

The Fall Line

News for the Western New York Region
Eastern Division, National Ski Patrol



SUMMER 2009

www.nspwny.org

Special Edition: Regional Director Election Issue

Election Bylaws

- ✦ The election of a Regional Director for the WNY Region of the National Ski Patrol will take place during registration at the Fall Outdoor Emergency Care 2009 Refreshers. All NSP registered members within the WNY Region are eligible to vote. Excluded from voting are Alumni, Medical Associates, Candidates and Professional division members.
- ✦ The Election Committee will accept nominations postmarked on or before the deadline date of **May 15, 2009**. Any active patroller within the WNY Region may nominate a qualified candidate for office. Self-nominations are accepted. Nominations are to be sent to **Lowell Sylwester 784 Chestnut Hill Rd., East Aurora, NY 14052-2604**. The Election Committee shall confirm the qualifications of each candidate and obtain a written acceptance or refusal of the nomination. The candidate's acceptance of the nomination, accompanied by their resume and platform statement, must be received in writing by the Election Committee as post marked no later than **June 1, 2009**.
- ✦ Qualifications for Regional Director candidate:
 - ✦ Actively registered patroller in the region he/she seeks to represent
 - ✦ Possess a minimum of 5 seasons patrolling

experience

- ✦ Have achieved Senior Alpine, Senior Nordic or Certified status. Members currently registered as Auxiliary Patrollers are qualified to become Regional Director candidates if they have met the requirements described above at some point in their patrol career.
- ✦ Absentee votes shall be permitted for good cause shown in writing to an election officer. Request for absentee ballots must be made by **October 1, 2009** and will be counted only if received by the Election Committee on or before **October 31, 2009**. Those who will be attending the Fall Refresher at an area other than their own patrol sponsored event will need to request and vote by absentee ballot.

Election Committee Members

Lowell Sylwester	(716) 655-1090
Barbara Ehinger	(716) 652-1995
Rick Flett	(716) 674-4523

Casting Your Vote

Elections will be carried out at each of the region's patrol's Fall Refresher. A ballot box will be available to cast your vote. If you will require an absentee vote, please contact one of the Election Committee Members above.



Platform Statement for 2009 Regional Director Election

Donald L. Weaver
Kissing Bridge

If elected this would be my third and last term in office. It will be my intension to seek out persons that would be interested in running for the office of RD in 2011 and appointing them as Alternate RDs (Assistants). I will then assign specific RD tasks with these potential candidates. This will both give them an opportunity to be “in training” and to experience portions of the RD responsibilities plus give the Region an opportunity to see their leadership ability.

During my tenure as the Western New York Region Director I have attempted to be sensitive to the needs and aspirations of the individual patrollers within the region. For each of the educational, evaluation or training event held by the Region the participants have had an opportunity to give written feedback. This feedback has indicated whether; 1) expectations were met, 2) ways the event helped them be better patrollers, 3) what was liked best about the event, 4) what things would be suggested for change, 5) how patrollers rate the leadership of the event, 6) was the event worthy of time spent. Based on the results of patroller input, necessary adjustments in programs have been made. This also adds to greater accountability on the part of officers and staff of the region. These evaluations have been open for anyone to read.

When disappointments or difficulties are encountered I feel the job of the Region Director is to gather the data necessary to look for the ‘root causes’ of the problem and propose creative solutions so all can feel and be successful in their endeavors. I believe this has happened within the last several years. A new spirit of cooperation has been put in place where candidates for skilled status upgrades have felt the support of instructors, trainers, examiners, and patrol representatives who have communicated and worked

as a team for the benefit of candidates.

I believe that NSP leaders are here to support the efforts of the patroller rather than the patroller supporting the position of the leaders. This is compatible with my basic philosophy of working with volunteer organizations. Over the years I have found that both career and volunteer workers respond particularly well to a style of leadership I have adopted.

