AWSA WESTERN REGION WINTER
COUNCIL MEETING Minutes
January 10, 2026, 9:00 am
El Dorado Hotel, Reno, Nevada

1. Introductions/Roll Call - In attendance were Mark Timm, Richelle Muhlitner, Kim Larson, Sam Lee, Martha Selsor, Kalei Merrill, Russ Selsor, Terry Selsor, Connie Bergmark, Scott Larson, Ryan Nason, Mike Parsons, Judy Stanford, Don Stanford, Ty Vaio, Mark Roske, and John Crivello.
2. Council approval to allow substitutes – Scott Larson substituted for Christine Gulley.
    a. Establishment of a quorum (8 of 13 voting members) – A quorum was established.
3. Assignment of Parliamentarian - Kim Larson was assigned as parliamentarian.
4. Review and Approval of Minutes from July 2025 Summer Council Meeting - a vote was taken and the minutes were approved unanimously.
5. EVP Report – Connie Bergmark 107 tournaments are in the system. There appears to be a couple of duplicates, and more are expected. Collegiate skiing is still very active and one of the best ways to keep the sport going.
6. AWSA Presidents Report – Lyman Hardy There were financial reports in the meeting package.
7. Executive Director USA WS – No additional information was provided.
8. Treasurer's Report – Russ Selsor Russ reviewed his report. We are doing well. The scholarship is funded on a 3-year basis. This saves the region money. The $500 donation to the foundation is ongoing. This report is approved in the budget vote.
9. National Executive – Owen Letcher - No report.
10. Council Area Reports – Area 1 through Area 9

Area 1 – Scott thanked Ski West and Eric Francios for hosting the Regionals and Nationals in 2025. Ski West will be hosting one tournament in 2026. There are 18 tournaments in Area 1, 6 are 3-event, and 2 are record tournaments (Imperial slalom and Ski West.) That is an additional 2 tournaments for the year. San Diego will also host a Junior Development clinic.

Area 2 – John has 3 tournaments in his area which is the same as last year. The Santa Clara Pond is still dry. PG&E has dam issues for power which limits the water flow. Berkely Aquatic Park continues to have their Ski League on Wednesdays in the summer.

Area 3 – Ryan has 20 tournaments in his area which is 2 more than last year. There are many record tournaments but 1 less than last year.

Area 4 – Mark has 18 tournaments in his area which is the same as last year. Maytown may add a tournament. There are 4 3-events and 2 are records.

Area 5 – Kalei has 3 tournaments in Oregon. Line-off lake is closed and in a trust. No Name lake has new members. There is a new lake in Corvallis with Randy Grubbs. It is near Oregon State so hopefully there will be a new college team.

Area 6 – Scott filled in for Christine. They have 9 tournaments and will have a 2-day Junior Development at Laku.

Area 7 – report via email from Jeanne Rohrer. Tournament count will be the same as last year.

Area 8 – Mike discussed the success of the Record 3-event last year. There will be a Regional Warm-up at Bear Hollow in July (Class C). The LOC is getting organized and will have designated host hotels. There will also be an advertisement in the Regional Guide regarding all the fun activities.

Area 9 – Sam has 10 tournaments in his area. There are 4 in Montana and 4 in Idaho. 2 of the tournaments are 3-events.

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

a. Regional Awards - Sue Pickrell There was discussion on how voting should proceed on the Award of Merit. Sue recommended a clean slate each year. There was discussion and there was a motion to allow a nomination to stay for 5 years. A unanimous vote approved the motion.

b. Regional Drivers - Mark Roske Mark discussed the online assistant driver application that Dave Allen is working on. It is not available yet. SurePath is a part of the practical testing and the process is very labor intensive. Melanie at HQ can verify that upgrade requirements are met. Some areas are having difficulty with qualified drivers. There was an extensive SurePath discussion on what the process is when there is a red boat path. Dialogue between the boat and scoring is necessary. Drivers are encouraged to use the data, practice driving, and get advice from skiers and drivers.

c. Regional Junior Development - Mike Maxon's report and Sam Lee - Sam mentioned how important it is to get the kids together. The Region supports 1 or 2 day local camps at $350 per camp. The Best of the West camp is in Chico, CA at the Stable lake and Marcus Brown's lake. The budget was reviewed. The selection criteria are published in the Regional Guide. The skiers must be B2/G2 and above. The top 12 skiers are selected with overall skiers have some priority.

