

Other Items:

- Request for snow removal on forest and minimum maintenance roads: Language not finalized, but appears to benefit a very small minority of citizens. MnUSA will oppose if existing trails are affected.
- Proposed new Outdoor Recreational Council to determine how to get kids and other people outdoors. DNR and EMT already do this. The bill sponsored by REI without knowledge or support of state agencies it impacts. MnUSA will oppose in present form.
- Gas tax increase appears unlikely to pass as the legislature is deeply divided.
- Vermilion River bridge will be funded by OHV/ATV/Bonding. No snowmobile money will go into the project.
- A waiver of liability bill is still alive but there is a huge group against it.

Doug recently did a webinar on Robert's Rules. A key point for MnUSA meetings is that certain Privileged Motions, such as budget proposals and motions to adjourn, do not require a second, only a vote up or down.

Minnesota Snowmobile Education & Advancement Fund (MSEAF): Terry Hutchinson.

MSEAF is a 501 (c) (3) providing support of MnUSA and snowmobiling presently with safety highway billboards; club safe and sober signs; blue information signs; Rider Assist Directory and the annual Veterans Appreciation Ride. The 2019 ride was originally scheduled for Paynesville (again) but was moved to Grand Rapids due to lack of snow in the Paynesville area. Thanks to all in the Grand Rapids area who

helped make this ride a success on short notice and in extreme cold conditions. MSEAF can accept gambling funds, memorials, etc., to help fund its programs.

Committee Reports:

Fund Raising-Raffle: Mark Steinmueller reviewed calendar sales, recommended no format changes, and recommended donations and budget. A **Motion** was made by Jerry Hanson, second by Mark LaBaw to approve the following donations:

American Council of Snowmobile Associations	\$5000
Scholarships	\$2250
Clean Snowmobile Challenge	\$2500
Minnesota Snowmobile Education & Advancement Fund	\$32,000
Coalition of Recreational Trail Users	\$500
Conservationists with Common Sense	\$500

Motion carried.

Motion by Larry Shepherd, seconded by Jim Folz, to approve a budget of \$25,000 for the 2020 calendar.

Motion carried.

Old Business:

-Summer Campout Event: July 12-14, 2019 at Flying Goose Campground in Fairmont, MN. Blizzard Snowmobile Club and Region 4 are hosts. Campground reservation block ends June 12; hotel block and early bird registration fees end June 21.

-Fall Convention and Workshop October 25-27, 2019, will be at Giant's Ridge near Biwabik, Region 2 host.

-2020 Winter Rendezvous: February 6-9, 2020. To be determined. A bid has been received from Region 1 for the Hampton Inn, Bemidji. The MnUSA board will review bid for approval at its April 28, 2019 meeting.

New Business:

Dick Kuttner reviewed a GPS-based Auto-Steer system his club has installed on their John Deere grooming tractor. Once programmed, it will allow the operator to concentrate on operating the drag. It will work on any equipment that has power steering, including Tucker and Piston Bully. Cost is \$15-\$20K.

There will be a session on youth involvement following lunch today. Notes from the session will be included with these minutes.

Adjournment: Motion by Mark LaBaw to adjourn. **Motion carried.** The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Johnson, Secretary

MnUSA Youth Roundtable Discussion

Saturday April 27th,2019

Roundtable was moderated by Dave Gunther, Pequot Brushpilots and former high school art teacher.

1. Identify key target kid audience.
 - a. Must get kids in the 6th to 9th grade level (12 to 15 years old) for 3 key reasons:
 1. No Boyfriend/Girlfriend
 2. No Cars
 3. No Job
2. How to fit snowmobiling into the kids (and parents) busy and hectic schedules.
3. How to overcome lack of parental involvement in the sport
4. Must have kid's involvement or desire to be involved before MnUSA can have a functioning program for youth. We can throw as much money as we want into the program but if kids don't get involved it's not going to happen.
5. Must change mindsets of the older snowmobile generation to adapt more of the kid's way of approaching the sport. (geared more to the young people 20 to 40 years old). A lot of discussion in this area on how the older generation club members won't adapt to the newer ideas of the type of things youth are looking for.
6. Discussed some of the background information on past youth groups that have formed within MnUSA. The number one reason for failure is lack of youth participation.
7. Discussed possible mentorship programs by local clubs (similar to safety training) to draw in new kids.
8. Must get more social media sources to get the kid's attention.

Identify things that will attract more youth into the sport.

1. Mentoring
2. Self-Gratification
3. Local Level Participation
4. Selfie Stations across the State for posting on social media sites
5. Develop more attraction to the sport

Many good ideas came out of this meeting and the overall sense was that MnUSA is ready to move on any plans that would attract more youth into the sport.

Workshop 2019 Youth Roundtable discussion – Ideas & Suggestions

- At Snowmobile Safety Courses get the parents email address, offer a free membership to your local club only, not MnUSA, get them interested first.
- Approach 6-8th grades may be your best bet – this is before they have jobs typically or boy/girl friends.
- Earn a membership – Work X # of hours to do so (this may have been mine & not shared)
- Parents have to be involved / Adult framework has to be a part of it
- There is already a membership class for youth in our by-laws, 14-18 years of age
- 10,000 Lakes Youth Club was first at the local level, then County level
 - They were invited to help the County clean trails along with a cookout
 - They also helped with a disability ride as well
 - They were also invited to come to each club in the County & introduce themselves, see how things are working
- All of it starts with the clubs, have to make the experience happen
- Need to have some type of a budget for working with these youth
- Possibly have a section the Minnesota Snowmobiling Magazine for youth
 - Submit articles
 - Things that interest them
 - Connect with other youth
- Connect through instant gratification – Instagram, Snap Chat, Twitter etc.
 - Maybe have a point system where they can then earn something or obtain a prize
- Communication has to go both ways – To the Youth & Back to the Adults
- Experiences are what the youth are looking for
- Experience could be combined with Mentoring
- Pit-Stop Stamps – ride from pit stop to pit stop, obtain a stamp, throw name in for a drawing at the end
- Youtube videos – involved the youth out there, get videos of interest out in this medium
- Selfie station – sign somewhere on your trail & have a competition, may also have this on trails around the state
- Find a meeting night that works for both the adults & the youth – Sunday nights???
- Need to find a better way of tracking youth members of MnUSA
- # or Instagram
- Area in magazine dedicated to the future of our sport, I believe this is where it was suggested to do
- We need feedback from the youth
- Editorial regarding youth & youth membership in the next publication, June 1st.
- Find places were youth might be engaging in our sport to get information out to them – dealers, rental places, schools (riding in)