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EMT or paramedic.**From Jim G's desk***-- By Jim Giffin, Northern Vermont Region Director*

The Election committee has reviewed and approved by-law changes to allow for electronic voting. The proposed changes, as much as possible follow the Eastern Division by-laws on voting. The proposed changes do not require electronic elections only allow for them. The proposed changes are posted at: http://nspnvt.org/downloads/Bylaw%20changes_9-21.pdf Patrollers will vote on these changes at their fall refreshers. Please let me and Alex Dees, Election Chair, know if you have any questions or concerns. Thanks to the Election Committee for their work on this. I think we ended up with some good wording going forward that will allow maximum flexibility for voting.

Fall Officer's Meeting

The Fall Officers meeting was canceled as an in-person event and held by Zoom on September 10. Following are some items that were discussed during the meeting:

- Expect NSP Covid protocols, along with individual State policies, to continue to change through the coming months.
- Chris Castilian, new NSP CEO, on the job 6 weeks. Wants to focus on member services and having the NSP office run the day-to-day operations. Free up the Board to work on policy and strategic issues. (I have been surprised that during my brief venture into NSP operations, how much routine work was being done by NSP volunteers. Board, etc.)
- 80% of National Office Staff turned over in last year.
- NSP revenues come from 3 main sources: Store, Sponsorships, Dues.
- Adopted updated Awards Policy (Should be distributed shortly).
- Minnie Dole Grave Rededication Oct. 2022. He is buried not far from here across from Paul Smith College in upstate NY.
- National Elections – ED does not have anyone running this year. Richard Yercheck, current board member up for reelection, spoke on the need for stability, common sense, and his financial background. He was endorsed by several of the other board members.

Two Open Positions – Alumni Advisor and Professional Advisor

Still looking for a Northern Vermont Alumni Advisor and Professional Advisor. Let me know if you have someone that may be interested in either position.

Change to Eastern Division COVID-19 Protocols (August 2021)

-- From Cal Goldsmith – Eastern Division Director

Eastern Division Patrollers,

The COOPED UP Task Force made recommendations to the ED BOD for the latest COVID-19 protocols. The significant changes to those protocols are shown below. Please take note.

The Eastern Division BOD adopted revised Covid-19 Protocols based on:

- Revised CDC guidelines
- The Delta Variant being so much more contagious
- Vaccinated people's ability to be infected and pass along the virus without knowing it

The biggest change **for the vaccinated and unvaccinated** at Division or Regional events:

- Indoors **all must be masked**
- Outdoors **all must be masked if you cannot maintain 6FT separation** (like at hands-on refreshers)

Additionally:

- Unvaccinated people outdoors **must mask at all times**

We as medical first responders have a responsibility to our members to do everything we can to keep everyone safe. We know how to do that. We will err on the side of caution if need be. To do less would simply be irresponsible.

Thank you for your attention to the safety of our members and their families. We will continue to **Lead By Example**.

VT PEER SUPPORT TEAMS

Bobby Arnell from InvestEAP is the lead partner in a new first responder stress injury peer support program known as SECURE. You can read about it here: <https://www.securepeer.org/>

It is a professionally led peer support program available to all first responders in Vermont, including ski patrollers. It's in the formation stage and they are actively recruiting first responders to be trained (at no cost) and then available to peers in the event of critical incidents and potentially traumatic events.

Because of the funding mechanism (via US DOJ), only police officers, fire fighters, and EMTs/Paramedics are eligible.

BUT ski patrollers who are ALSO police officers, fire fighters, or EMTs/Paramedics are welcome to apply.

They can do so here: <https://www.securepeer.org/apply-to-become-a-secure-peer>.

Anyone with questions can be directed to Ollie Neith odneith@gmail.com