

NSP 2020 Board election candidate application

Mail the completed form to elections@nspserver.org before 4:00 p.m. mountain daylight time on June 1, 2020.

Personal Information

Name Martin Frederick Huebner
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Best phone/time Any time but meal times and after 10:00 pm MST

Please indicate which of the above pieces of information you approve making available to the NSP membership if you are selected as a nominee Both my home phone and cell phone should be equally available

Linkedin (optional) Not connected
NSP 6-digit ID 144284
Member of NSP for how many years? I joined in 1966, fall, so about 53 years
Primary Patrol Being dual qualified and registered: Grand Targhee and Idaho Falls Nordic
Division InterMountain
Credentials Alpine Basic, Alpine Senior, Nordic Basic, Nordic, Senior
National Appointment National Appointment Number 3378
Leadership Commendation None
Number of years of previous Board Service None

Please respond to each of the following questions concisely but completely

1. Describe your NSP background. List the Leadership positions you have held in your Patrol Section, Region, Division, and Nationally

Leadership is required in both the NSP Line programs as well as in the NSP Staff positions. I always considered myself, first and foremost as a feet-on-the-ground, boots-on-the-snow ski patroller. That I had some meager, but apparently adequate administrative abilities, as well as having a lot of industrial teaching credentials caused me to focus more on staff stuff.

Please note that the many staff positions that I held, that I was I was appointed to all of them

The avalanche phenomenon had always fascinated me. After completing all the NSP's avy classes, getting qualified as avalanche instructor, then being appointed Regional Advisor, I was shocked to be asked to take over the job of IMD Avalanche Advisor and appointed to the National Avalanche Advisory Committee. I followed a similar progression in the Advanced First Aid Program and the Ski Mountaineering programs. I wound up as the Regional Advisors for both subjects. My career as a National Nordic Advisor/Director was more complex as it was initiated at Steamboat Springs where I qualified as a Nordic Basic, and Regular Nordic. I was then appointed as IMD's Northern Region Nordic Advisor. I was happy doing just that! I was shocked again by the NSP hierarchy when asked to take over the Nordic Program as Advisor/Director of the Nordic Program (which was having some troubles) and served as Advisor/Director for nine years.

Feeling that the Alumni revival was ongoing, I merely answered the calls (in the Ski Patrol magazine) for applying for National Alumni Advisor, but stipulated I'd serve for only five years.

2. List your NSP Educational program participation and certification (OEC, OET, MTR, Avalanche, Instructor Development, Nordic/Backcountry.) As mentioned in query # 1, over several decades, I served as an NSP instructor in the avalanche, ski mountaineering, (and way back when) in the Advanced First Aid program, as well serving as the Regional Advisor for Ski mountaineering and First Aid. I served as the Avalanche Advisor for the InterMountain Division (IMD). To fend off any possible criticism about the skiing of Nordic Patrollers, when I was charge of that Program, I certified as a Level II Nordic Instructor with the Professional Ski Instructors of America (PSIA), and applied this know-how to that Program.

3. Have you served as a board member in any organization? If so, please list the organization, years of service and board leadership positions held, if any. I was a Board Member for the Idaho Academy of Science (about 20 years), several now defunct sportsmen's clubs, the Idaho Alpine Club (and president), and the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs (and president). Outside of a few sheets of organizational stationery with my name on the masthead, I have no proof that I served in these capacities. More recently, (in this century, at least) I was on the Board of Coalition 21, a local nuclear advocacy group. As our aging membership got smaller, we quit, and gave our treasury to another such advocacy group. As Treasurer I wrote that final check.

4. In your professional, personal and community life outside the NSP, describe your leadership and other relevant experience and how it might benefit the NSP. The main reasons I served in so many leadership roles in so many organizations is they all had activities in which I liked to participate (usually outdoors). And I have this philosophy "Sooner or later, you've got to take your turn at bat!"

5. As you review the List of Needs, which one(s) interest you most and why? The List of Needs is an interesting list of nine items. I'd probably be comfortable with dealing with any of them except items, 2, 4, 5, and 8. I've had extensive experience in training subordinates while I was the industrial World of Work. I spent about twenty years in training of Navy officers and enlisted men to run nuclear reactors. Although I've done a great deal of it, I would not be much interested in planning and scheduling. (I had experience in planning for and scheduling operations for nuclear power reactors.)

