

NSP 2020 Board election candidate application

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

Personal information

Name Wendy Aarnio
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Best phone/time Evenings at home phone

Please indicate which of the above pieces of personal information you approve making available to the NSP membership if you are selected as a nominee All EXCEPT work number

LinkedIn (optional) _____
NSP 6-digit ID 137004
Member of NSP for how many years 51
Primary patrol Bromley Mountain, Eastern Division
Division _____
Credentials (e.g. senior, certified, Nordic Master) Senior Alpine Patroller
National appointment Number, if applicable National Appointment number 8308
Leadership Commendation Number, if applicable _____
Number of years previous Board service, if applicable 3 years

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 National.
 - National Board of Directors, 2017-present
 - Southern Vermont Representative to the Eastern Division Safety Team, 2014-2020
 - Provide support and accessibility to resources to area resorts to promote skier/rider safety
 - Eastern Division OET Staff, 2009-present
 - Provide training to region OET staff
 - Provide quality assurance for Senior evaluations
 - Participate as an evaluator during Trainer/Evaluator exams
 - Promote OET program content as developed by the Eastern Division Steering Committee
 - Southern Vermont OET Advisor, 2003-2009
 - Provide high quality education programs including Skier Enhancement Seminars, Toboggan Enhancement Seminars, Snowboard Enhancement Seminars, Senior training clinics, Trainer/Evaluator training clinics, Toboggan Instructor courses, Killington Patroller School.
 - Communication with region resorts about program availability
 - Eastern Division OET Trainer/Evaluator, 2000-present
 - Eastern Division OET Instructor Trainer, 2000-present
 - Eastern Division Women's Program Training Staff, Charter Member, 2000-2017
 - Provide toboggan and skills training at division and region programs
 - OET Trainer, Bromley Mountain, Vermont
 - Provide evaluation and instruction at annual toboggan refresher
 - Provide toboggan and skills instruction for current patrollers and new candidates
 - Eastern Division Senior OEC Staff, 1988-2000
 - Provided quality assurance during Senior OEC evaluations and instructor recertifications
 - Developed scenarios used during Senior evaluations
 - Acted as a scorer or advocate during Senior evaluations
 - Participated as an evaluator and trainer in instructor recertifications and refreshers
 - Eastern Division OEC Instructor Trainer/Trainer Evaluator, 1991-2000
 - Southern Vermont OEC Instructor, 1986-2000
2. - List your NSP Educational program participation and certification (OEC, OET, MTR, Avalanche, Instructor Development, Nordic/Backcountry).
 - Eastern Division Certified Program, 2011-2014
 - Eastern Division YAP Seminar-OET Evaluator, 2015-2019
 - 2014 Eastern Division Women's Leadership Summit, Mt Snow, Vermont, 2014
 - Powderfall/PEC (Snowbird; Snowmass; The Canyons; Copper Mt; Chamonix, France; Whistler/Blackcomb, British Columbia; Val de l'sere, France), 2019, 2017, 2015, 2013, 2006, 2001, 1998
 - Fundamental MTR Course, Bromley, VT, 2011
 - Introduction to Avalanche Safety and Rescue, 2011

- Level 1 MTR Course, Bromley, VT, 2010
 - Certified Training Courses ME, NH, MA, PA, VT, NY and CO, 2010-2014
 - MTR Instructor Trainee, 2010-2015
 - Eastern Division Patroller Schools: Killington, Sunday River, Windham, Elk Mountain, 2004-2019
 - Skier Enhancement Seminars, 1996, 2009, 2010
 - Ski Trainer Workshops, 2000-2011
 - Toboggan Enhancement Seminar, 2002, 2009, 2010
 - Support staff for SVT OEC Senior Program, 2008-2009
 - PSIA Movement Assessment Clinic for Eastern Division Ski and Toboggan instructors, 2008
 - Fall Forums (Jiminy Peak, Smuggler's Notch), 1986, 1998
 - Toboggan Instructor Course, Bromley Mt, Vermont, 1994
 - Circle A Avalanche Course, 1993
 - Eastern Division Junior Training Seminar Staff, 1990, 1991
 - Completed Instructor Development Phase II, WEC/OEC, 1991
 - Completed Instructor Development Phase I, 1990
 - Circle M Mountaineering Course, 1973
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.

