

**Cascadia RVW General Meeting  
May 25, 2013**

**Board Members Present:** President: Jill Pace, President-Elect: Suzanne Larson, Treasurer: Penny Haase, Secretary: Guyla Vann

**Board Member Absent:** Event Activities Coordinator: Barbara Spargo, Past President Diane Milnor and Registrar: Jo Schilling

**Guests:** RVW National president; Doreen Thomas, RVW Board members; Cathy Atkins, Meg Van Zyl and Dee Johnson

In addition to the board, approximately 50 - 60 Cascadia Members were present.

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by President Jill Pace at 10:04 a.m. at Harmony Lakeside RV Park, Mossyrock, WA.

**President's Welcome:** Jill welcomed the members to the meeting and made announcements about weekend activities.

**Agenda:** Copies of the agenda were made available to members. No additions were suggested from the floor.

**Minutes:** There was a motion by Elaine Ploegstra to waive the reading of the Oct. 20, 2012 minutes. This motion was seconded by Lynda Byrd and passed by acclamation.

**President's Report:**

- Several park issues have come up and are being resolved as they develop. Requirements have changed between the time some parks confirm and the actual event dates. Jill asks members to be patient as registration details are clarified.
- Liability waiver requirement seems to be accepted by the membership. Everyone has been cooperative when asked to sign the hard copies. Members should go to the RVW website, click Manage Profile, Edit Bio and check off the waiver box. Help is available this weekend to manage your RVW account. See Cathy Atkins.
- Chapter Membership annual dues should have been paid by March 31<sup>st</sup>. The cost had been raised to \$10 by a vote of the membership. Please pay Cascadia dues if you have not done so already. If you choose not to pay dues a \$5.00 event activities fee will be required per person, per event attended.
- The RVW National organization is struggling financially. It has become difficult to meet expenses and the Board has nearly exhausted ways to cut back. The directory and the magazine are huge expenses and yet they are items that all members value greatly. RVW Membership dues bring in just less than 50% of budget requirements. The RVW convention each year makes money, but that is variable. The bottom line is that RVW National needs help from local chapters.
- Demographics for Cascadia
  - 240 members at this time, 106 new members in 3½ years
  - Prior to 2005 65 people still members
  - 2005 – 2010: 73 members joined
  - 2011: 34 new members
  - 2012: 52 new members
  - May 2013: 18 new members
  - We now have 71 households (142 members) and 100 individuals

**Event Chair's Report:** Barb was not able to attend this meeting. Her report was read by Sharon Fowler.

"We've had an amazing year so far with all the new members and new energy. The sky is the limit for event planning! We still need captains and divas for both Westport (Aug. 23-25) and Castle Rock (Oct. 25-27). Please sign up to participate on those weekends. Invite your friends to help create the fun ideas!"

**Registrar's Report:** Jo was not able to attend this event. Her report was also read by Sharon Fowler.

"Four score and seven months ago (more or less) our foremothers brought forth on this continent a new pastime. Conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all women can hookup and drive their own rigs.

But I digress.... Thank you for participating in our events this season.

Cascadia's registration process has a few simple rules.

1. Sign up through the Cascadia website
2. If you miss the deadline, call the park to register **AND THEN TELL ME**
3. If you cancel after registration has closed, call the park to cancel. **AND THEN TELL ME**
4. If you can't get a site directly with the park because it is full, I will accept names for a waiting list. So if registration is closed, let me know that you want to be on the waiting list. If someone cancels **AND TELLS ME** I will contact the first person on the waiting list

(This is why it is important to tell me your plans)"

"HELP WANTED

Registrar, 2014

Now recruiting for next year's Registrar. Use a computer to complete a list of attendees each event. Send that information to park managers. It's easy, fun, rewarding. Training and consultation provided. Contact Jo if interested."

[CascadiaReg@gmail.com](mailto:CascadiaReg@gmail.com)

**Secretary's Report:** Guyla Vann thanked Laurie for handing off the secretarial folder in an orderly and understandable manner. She also advised members that minutes from every formal meeting are posted on the Cascadia website.

**Sunshine girl** Guyla Vann: Guyla said she got good instructions and a good supply of stationary. So far this year I have sent 5 sympathy notes, 6 get well notes and 18 welcome notes. She asked members to let a board member know if any member needs encouragement from the club.