I think I could be a contributor to items 1, 3, 7, and 9 as I have fulfilled lots of leadership roles in the NSP. My technology background is college majors in physics, math and chemistry, and nuclear engineering but that's not what's called for in item #4. My communications skills are adequate (Toastmaster Member for fifteen years and ski columnist for a local newspaper for eighteen years.)

6. The four standing committees are Education, Governance, Finance and Planning. What knowledge, skills and abilities would you bring to one or more of these committees? Of the four standing committees of Education, Governance, Planning or Finance, I might be uncomfortable if assigned to Finance. I would have to need to know more specifics about the operations of the other three committees before I could hazard a guess about where I could best support the long-term goals of the NSP.

7. Fundraising is critical to the sustainability of any non-profit, including the NSP. What expertise would you bring to the Board with regard to improving our non-dues revenue? Although we are the largest ski safety group in the world, I recognize that Fund Raising is vitally important to the NSP. My personal experience with fund raising (churches, clubs, etc.) indicates I'm not very good at it. I was the church treasurer for a while, where I counted money but did NOT have to raise it.

8. Please describe one or two experiences in which you demonstrated your commitment to and support of the strategic mission of the NSP. I have demonstrated my commitment and support of the NSP by instructing in three "should-know" courses, serving on three important National Advisory Committees and serving as the National Advisor for the Nordic and the Alumni Programs.

9. The NSP faces many challenges. What do you see as the major challenge(s) facing the organization, and what strategic ideas and solutions would you offer? The NSP, like many similar outdoor-oriented organizations, faces three ominous, and likely irreversible challenges: Climate Change (which is already hurting some European ski hills), the current international COVID 19 pandemic, and the inexorable upward dollar creep upward of lift ticket prices. It's getting too expensive to ski for many Americans and that's a fact.

10. Summarize why you would be the best candidate for membership on the NSP's Board of Directors. Not only do I have fifty years of dedicated and effective service to the skiing public via the National Ski Patrol, I have served on three important National Advisory Committees, and helped to steer both the Nordic Program and also the Alumni Program into better circumstances (e.g. from ~2500 to over 4500 alumni members).

Nearly 5,000 members makes the Alumni Program the third largest group – numerically - in the NSP - after the number of members in the Eastern and Central Divisions. Reasonable persons would expect that these thousands of former patrollers would have some sort of representation in the NSP hierarchy. They don't and, if elected to serve on the Board, I expect to change those sorry conditions. Here's some five reasons why.

A careful review of the campaign statements of recent Board Candidates over a five-year period revealed that in the first four years, none the 12 candidates/year (a total of 48) even mentioned the word "alumni". One candidate did mention "alumni" during the last year of this review, but he didn't get elected. The shocking truth indicated from this review is the NSP Board ignores the Alumni program. Board candidates: 60, Alumni 0.

The NSP organization has that I, as Alumni Program Advisor was assigned to and reports to the Chair of the National Board of Directors. Over my five-year term, none of those worthies ever bothered to contact me and asked how the Program was doing? Did I need any help? etc. During my last year, one did contact me because he was told I had intentionally insulted a female NSP office staffer. But he was misinformed.

The NSP organizes no festivities or special celebrations specifically for the Alumni, like some Divisions do, and I don't know if the Alumni have ever been invited to any such NSP wide activities.

I do know that when the NSP had a 75th year celebration, and I suggested the Alumni take part in it in some way, that suggestion was turned down.

To correct this unfair ignoring of 14% of the NSP dues paying not having any representation, I submitted an RFA in the last year of my five-year term suggesting that the Board consider having some alumni representation on the Board. The RFA was rejected.

Summing up, I have been told many times that some dues-paying alumni say they are just “cash cows” that the NSP keeps milking, and all they (Alumni) get (quote) “is a crummy magazine.”

I'd be willing to help better integrate the Alumni's vast experience and know-how in support of the NSP.