National Ski Patrol National Board of Directors for the last 3 years. Member Planning Standing Committee and various sub-committees for two years, Member Education Committee, now a standing committee, and various subcommittees for three years, Vice Chair Curriculum Committee for current year, Ad Hoc Code of Conduct Committee twice, Chair Ad Hoc Youth Protection Committee for two years, Chair Introduction to Patrolling re-write (Education Committee) for two years, Member Ad Hoc National Program Director Search Committee- 2020, Member Ad Hoc Background Check Committee 2020.

4. - In your professional, personal and community life outside of NSP, describe your leadership and other relevant experience and how it might benefit the NSP?

In my professional life, I am the senior coordinator in managing approximately 26 national and international clinical trials in Vascular Surgery for two internationally recognized Vascular Surgeons, ranging from new devices to manage aortic aneurysms to treatments for critical limb ischemia, including revolutionary stem cell therapy to help prevent amputations. I manage budget development, maintenance and update of regulatory requirements as dictated by the FDA and other agencies, enrolling and tracking the progress of subjects participating in these trials. Understanding and adhering to universal human subjects regulations is key. Earlier in my career, I developed The Radiology Nurse position from the ground up in Interventional Radiology that included creating practice guidelines using evidenced-based practice, coordination and training hospital personnel and participating in committees to develop conscious sedation guidelines, practice and operations guidelines.

I have worked with other programs developing guidelines and procedures and managing program content .

5.

- As you review the List of Needs, which one(s) interest you most and why?

This year's list of needs is very detailed in nature and lists a great many qualities sought for board positions.

Leadership: I have proven organizational skills, team building skills in a fair and constructive manner while working productively with the board and the division director teams. My professional experience in a very dynamic health care setting has provided me with an ability to anticipate, adapt, and respond to change and to include critical thinking on a day-to-day basis.

Education: This is one of my greatest strengths. As an Education Committee member for three years, I have had the opportunity to show a high standard of leadership and hard work on our educational documents. Document management is an important topic for which a solution is currently being explored. I tackle both complex projects and short-term tasks with the same concentration and dedication to see them through to completion, both independently and as part of a working team. My exposure to various NSP educational programs provides me with insight to assure a great product is developed/maintained.

Quality Management: In my professional career, I have extensive experience in managing multiple national and international clinical trials at the local level for two internationally respected Vascular Surgeons. This included budget development, maintenance and updating regulatory documents mandated by the FDA and other federal agencies, enrolling and tracking progress of subjects participating in these trials. Understanding and adhering to complex federal and ethical regulations is critical.

Strategic thinker: My three years on the board of directors has afforded me an opportunity to hone my skills as a strategic thinker. It is important that the board members think strategically for both the short-term and long-term health of the organization. We are in unusual times which makes this especially important, but there is really never a time to NOT work strategically. Maintaining a strong, disciplined working relationship between our members, the board, the division director team and the national office provides the framework for our organization to remain strong financially, our educational programs remain recognized for their excellence and our organization is sought after in the outdoor recreation industry.

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?

I have served on the Education Committee for the last 3 years and bring a thoughtful, deliberative approach to the committee with the ability to focus on complex and lengthy projects. We have worked towards making our educational programs up-to-date, streamlined and usable throughout the organization with focus on our strategic objectives and a modern approach. Keeping our programs and resource documents up-to-date is vital in sustaining our brand awareness and credibility with

our industry partners. I have worked diligently to achieve that goal on projects like the Introduction to Patrolling course, Ski Patroller's Manual and discipline-specific documents as they come through the Education Committee. There is much left to do: exploring new ways to use technology to deliver our programs to more members, especially in this new age we find ourselves in. The time is now to put away those old ways that may not be the best anymore and explore new approaches.

I have worked on the Planning Committee for two years during which we developed the NSP strategic plan 2030 to guide our organization into the next decade. We developed an analysis matrix for organizational evaluation then created and implemented a member-wide survey to hear from our members directly on how we as an organization are doing in meeting their needs. Working collaboratively has allowed this process to move forward successfully and providing the organization with a path forward to assure relevancy in the industry and a framework on how to accomplish it.

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?

