



**Branch Leadership Committee**  
*Meeting Minutes for May 18, 2022*  
6:00pm to 7:30pm via Zoom

**Meeting Information**

Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87084297060?pwd=S25WMDg3a3lUV1lMQzIPWDNxM3UxUT09>

Meeting ID: 870 8429 7060

Passcode: 718864

One tap mobile

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**Branch Leadership Members in Attendance**

- James H:
- Brian M (BHAM):
- Ben M (FH):
- Gretchen T (KIT):
- Scott C (OLY):
- Tess W (SEA):
- Curtis S (TAC):
- Bill A (Safety):
- Craig K (SEA - Chair Elect):
- Sara R:
- Becca P:

**Agenda**

1. Welcome and Introductions--James
2. Review and approval of the meeting agenda for May 18, 2022  
Motion: Tess: Scott/ Approve
3. [Review and approval of the Minutes from April 20, 2022](#)  
Motion: Ben; 2nd: Gretchen: Approved
4. Branch Reports—Mountaineer Branch Leaders
  - Open leadership positions
  - Relevant Updates
    - Tacoma: Deep dive into the budget process. Have a person for the Treasurer position.
    - Kitsap: Opening for a chair-elect. Starting budget process with Bill. Basic climbing is finishing up.



- Bellingham: Looking for a chair-elect. Budget meeting next week and are on track. Basic climbing course underway. Snow 1 taking place at Mt Baker. Started Trad course which is being taught in three components. Crevass rescue will take place in a couple weeks.
- Seattle: Overwhelmed with all the new course activity. Lots of new backpacking courses—family backpacking, nutrition. Night sky and astronomy classes have been posted. Waiting to hear back from navigation about the instructor review course. Most of the courses are full with waitlists. Talked about instructor recruitment. Finalized bikepacking charter. Hiking committee has updated their charter.
- Olympia: Looking for a social chair which is a valuable position for the summer picnic and awards ceremony held in July. As for programs, have seen turnover in winter travel, snowshoe and cross country. 49 students have graduated from navigation. Basic climbing finished rock field trip. Scrambling has 21 students that will graduate and the course has finished snow field trip.
- Foothills: No major updates. Snowshoeing chair is stepping down but a candidate has been identified to fill the role. Starting the search for chair-elect to replace Brad when he takes over in the fall as the chair.
  - Question about budget: For volunteer recognition, how is it incorporated in the budget?
  - Becca: No specific guidance. Look at the budget number that carried over from last year as a starting point. Need to change your budget for recognition if you need more or additional funds. Volunteer recognition is really important. However, be reasonable about what you think is needed to recognize the volunteers. For 2021 mountaineers gave a specific budget for volunteer recognition due to covid and had a surplus of funds for recognition.
    - Tess: I will put in the message board or Basecamp to help us share ideas for recognition and budget breakdown.
    - Becca: At one point recognition was very centralized for fairness for recognition. Good solution proposed by Tess.

## 5. Committee & Organizational Reports

- Safety –Bill
  - [2018-2021 Safety Report](#)
    - Branch chairs should have received an Invite for the Safety Committee. The invite is primarily for informational purposes. If there is something that looks important please let your safety officer know. No obligation to join the meeting otherwise.
    - Recently published annual safety report. Now caught up. In the process of building the first quarter information and will put it on BLC Basecamp. Staff will put out a safety update blog. First draft of a checklist for at trail and after trail. 3x5 laminated card to plan



for a trip. Helps with best practices. Draft will be circulated for comment. Want your feedback on the checklist.

- Look at recent blogs for the safety update.
- Safety Report: The executive summary has some key learnings. Most incidents are on trail. Need to stay focused. Stepping off trail or talking or taking pictures causes accidents. Its important to leave room between you and the person in front of you in case someone trips. Offtrail—lots of rockfall both natural and human caused. Everett branch has a presentation on how to travel on loose rock. Loose terrain causes slips and falls. Snow travel needs ice axe skills to arrest. Make sure to practice if using ice axes. No trekking poles and ice axes at the same time. Conditioning is important.
- Global Adventures—Cindy
  - No update.
- Operations - Sara & Becca
  - Reminder about 2021 Super Volunteer, Key Leader, and Committee Chair benefits
    - Recognitions planned for the above. If you have someone to nominate please contact Sara.
      - Tess: a sheet that summarizes who to nominate to avoid duplication among committee chairs. Sara will put a summary.
- [Branch Leadership Charter](#)
  - Status of draft and harmonization with Mountaineer Bylaws
    - James provided an update on the draft Branch Leadership Charter and how the updates are being drafted to conform with new rules from the State around non-profit governance. Current thinking is that BLC will be an advisory committee to the Board but empowered with certain abilities to support branch-wide programming, activity standards and charters.

## 6. Mountaineers Survey

- Discussion about the survey presentation from the [State of the Organization](#)
- Questions from BLC about the survey.
- Next Steps: Questions from BLC will be compiled and survey data developed for each branch. Branch reports will be sent in advance of the June BLC meeting for discussion.
  - Sara: Surveys are conducted every other year and is an opportunity for the BLC to review the results. The results from the most recent survey were shared with BLC for a short discussion today and then a broader discussion at the June BLC. Kristian will be at the BLC meeting in June. She administers the survey and has data analysts to dig into specific



questions and develop branch reports. Any initial impressions or feedback?

- Curtis: Survey respondents seemed skewed toward older members. How valid is the rest of the data if the younger members are not represented?
- Tess: This may have been a trend on previous surveys.
- Brian: Watched the video presentation a few weeks ago but nothing stood out. Why do people leave the mountaineers?
- Gretchen: Data skewed by age and would affect some of the metrics. Need better outreach with the younger population. No need for deep-dive. Agree with issue of member retention.

7. Standards, Summits & Activity Charters ([Matrix](#))

- Snowshoe Summit
  - Intro to Ethan Metzger, who will provide brief update from recent summit
    - April summit was attended by Tacoma, Seattle and Everett. Good discussion and idea sharing.
    - Standards: One addition and getting feedback from the branches not present. Under consideration is a requirement on intermediate trips to carry ice axes and helmets.
    - Charter: Is currently being drafted and will incorporate feedback from rest of the branches.
- [Naturalist Council Charter Draft](#)
  - Second reading and discussion of the charter agreed to by Branches (Seattle, Kitsap, Olympia).
    - Motion: Curtis; Second: Gretchen: Approved.
- [Naturalist Activity Standards](#)
  - Second reading and discussion of the standards agreed to by Branches (Seattle, Kitsap, Olympia).
    - Motion: Tess; Second: Curtis: Approved
- [Cross-Country Skiing Charter](#)
  - First reading and discussion of the charter agreed to by Branches/Lodges (Everett, Olympia, Foothills, Meany).
    - Met in March and discussed the charter and came away with a good draft charter. Got some good input from those who didn't attend. Had input from brach and loge (Meany). Draft submitted yesterday and approved by branch and lodges.
    - Motion: Ben; Second: Scott: Approved.

7. Information Items

- No updates.

8. Adjourn

- Next meeting June 15, 2022