



**Professional Ski Instructors of America
American Association of Snowboard Instructors
Northern Rocky Mountain Division**



PSIA/AASI-NRM - P.O. Box 11392, Bozeman, MT 59719

NRM President's Report – January 2010

This past week a meeting of the Presidents of PSIA-AASI's nine divisions was held in Denver in conjunction with the National Board of Directors Meeting. Before giving a brief synopsis of the President's meeting, I would like to explain briefly the different functions of the two.

The PSIA-AASI board is made up of divisional representatives, the sitting national president, the executive director, and the president's council chair. Their duty is to consider the interests of the membership nationally rather than on a divisional basis.

The Presidents Council, made up of the nine division presidents, represents the interests of their own divisions. Issues are brought to the council, discussed, and worked on with recommendations carried to the national board by the president's council chair for review/action. Thus, you as members have representation both here at home as well as on a national level. Further questions on either level can be directed to myself, your divisional president, or to Eric Sheckleton your National Board Representative.

As for the meeting, several issues were discussed with movement forward on all. A good deal of exchange centered on the role of the council with several points of consensus being reached.

- We should be an advocacy group for divisions bringing their members' desires to the national board.
- Though we are separate entities with narrow divisional interests, we must foster open communication and at times set those narrow divisional interests aside to achieve a workable consensus.
- We must learn and understand the cultural differences of the different divisions in order to better interact as a whole when working toward decided goals.
- We must monitor information and strive to ensure that information is relayed accurately between national and divisional committees and staffs.
- We need to mentor at all board and administrative levels to assure solid transitions of personnel.

With these items having been agreed to, time was then used to determine "how" to achieve these ends. As an example of the sharing of information or expertise, the Central Division will be requesting that I work with them on rewriting their by-laws, using NRM's experience last summer to help guide them through the process.

Another example is mentoring future board, committee, and staff members. Broadening our outlook to include recruiting those with differing skill sets should allow the development of better communication skills at all levels to more effectively represent our members at the national level.

Interestingly, our group is a good representation of that last idea. Lawyers, consultants, full-time and part-time instructors and more were represented. And, with a determination to seek consensus on ways to get things done rather than complaining and waiting for someone else to respond, I feel confident that all members will have better and growing representation as your organization moves into the future.

The positive attitude evident in the President's Council is encouraging. Council members are willing and working to move positively into the future. What they need now is input, and constructive communication from the membership through whatever channels a division has in place. In our case, that means bringing ideas or concerns to the appropriate committee. Then they can further develop an idea or address a concern, pass it on to the office or the president. If it is also a concern in other divisions, it can then be brought to the national level.

Remember. You have a voice and a stake in your organization.

Thank you,

Michael Hickey
President, PSIA-NRM
Chairman, National Presidents Council