AWSA WESTERN REGION SUMMER COUNCIL
MEETING July 22, 2025
Minutes
Ski West Village Arvin, CA
noon- lunch and start

1. Introductions/Roll Call – attending the meeting were Russ Selsor for John Crivello, Jeanne Roher, Mark Roske, Richelle Muhlitner, Randy Grubbs, Mark Timm, Terry Selsor, Sam Lee, Mike Parsons, Ryan Nason, Sue Pickrell, Kim Larson, Judy Stanford, Don Stanford, Martha Selsor, Scott Larson, Brad Hartwell, and Owen Letcher.

2. Council approval to allow substitutes – There was no objection to substitutes other than Jeanne was not allowed to vote for Christine Gulley of Colorado. The quorum was established.
    a. Establishment of a quorum (8 of 13 voting members)

3. Assignment of Parliamentarian – Brad Hartwell was assigned as the meeting parliamentarian.

4. Review and Approval of Minutes from 1/4/2025 Winter Council Meeting – Mark Roske made a motion to approve the minutes. A vote was taken and there were no objections.

5. EVP Report – Connie Bergmark There was general discussion regarding the success of the ski year so far. Also, safety was brought up including concussion protocol and how important it is. Thanks to the hosts of the Regionals, Ski West and especially Eric Francios.

6. AWSA Presidents Report – Lyman Hardy (no report)

7. Executive Director USA WS - (no report)

8. Treasurer's Report – Russ Selsor Russ outlined the report included in the agenda.

9. National Executive: Owen Letcher is the Western Region representative to the USAWSWS board. He reported on the turmoil at HQ with Executive Director getting into a dispute with some sponsors. There was inappropriate language used. The board had questions and during a 4.5 hour meeting and a motion was made to remove the Executive Director for cause. 75% was needed to pass but the athletes, who are 33% of the board, voted no so the vote failed. There is a Performance Improvement Plan in place where the Executive Director needs to renew 12% of the expired sponsorships by May 1st. 60 days from the meeting, he needed to close on the other sponsors. Owen voted to remove with cause. Remove without cause included 12 months' salary. The Executive Director is popular with the athletes. Goode continues to be the title sponsor of the AWSA Nationals.

10. Council Area Reports – Area 1 through Area 9 :

Area 1 Southern California and Hawaii, Scott Larson: Scott reported that his area has been busy with tournaments but has lost a couple of 3-events. He noted that AWSA Regionals, Nationals, and NCWSA Nationals are being held in Area 1. There is an increase in younger rated drivers and officials.

Area 2 Bay Area, Russ Selsor for John Crivello: Russ highlighted a great tournament held at Lakeside Ranch in Patterson. Skiers were assigned to teams and the teams competed for the grand prize. Matt Brandt also hosts a Wednesday night ski league at Berkley. The average age of these tournaments tends to be lower than average. They have gained AWSA members. He sees a need to get former college skiers back to skiing.

Area 3 Northern California, Ryan Nason: There are 17 tournaments in the area this season but a lack of juniors participating.

Area 4 Washington and Alaska, Mark Timm: There are 2 3-event records and 4 3-event tournaments this season in the area. The numbers are status quo. Richard Doane is getting new judges qualified.

Area 5 Oregon, Randy Grubbs: There is a new candidate interested in this council position. We will get her on the ballot for next year's election. Randy discussed the situation of aging officials, drivers, LOC and council. Mark Roske outlined the process for driver emeritus status. It is the Chief Driver's responsibility to only allow able drivers to drive a tournament. The local level should address anyone who should be recommended for the emeritus rating. This recommendation goes to the Driver's Committee and it is a 6 month process to complete.

Area 6 Colorado, Jeanne Roher for Christine Gulley: There are 7 tournaments on the schedule. They have been really well attended. Fifteen kids attended the Junior Development camp and there were many personal bests in the next tournament.

Area 7 Arizona, Jeanne Roher: There are 14 slalom tournaments on the schedule with 6 in the spring and 6 in the fall. Previously there were 16-17 so slightly down. All are Class C.

Area 8 Nevada and Utah, Mike Parsons: In preparation for next year's Regionals, there was a successful 3-event Record tournament held at Bear Hollow in Utah. The needs for Regionals include slalom towers for judges on the slalom lake. Trick and Jump will run similar to the tournament held in June. The LOC will need support from the Region and Mike will work to put it together. Eric Francois will provide a checklist to Craig Adams and Kelly Heitz of the Bear Hollow LOC.

Area 9 Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming, Sam Lee: Sam noted that many Idaho skiers supported the Bear Hollow tournament. He noted the change that there was 1 Best of the West junior camp in California. They did not host a junior development in his area.

