

Denver Group Council Minutes
April 8, 2015

In Attendance: Dave Hutchison, Grover Cleveland, Brian LeBlanc, Sandy McRae, Alex Petre, Maddie Philley, Kevin Schaal, Roger Wendell; Valerie Walker. **Absent:** None **Guests:** Jeff Flax

1. **Call to Order:** Dave called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.
2. **Approval of April Minutes:** The March minutes were approved as written.
3. **Financial Report:** The monthly budget report was not available. Alex reported that a new bookkeeper had recently been hired and he/she had not been able to prepare the report in time for the meeting.
4. **Annual Dinner Report by Jeff Flax:** The date of this year's annual dinner has been set for Sunday October 25th. The venue will be the CMC building in Golden. The committee is planning a less formal, less expensive event fashioned after the Back Country Bash instead of a formal sit-down dinner. It will essentially be a buffet style dinner with only a few tables for those preferring to be seated for dinner. The social hour will begin at 5:30 PM with a one-hour dinner to follow. At approximately 7:30 PM, the event moves to the auditorium where the Awards Ceremony will take place. The event concludes with the showing of a Warren Miller movie, *The Climb to Glory*, a film about the 10th Mountain Division, and a star from the movie, Chris Anthony will conduct a brief presentation with a Q&A session.
 - The targeted ticket price per member is \$25. This price is \$13 less than last year's price and the committee hopes this encourages good member participation.
 - Attendance is capped at 300 people due to the capacity of the auditorium.
 - A CMC Staff member is tasked with obtaining the liquor license for this event.
 - As in the past, 40-year and 50-year members will be recognized and their dinners will be paid for by the Denver Group.
 - Known costs so far are \$500 for the rooms where the buffet will be held, \$300 for the auditorium and \$200 for the rights to showing the movie.
 - The caterer has not yet been chosen. Warren Tech provides catering and will be check out.
 - The Annual Dinner Committee is soliciting Council members to help on the night of the event.
5. **Website Migration:** In a previous meeting, Council approved spending up to \$5000 to migrate '*HikingDenver.net*' and '*CMCschools.org*' to '*CMC.org/DenverGroup*'. Other State groups would follow suit and have a sub-domain within the CMC.org website structure following the same naming convention.
 - State CMC committed to providing more thorough documentation regarding specifics of the migration effort, but this information has not yet been received.
 - This program is on a fast-track for getting accomplished as soon as possible, however dates have not been settled.
 - For now, Denver Group Council is not proceeding with spending any of the \$5000 designated for this effort.

6. **Structural Task Force:** State CMC has organized a task force to look at the organizational structure and associated issues around its implementation or management. They are looking at any and all aspects, however no specific are being communicated.
7. **Hike Surge:** Eleven hikes have been added to the Activity Calendar for the Hike Surge which is scheduled for May 2nd to May 10th. If 4-6 new members were on each of these hikes, we would be encouraging somewhere between 32 and 60 new members to participate in a hike where otherwise they may not hike even once during their first year of membership.
 - The difficulty of the hikes for the Surge range from Easy A to Difficult C hikes.
 - New members will be contacted in mid-April for sign-ups.
 - Maddie has been actively heading the publicity effort.
 - Patricia Leslie with assistance from Brenda Porter will organize a calling campaign to solicit new members to participate.
 - Council needs to document on both the front end and the back end the lessons learned and publish the success stories.
8. **Leader Deactivation:** Council discussed the current policy to remain as an active trip leader. The DS&L policy manual states, "Leaders who have not led a trip annually will be considered inactive and have their names removed from the CMC Leader database.DS&L will communicate annually the Active Leader requirements and Active Leader Reinstatement requirements to leaders." Council's discussion included the following points:
 - Why is the time limit set at 12 months when the refresher requirements are 3 years for others, such as for WFA?
 - A more appropriate reason to be placed on the inactive list would be because of not having taken the WFA refresher classes for hiking, or for winter trips, not having taken refresher training in ATA or AIARE.
 - Injuries or extenuating circumstances could easily be a reason for not leading an annual trip.
 - As a more respectful approach, could DS&L send a courtesy e-mail to a trip leader in jeopardy of being placed on the inactive list stating please lead a trip within the next four months in order to remain on the active list?

In conclusion, council requests there should be no follow up with DS&L at this time.

9. **New Leaders Who Don't Lead Trips:** Grover reported a statistic stating 50% of Trip Leader School (TLS) graduates don't actually lead trips. Dave had contacted Patrick McKinley asking what the perceived hurdles were, but no response was forthcoming prior to the meeting. One comment discussed was that since taking TLS costs only \$15 and there are relatively few hours required to complete TLS, perhaps Council should increase the fee for enrolling in ~~TLS~~ ^{TLS} to \$100, then give back \$85 when a person graduates and actually begins leading hikes. Council took no action.
10. **Membership Numbers:** It was reported that membership numbers have been up significantly over the past 6 months. Please see the attached March 2015 Membership Dashboard for specific details.
11. **Proposed Change in Policy Section for Classification Descriptions:** Council President presented some recommended changes to the Classification Table in the Denver Group Policy Book for Council's approval. Please see the attached sheet showing this table, noting that the changes are in red font. Maddie moved and Brian seconded the motion to accept the Table as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

12. **Classification Committee:** Roger Wendell is a one-man committee working to keep member classifications up to date in the database. Council recommends Roger have another committee member, if for no other reason than that he should have a backup. Two approaches were suggested. Roger can recruit another member, or some DGC member can volunteer. This issue remains undecided as no council member stepped forward.