d. Regional Guide - Ty Vaio - Ty will include the tournaments that have been approved by January 31st. He has pictures of most of the Regional winners if he does not get new pictures submitted.

e. Regional Nominating – Owen Letcher - Report was in meeting package update. Mark Roske is the director running for re-election this year.

f. Regional Records – Terry Selsor - Reports were included in the meeting package.
Terry discussed the records and his process for approval. There was one record not approved and two corrections to existing records. A vote was taken which passed unanimously.

g. Regional Webmaster – Cris Converse – There was discussion regarding getting the website updated changes. Connie will work with Cris to make the changes.

h. Regional Social Media – Cris Converse and Ty Vaio - There is social media presence with AWSA and NCWSA.

12. 2026 Western Regional -Tournament Update – Mike Parsons discussed the site and tournament announcement. They are still working on the details. The jump may be relocated since the slalom course in that lake has been removed. In regard to the schedule, Ty was concerned about glare for some events. Some revisions to the schedule included Friday Trick & Jump, Girls & Boys events, and the Jump start times. When the schedule is finalized, it will be sent to the council voting members for approval.

13. Western Regional Tournament Bids for 2027 No bids have been received. A few sites will be contacted to see if they are interested.

14. 2026 & 2027 National Tournament – Center City, Minnesota

15. 2028 National Tournament Bid No bids have been received.

16. National Committee Reports
    a) National Announcers: Ryan Nason – No report.
    b) National Awards: Randy Hocking – Report in meeting package update.
    c) National Boat Drivers: Chris Eller - Report in meeting package update.
    d) National By-Laws: Cris Converse - Report in meeting package.
    e) National Grassroots: Matt Brandt – No report.
    f) National IAC: Brandy Nagle & Connie Bergmark – Report in meeting package.
    g) National Judges & Scorers: Kim Larson - Report in meeting package update.
    h) National Junior Development: Mike Maxon – No report.
    i) National Nominating: Kate Knafla - Report in meeting package update.
    j) National Rules: Richelle Muhlitner & Ryan Nason – The Men's 9 speed change was discussed and there were questions regarding the survey respondents. Richelle said she would get more information for an email vote. The rest of the rules committee's recommendations were approved.
    k) National Safety: Harley Wallace - Report in meeting package update.
    l) National Seeding: Judy Stanford - Report in meeting package. Judy was in attendance to discuss some of the challenges. She also had recommendations in her report to make sure the tournaments and scores are posted correctly.
    m) National Skiers Qualification: Brandy Nagle - Report in meeting package. Both action items were approved.
    n) National Technical: Will Bush - Report in meeting package.
    o) National Towboat: Will Bush - Report in meeting package. There was more discussion on insurance and availability of promo boats for tournaments.
    p) USAWS: Owen Letcher – No report.

17. Other Sports Divisions

- National Collegiate: Ty Vaio - Collegiate skiing in the Western Region is 200 skiers! New schools joining include UNR, Utah, Oregon State, Colorado State, Colorado Boulder, and Weber State. The 2026 All-Stars will be May 16 & 17 on Lake 3 at Bell Acqua. The 2026 Collegiate Nationals will be October 15-17, 2026 on all 3 Bell Acqua lakes.

- Disabled Skiers: No report but this will be changed to Adaptive.
    - Wakeboard: No report
    - Show Ski: No report
    - Hydrofoil: No report
    - Kneeboard: No report

- Barefoot: No report

18. Old Business

    a) Regional Guide Advertisers - Council There was discussion on the much appreciated revenue.

19. New Business

    a) Treasurers Budget Report: Russ Selsor – Russ presented his proposed budget. It passed unanimously.
    b) Other New Business – none.

20. National Winter BOD meeting Recommendations for attendees:

    a) Owen Letcher, Connie Bergmark, Mark Roske, Richelle Muhlitner, and Brad Hartwell.

    b) Committee Chairs attending – Richelle Muhlitner, Rules

21. Summer 2026 Council meeting: July 28, 2026, at Bear Hollow, Garland UT

22. Adjournment