



## 2023 WESTERN CONFERENCE BOARD MEETING

The Western Conference Board Meeting was held on Friday, July 7<sup>th</sup> at 2045 MDT

Directors/Officers present: Chair Brad Eells, Western Deputy Chair Mike Guerin, N CA/SHPO Liaison Kyle Stetler, Treasurer/MT-N.ID Gary Weber, W.WA Forrest Clark, S.ID Luke Channer, and NJ/Secretary Ray Grimes.

Brad asked for any other agenda items for the meeting; there were none.

There was a discussion among the directors for locations for 2024 and 2025 western conference sites. Forrest mentioned the possibility of the Methow Valley for 2025 and Mike is going to put out a request to Western directors to see who might be interested in hosting for 2024.

Brad advised the Howard Verschoor wants to step down as OR director and there is a need to find a good replacement.

Brad brought up a National understanding and to have people involved and understand what the FFLA is and what we do. Brad brought up a survey from a web site that asked if people know what the FFLA is and what we do, of all the people that took the survey 42% did not know what the FFLA is and what we do. There was a discussion among those present and Mike mentioned about reaching out to local PIOs for help on this matter.

Mike brought up the organization being top heavy, not having the chair do all the work but delegate it to the deputy chair or down to the local or state director to run the project and maybe just check in and see how they are doing. Gary spoke about the last bylaws changes not having addressed Deputy Chairs and their duties. There was more discussion about delegation and spending more time with the FFLA.

Brad brought up that even though the FFLA cannot lobby for paid positions, we can support keeping the lookout positions.

Vandalism to lookouts, and how to deter it, was discussed; it was proposed to put it out to a think tank on ideas on this matter.

Brad had received a call from Keith Argow, who could not make it to the conference, about an award for books on lookouts. There was a discussion among the directors present and it was decided at this time to defer any decision; that more discussion would need to take place.

Gary brought up the need to work on the updated FFLA web site. Brad is looking in to getting some help for that.

The meeting adjourned at 2156