**Treasurer's Report:** Penny stated that we started the year with \$4,970.00 in our account. Our original estimate was to end the year with a balance of between \$4,844.30. That number will be modified after this meeting. This year (as of 4/26/13) we have income of \$1,711.80. We earned \$.30 in interest for the year. We have raised \$960.00 for Cascadia dues, \$5.00 for guest fees, \$156.00 this year with the 50/50 raffles, deposit refunds of 280.00 and Train dinner donations of \$350.00

Expenses are \$1,663.36 as of 4/26/13. Projected expenses for 2013 are \$4,087.50. Please refer to the Treasurer's report for the breakdown of proposed expenses.

Penny reports that Suzanne passed on excellent notes to guide her through the transition to a new treasurer. She reports that last year was a good year for fundraising. We are projecting 170 paying members by the end of the year. Further income projections are: 50/50 raffle; \$800.00, Membership raffle; \$300.00, Flea market; \$500.00.

**President Elect's Report:** According to Suzanne the parks next year will give us a minimum of 35 sites, with some able to expand to accommodate more. Keep in mind that means about 60 some people at each event. So it's important that you let the registrar know if you will be there, or if you will need to cancel. The site for our October event, the park at Toutle River, can accommodate as many as 60 rigs. It would be great if we could have that many there.

Suzanne has already reserved five campgrounds and expects the sixth to be finalized very soon. She still has to reserve two more campgrounds.

She advises us to utilize the Come Along events. Feel free to let others know if you're going somewhere. Remember that Come Alongs are not RVW events and RVW rules do not apply. ANYONE is welcome at these events.

**Commander of Clothing** Lori Youngs: Lori reports that she has not yet had enough orders to turn one in to the company. She suggests that orders be placed soon or our time will get away and no one will receive any Cascadia apparel by the camping season ends.

Lori also suggested that if the members going to the RVW convention in October want to appear in similar Cascadia clothing that they should be considering their options i.e. Tee shirts.

**Old Business:** There was no old business to discuss

**New Business:**

- Donation to national: Jill announced that historically Cascadia has donated either \$500.00 or \$1000.00 to RVW National and asked for suggestions for a gift this year.

Lori Youngs immediately made a motion to send \$1000.00 to the RVW National Open Road program. The motion was seconded by Laurie Alexander. Discussion followed.

Michelle Edwards disagrees with the stated amount because we already pay dues.

Cheryl Edman does not disagree with a donation, but agrees with Michelle that \$1000.00 is too much. Cheryl would like to know what other chapters are donating.

Meg Van Zyl (RVW Board member on Chapter Advisory Council) advised us that National dues provide \$99,000.00 to National. Expenses total over \$200,000.00. She went on to say that all non-profit organizations rely on the generosity of their members and that fundraisers in chapters enable chapters to donate to the national organization. Meg mentioned that must the convention must raise \$36,000.00 or RVW will be underfunded for 3 years in a row. Meg would not give specifics, but did inform us those gifts from chapter range from \$250.00 to \$1200.00. She said that donations can be targeted to specific uses within the national organization. Gifts can even be targeted to fund the two paid office workers. The "Open Roads" program was mentioned.

Andi Abruzzo asked for clarification of the "Open Roads" program.

Cathy Atkins explained the "Open Roads" program as a way for members to voluntarily contribute to pay for growth and stability of RVW. Cathy went on to say that every expense is going up. She cited postage, printing costs and paper specifically and stated that the liability insurance has been a large expense increase. Cathy assured us that the money is spent carefully and reminded us that Board members are volunteers.

Meg announced that there are currently 17 chapters (soon to be 18) with total membership of 2,261. There are 60 new members this year alone.

Dee Johnson (RVW Board member: Directory, magazine and Newsletter) requested that \$500.00 of our \$1000.00 donation be made specifically to the First-Timer breakfast event at convention. Dee and Linda James are in charge of First-Timer event.

Kathy Dyer made an emotional plea for a generous donation to National because of our shared experiences that can't be duplicated anywhere else. She suggested that we" pay from our hearts to keep RVW going".

Lynda Byrd supports the donation of \$1000.00 because we have the money.

Patty Lebbert posed the question "Where does the money come from" Answer from Jill "Fundraisers"

Ardyrh Bathhurst asked "Will the \$1000.00 donation put Cascadia in financial jeopardy?" The answer is No"

Christine Taylor advised that we have raised our event budget so we must be OK financially.