11. Regional Committee Reports (committee reports come as a motion for approval – second needed)

a. Regional Awards - Sue Pickrell outlined the voting process for the Award of Merit and Outstanding Official. Her report was attached.

b. Regional Drivers – Mark Roske said that Chris Eller is working on the emeritus process. Driving clinics are encouraged but it does take 7 days more approval from Melanie Hanson of HQ. Drivers who are downgraded are notified. The website is not reflecting the correct status and there is work on the database in process. SurePath is here to stay as well as the WSTIMS interface. Mark encouraged drivers to use to portal to see how they are doing. Testing is still needed for a rating upgrade. The scoring system on the driver's test is being revised. Class C tournaments should have SurePath but unfortunately, it is not being used everywhere.

c. Regional Junior Development - Mike Maxson Sam Lee spoke for Mike. He discussed the Best of the West camp at Marcus Brown and the Stabel's lake. There were 12 kids attending Tuesday – Friday. The clinic went well and the coaches were Marcus, Terry Winter, and Ryan Nason. The camp was a success, and the kids were able to interact which was very beneficial.

d. Regional Guide—Ty Vaio (no report for the summer meeting)

e. Regional Nominating - Owen Letcher For the USAWSWS board, Doug Robins and Dale Stevens are likely to continue but Bob Archambeau is not sure.

f. Regional Records-Terry Selsor Terry reviewed his attached report and also said that he had 3-4 records in the hopper. Records are required to be submitted with 30 days of the performance. Terry had some recent submittals and asked if he could approve them to get the records to the skiers. A motion was made that if Terry was confident of the record he could approve. The motion was seconded; a vote was taken and approved. There was a previous record that was corrected, and this was noted in his report.

g. Regional Webmaster – Cris Converse (no report)

h. Regional social media - Ty Vaio, Cris Converse (no report)

12. 2024 Western Regional -Tournament Update – Eric Francios Eric reported that the LOC and tournament was ready to start.

13. Western Regional Tournament Bids
    a. 2026 Regionals - Bear Hollow - Mike Parsons discussed in his area's summary.

14. 2025 National Tournament –Ski West, Arvin, CA - looking forward to a great event!

15. 2026 National Tournament Bid - Ski West still has a bid in on the tournament.

16. National Committee Reports

a) National Announcers: Ryan Nason - (no report)

b) National Awards: Randy Hocking - (no report)

c) National Boat Drivers: Chris Eller – refer to Mark Roske's report.

d) National Bylaws: Cris Converse - (no report)

e) National Grassroots: Matt Brandt - (no report)

f) National IAC: Brandy Nagle & Connie Bergmark – report attached

g) National Judges & Scorers: Kim Larson – Kim stated that there is no longer a minimum age for judges. The requirements have been reduced from 3 to 2 tournaments for testing. The minimum age is 18 to be a Chief or Appointed Judge or Scorer. The fast track program has resumed and the senior requirements are in work. There was discussion on the appointed judge requirements and how to support the tournaments. Also, regular rated officials being chiefs was noted as an option to be evaluated.

h) National Junior Development: Mike Maxon

i) National Nominating: Kate Knafla

j) National Rules: Richelle Muhlitner/Ryan Nason – There have been some changes. The speed for M5 & M6 jump has been increased. There is no longer a PanAm judge needed in L&R events. (Report attached)

k) National Safety: Harley Wallace (no report)

l) National Seeding: Judy Stanford – Judy reported that there are still uploading issues. 8-10 steps have been added to make sure that everything is posted. People without SafeSport should not be included in the tournament scoring.

m) National Skiers Qualification: Brandy Nagle

n) National Technical: Will Bush

o) National Towboat: Will Bush – Report attached

p) USAWS- Owen Letcher – See summary in National Executive section.

17. Other Sports Divisions
    - National Collegiate - Ty Vaio
    - Disabled Skiers – Matt Oberholtz
    - Wakeboard
    - Show Ski
    - Hydrofoil
    - Kneeboard
    - Barefoot

18. Old Business

    a) Regional Guide Advertisers - Council

19. New Business

    a) Treasurers Budget Report 2025– Russ Selsor – Russ presented the 2026 budget. The question was asked if we should post financials. Sam suggested that the financials should not be posted before the minutes are approved. The proposed budget was attached. Russ highlighted that the Regional Tournament expense is $4410. Junior Development camps are reimbursed for $350 per camp. Our CD (54k) was renewed for 11 months at 3.5%.

    b) Other New Business

20. National Winter BOD meeting Recommendations for attendees Connie Bergmark, Mark Roske, Richelle Muhlitner, and Brad Hartwell: none were brought up at the meeting.

Committee Chairs Attending – Richelle Muhlitner (Rules)

21. Date and place of 2026 Western Region Winter Council Meeting : January 10, 2026 at the El Dorado Hotel, Reno, NV

22. Adjournment