13. **Trail Work Days:** DGC will commit to volunteering for a Trail Work Day on May 30th. Grover to insure the work day location is fixed in the calendar and communicated to Council. Other points discussed regarding the trail work day effort were:

- RMOTHG will be scheduling their own section's work day volunteer activity.
- HAMS and the Tech Section are schools and will not be doing a volunteer work day activity.

14. **Leader Support:** Council President presented three options for consideration where, if adopted, the Denver Group would be more supportive of trip leaders and provide better incentive for a member to consider becoming a trip leader.

1. Consider that DGC pays for leaders to take Trip Leader School.
 2. Consider that DGC pays for any requirements to remain as an active leader such as WFA, ATA, or AIARE. An additional consideration stated was: Perhaps the member pays the first time the class is taken but thereafter, DGC pays each time.
 3. DGC should subsidize scholarships for a leader of winter backcountry trips to take AIARE. An additional consideration stated was: If a person who gets AIARE for free, and then leads only one trip, that would be unfair. So maybe this person would be required to lead 3-5 trips.
- ✓ The associated costs for any of the above proposals would be covered by the \$25,000 recently inherited by the Denver Group.

Other discussions ensued around the following topics:

- On occasion, a leader enters a trip into the activity calendar but nobody signs up for the trip. How does that impact remaining on the active trip leader list?
- What is a Master Trip Leader? Nobody knows the rules, definitions, qualifications for being a Master Leader.
- Why doesn't CMC adopt the UIAA guidelines for being a trip leader? The American Alpine Club belongs to UIAA, whereas CMC does not. Can we somehow leverage our relationship with the American Alpine Club to make UIAA membership more affordable?

15. **May Meeting:** May's DGC meeting is scheduled for May 13 at 6:30 PM. Maddie will bring snacks.

16. **Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Schaal 5/13/15 5/4/15

Attachments: Proposed Classification Table in the Denver Group Policy Book, March 2015 Membership Dashboard.

Proposed classification table in the *Policy* section (changes in **RED**):

Classification	Requirement
A Hiker	None; new members are automatically assigned an A Hiker classification
B Hiker	Go on two B hikes with two different leaders, with one of the hikes being a Difficult B hike
C Hiker	Go on two C hikes with two different leaders, with one of the hikes being a Difficult C hike Complete Wilderness Trekking School or Backpacking School or obtain a waiver from the School Director
D Hiker	Go on two D hikes with two different leaders, with one of the hikes being a Difficult D hike Complete Basic Mountaineering School, Basic Mountaineering Certification, Intermediate Mountaineering Certification , or obtain a waiver from the School Director Have a current Wilderness First Aid Certification or equivalent
Easy Skier	Go on two Easy III trips with two different leaders
Moderate Skier	Go on one Moderate II trip and two Moderate III trips with at least two different leaders
Advanced Skier	Go on two Advanced trips, with one of the trips being an Advanced II trip, with two different leaders Complete CMC Avalanche School or equivalent training

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Proposed changes to the *Procedures* section (changes in **RED**):

Insert after first paragraph in the section:

The Classification Committee may change and update the Denver Group Classification Change Request form to keep it consistent with the classification policy and current Denver Group school offerings. [April 8, 2015]

Some classifications also require graduation from Denver Group schools. Members already possessing the skills taught in WTS, BKPS, BMS, **WFA, or AIARE** may, in some cases, obtain a waiver for those schools at the discretion of the School Director. Not all schools offer waivers. Members should contact the School Director for the school in question. [April 8, 2015]

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classification policy

March 2015 Membership Dashboard

Member Totals	March 2015	March 2014	(Year Over Year)
New Members this month	223	173	29%
Renewed Members this month	331	478	-31%
Dropped Members (Chose not to Renew)	204	124	65%

	2014-15 Q1	2014-15 Q2	
New members	289	565	96%
Renew members	738	1000	36%
Dropped	638	456	-29%

Group	Members		
	March 2015	March 2014	YOY
Alpine Start (State Young Adult Program)	37	34	9%
Aspen	169	171	-1%
Boulder	756	807	-6%
CO Wilderness Families	111	130	-15%
Denver	3,022	3,006	1%
El Pueblo	45	47	-4%
Fort Collins	309	296	4%
Friends of CO	233	151	54%
Friends of CMC (supporting membership)	35	N/A	
Friends of Routt	7	5	40%
Gore Range	145	146	-1%
Longs Peak	38	35	9%
Pikes Peak	570	499	14%
San Juan	35	41	-15%
Shining Mountains	133	133	0%
Western Slope	51	49	4%
TOTAL MEMBERS	5696	5,550	3%

	Memberships *		
	March 2015	March 2014	YOY
	35	34	3%
	109	123	-11%
	593	672	-12%
	32	44	-27%
	2,249	2,513	-11%
	35	37	-5%
	217	238	-9%
	151	127	19%
	34	N/A	N/A
	5	3	67%
	94	105	-10%
	29	29	0%
	367	387	-5%
	32	40	-20%
	100	103	-3%
	41	39	5%
TOTAL	4123	4494	-8%

* Memberships include families with multiple members

NEW Membership by Type*	March 2015
Individual	122
Family	14
40 Year/Life/Associate/Honorary non-dues paying)	0
Young Adult	9
Total New Memberships	145