I follow a leadership model that looks like a triangle with the point at the bottom. The leader is positioned at this bottom point to give support, encouragement and provide the tools for those who are the officers and staff, who, in turn work directly with the volunteers who are the ones that carry out the mission of the organization. This is what I call “Leadership by Serving”. The people at the “top” are those that carry out the task, which is the mission of the organization. In our case the individual patroller who serves the ski area and the skiing public are at the “top” and should be treated in that manner.

I have discovered that volunteers do not leave organizations because there are things they “DON’T LIKE”; they leave because they don’t find enough “THEY DO LIKE”. There is a dramatic difference between the two. We must make sure that our role contributes to the volunteers’ satisfaction and not add to their dissatisfaction while still maintaining our standards of excellence. This is a part of the accountability that I feel will be expected and appreciated in this new era.

As the Region Director I will pledge my support and leadership abilities to the WNY Region Staff/Officers, the Region Patrol (Directors) Representatives and would faithfully continue to represent our Region within the Eastern Division.

Dr. Donald L. Weaver
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Resume for 2009 Regional Director Election

Donald L. Weaver Kissing Bridge

National Ski Patrol

- ✦ Presently a Member of the Board of Directors of the NSP Eastern Division
- ✦ Serve as Chair the Nominations and Election Committee for the Eastern Division
- ✦ Received NSP National Appointment in 2007
- ✦ Presently member of the local patrol Advisory Committee
- ✦ Served on WNY Region By-Laws Committee - WNY Region Election Committee
- ✦ 2002-2003 recipient of WNY Region "Ambassador of the Slope Award"
- ✦ Chaplain for Region Memorial Service
- ✦ Served several years as Finance Committee Chair of local patrol
- ✦ 1992 recipient of Kissing Bridge "Patroller of the Year Award"
- ✦ Obtained Senior Alpine Status in 1982
- ✦ 37 Year member of NSP, transferred to KB in '74, at least 20 years as Shift Leader
- ✦ 3 Years as Advance Red Cross First Aid Instructor early in my patrol experience

Emergency Response

- ✦ Presently serve on the National Critical Response Team that responds to disasters of Mass Destruction (including weapons of MD) at the call of Homeland Security.
- ✦ Have served as 1 of 12 National Consultants and Trainers in the field of Disaster Response on behalf of the United Methodist Church for the last 21 years.
- ✦ Presently serve as a liaison between volunteers workers/organizations and National Agencies such as the American Red Cross and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, National Transportation Safety Board and the American Red Cross
- ✦ Conducted workshops on disaster response across this country for the last 24 years and was invited and taught the first 8 week training for African Relief Workers at African University in Zimbabwe, Africa in 1998.
- ✦ Since 1982 have responded to emergencies throughout the country from Columbine to California Earthquakes, from Hurricanes in Florida and Gulf Coast to 9/11 in New York City.

United Methodist Clergy

- ✦ Served 40 years in Pastoral Ministry, 32 as Senior Pastor of Churches in the Western New York Area where I was responsible for supervising paid staff and leading volunteer members.
- ✦ My last assignment I served 1,500 members and a multiple staff.

Executive Positions

- ✦ Served a full 6-year term as District Superintendent for 50 Churches, 47 Pastors of Erie/Niagara County area.
- ✦ Supervised and assisted in appointing profession staff and managed volunteers and programs throughout the District.
- ✦ Conducted the Annual Meetings at each of the 50 Churches, for each of the 6 years
- ✦ Served 2 years as Associate Executive of the United Methodist Conference - supervised and trained staff and volunteers across Western New York State.

Education

- ✦ BA Undergraduate Degree from SUNY at Buffalo (An education degree in preparation to teach High School Industrial Arts)
- ✦ MDiv Graduate Degree from Alfred University School of Theology
- ✦ Doctorate Degree (DMin) from Drew University (Earned degree focused on Training and Managing Volunteers to carry out lay participation in pastoral care)



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WNY Region, Eastern Division
National Ski Patrol

c/o Kristen Russo
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