

## Olympia Branch Council 8/13/2024 minutes

In attendance: Bob Keranen\*, Mandi Maycumber\*, Mike Forsyth, Patrick McLaughlin, Elizabeth Spaulding\*  
\*voting branch officer

- Approval of last month's minutes  
**We did not have a quorum of 4 for this meeting, so voting on approval of June minutes has been postponed to September.**
- Need a chair for next month's meeting  
**Bob will chair the September in-person meeting as Mandi will be out of state.**
- Elections updates  
**Bob reports that we have two candidates for secretary, 0 for social chair, and 1 for branch chair elect in 2025-26. He will have a conversation with them about possibly stepping up sooner for the chair elect role in 2024-25. Nominations are due 8/23, "full court press" for nominees is on!**
- Social Chair updates  
**Elizabeth reported that a volunteer responded to the eBlast for helping with events. She will ask to see if they are possibly interested in nomination for social chair.**

**Banquet will be changed to a "social and awards" event to reflect that there are appetizers but not a plated dinner. It will occur on October 12 this year.**

**Open house will be delayed to January 2025 due to bandwidth and venue issues. Branch picnic was a success; Elizabeth can continue assisting with that even when she is not the chair.**

**We have a few possible speakers for the social in mind: Dan Mazur, Rick Ridgway, and Craig Romano. Another option is the authors of FOTH 10<sup>th</sup> edition. Elizabeth will reach out and provide an update at next month's meeting.**

- Director's Report  
**Director's meeting occurs in two days; report will be available at September Branch Council meeting.**

- Treasurer updates  
**Not present for updates. Mandi will follow up to see if our budget was submitted.**
- Including scholarship language in course postings per Becca Polglase  
**A discussion of the pros and cons of raising course fees to program center suggested amounts and supplementing with scholarships occurred. Generally, we lean toward keeping lower course fees in place to encourage higher enrollment and a sustainable volunteer pool. We should promote use of scholarship funds to students by sharing the information and highlighting that the use of funds is kept private from course chairs and volunteers.**
- Activity chair report (for chairs in attendance)  
**Snowshoeing: not much to report, it's August.**

**Wilderness Skills: had a meeting with Basic Climbing Chair about how to tailor content for their needs. Julie will go to her committee about possibly requiring it for climbing students this year. Wilderness Skills is being chaired by Rob Schanz with transitional support offered by Mandi. Curriculum planning meeting to occur on 8/26.**

**Navigation: will be chaired by Patrick McLaughlin and Todd Mooney this year. Course will be all in-person with a start date of 9/3.**

**MOFA/WFA: will be offered in the Fall at \$250 per student and \$100 for leaders who have led two or more trips in the last year. Dates TBD. Course will consist of 3 classroom days and 8 hours of self-study.**

- Nominations for Mountaineers Service award and Leadership in Youth Education Award due 9/12/2024  
**A nomination for the Mountaineers Service award was discussed; Bob will forward to the program center.**