Lori Youngs reminds us that auctions raise \$3000.00 - \$4000.00 every time they are held.

Marne Parry calls the question and a vote will be held. **The motion to donate \$1000.00 to the "Open Road" program is carried.**

- Cascadia Budget

A motion was made by Lynda Byrd that Cascadia's 2013 budget be amended to add \$2000.00 for auction income. The motion was seconded by Kathy Bostwick. **The motion to amend the budget and add \$2000.00 for auction income was put to a vote and approved.**

Jan Secor made a motion to donate \$500.00 as part of the \$1000.00 "Open Road" to be targeted for the First-Timer Breakfast event. The motion is seconded by Vicki Para.

A discussion follows.

Mary Schoenfeldt suggests that only \$300.00 is targeted for the First-Timer event and \$700.00 go to the Open Road program.

Meg made clear that if we don't designate exactly how money is to be directed it can be used for anything.

There was some discussion about parliamentary rules at this point.

The question was called and a vote was taken to earmark \$500.00 of the \$1000.00 donation to RVW Open Road program to go to the First-Timer Breakfast event. **The vote carried with 20 nays and 23 ayes.**

- Cascadia Fundraising

Jill announced that there will be a flea market today, but no auction is scheduled for this year and an auction might be necessary to support our budget proposals.

Volunteers stepped forward to captain the August event in Westport. They are Carol Hinsby, Molly Carnes, and Myrna Mantle. None of these women have been event captains before, but want to have an auction at Westport. Lynda Byrd and Linda Clark volunteered to mentor the new event captains and help with the auction. The assembly was very pleased with all of these women who are going outside of their comfort zone to help the club.

- Elections: officers needed.

Jill introduced the nominating committee: Barbara Hatred, Marne Parry and Mary Schoenfeldt. The committee is approaching women that they feel would be suitably experienced to perform the duties listed.

Suzanne, president elect, asked members to consider the request carefully if you are asked to serve. She needs your help.

The positions are as follows;

President Elect, Registration Chair and Activities Coordinator

### **Good of the Order:**

Jill asked if someone would act as scribe (write up events shortly after each rally). Nola Leyde immediately volunteered to take on the responsibility of Scribe.

Jill introduced the topic of notifying the club when your Cascadia friends or family suffer a death, serious illness or other crisis.

Barbara Nelson requested that an email be sent to the membership in the event of a member's death. This would be in addition to posting a notice on the Cascadia website.

Jill stated that it is up to the affected members to notify any or all Board members through the Cascadia website with pertinent information.

Cheryl Edman reintroduced the topic of the club purchasing a bullhorn for use at outdoor events. She stated that this suggestion was made in the past, but was never acted upon. Jill agreed that a bullhorn is necessary at outdoor events and the Board would address this issue in the near future.

Someone made the suggestion that it could be called the "JoAnn Anderson Memorial Bullhorn". That seemed to be a very popular suggestion.

### **Report by current Web Editor Christine Taylor:**

Christine led an informational discussion about Cascadia's website. She says that if we are having problems with a page the first thing to do is refresh the page. If refreshing doesn't work reboot your computer. Her experience has been that a member describes a problem and Christine immediately tries to reproduce the problem and finds that everything is working perfectly. She believes that most problems are with our computers or our browsers or servers.

If you get a 404 ERROR notice send all information on the notice to her via email. That will help her understand the technical problem better and perhaps guide us to a good result.

Christine asks that we send pictures taken at events as soon as possible after the event. She will resize them if necessary if a member doesn't know how to do that. She wants to get the photos on the website to augment the scribe's report.

### **RVW Convention in Sacramento**

16 members present at this meeting are planning to attend the National convention.

Do the convention attendees want to have matching tee shirts? The decision is theirs to make.

Solos will have events prior to the stated opening date of the convention. Solos must go to the RVW website to register for their special events.

Cathy Atkins reminded the membership that it will be three years before the RVW convention is in the west again. She also mentioned that Sacramento is only 554 miles from Seattle.

The RVW information booth will be hosted by Cascadia. Cathy is seeking volunteers to work in the booth.

There are 200 sites with full hookups at the convention grounds. 106 of those have already been reserved. Sign up soon.

Candy Woods (Past president of RVW) offers overnight accommodations for rigs on her property in Redmond, Oregon. Redmond is on Hwy 97.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was declared closed at 11:35 by President Jill Pace.

Respectfully submitted,

*Guyla Vann*

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