Though my fundraising skills are limited, improving our non-dues revenue is critical. Looking ahead, we will need to assure resources necessary to find and keep highly qualified staff, enough resources to maintain the day-to-day and long term operation of the organization while recognizing rising costs and the need to update our technology systems to meet membership needs. Challenging our excellent finance team to explore new revenue sources will be on-going. As a board member, it is my fiduciary responsibility to assure that this take place.

8. - Please describe one or two experiences in which you demonstrated your commitment to and support of the strategic mission of the NSP.

"To help keep people safe..." - a principle mission for us as patrollers. As a member of the Eastern Division Safety Team, I've had the opportunity to promote guest safety aimed at all age groups and has included demonstration of emergency care scenarios, promoting knowledge of Your Responsibility Code, helmet use, terrain park safety and other initiatives. The kids love it when they've "earned" a prize for knowing why it's important to put the bar down and lean back while riding a chair, what their responsibilities are as snow sports enthusiasts or why helmets are important. Helmet stickers, lanyards, neck gaiters, pins or a ticket to skip the line are always a hit. Hearing them share what they've learned with their friends is a special part of my patrolling day.

The opportunities I've had to influence a generation of patrollers as a trainer in our educational programs has helped provide a safer environment for our guests and my patrolling partners. My early involvement in the development of the Women's Program provided a stepping stone for many women to reach a greater level of involvement and confidence and, through this experience, a platform to continue to challenge themselves. This directly supports the mission "to help keep people safe".

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 faces many challenges! With the COVID 19 pandemic bringing great uncertainty as we look toward the future, not only in our day-to-day lives, but also within NSP, one of our most imminent challenges is to figure out how the NSP can adapt in a nimble and thoughtful manner to meet the need of our members, while working with our industry partners to achieve a common goal. How our refresher will look this and how we handle OEC courses is actively being discussed to find a solution for the short term. What an opportunity for us to rethink how we do things!

Industry consolidation is gathering speed like a roaring avalanche that is impacting our members far and wide. Assuring ongoing two-way communication between the NSP leadership, NSAA and resort owners has never been more important than now. Conversations continue and reports to the board are delivered on a regular basis.

Maintaining our relevance and presence to the outdoor recreational industry requires changing our focus from ski sports only to year-round activities. The NSP is working to develop a larger presence in four season sports, including bike patrolling. The bike task force has developed introductory training for bike patrollers and look to expand their knowledge to other venues. These activities will provide a solid step toward meeting the NSP theme to broaden "our reach into other sporting activities and events". A wider reach of services will lead to an increase in brand awareness and organizational health.

Professional Division shared resources will be an important discussion moving forward to enable both the Pro Division and the Geographic Division to share resources within the NSP. Course instructors should not be limited to using resources solely from within their division when others are nearby and willing to help. This discussion should encourage a culture of cooperation and standardization and quality assurance across all NSP programs.

A major challenge that I keep hearing is the concept that "the way we've always done it" is good enough. While recognizing that each area of the country has different challenges and needs, that being a member of the NSP demands a certain time commitment and cost associated with membership, the challenge we face is communicating more effectively with our members. We currently have multiple avenues of communication - Ski Patrol Magazine, multiple emails to all members, instructors and leadership, the NSP website - the member survey told us that we need to do a better job communicating with our members. This is especially important when decisions made by NSP leadership are not understood. It must be recognized that while the premise on which the NSP was created in 1938 is still strong, the way we get there has, and will continue to change to keep up with the world in which we live. There must be recognition the the NSP needs to be nimble to keep up with the current environment to assure the NSP is still around in another 75 years. That means better communication about why there are more membership requirements made of each of us, why there needs to be dues increases, why we need continuing education courses to assure quality in our programs and any of the other topics that arise. While some decisions that are made by the board may seem burdensome to some, these are made with the understanding of our need to think globally across all geographic areas of the

organization and with our long-term strategic goals in mind. We rely on members to look at our actions globally, to communicate with leadership and to remind us of our duty to each individual patroller.

Regional divisiveness within the organization only serves to limit the NSP's effectiveness in promoting the good work of the NSP. The strength of the NSP is the diverse nature of each division and preserving that uniqueness is vital. However, there are still pockets where denigrating another division or their candidates is heard. My experience on the current board is that each and every board member works for the entire organization without regard to where they are from. Occasionally, there still can be heard voices about where a candidate is from. That needs to stop at all levels for the health of the NSP.

10. - Summarize why you would be the best candidate for membership on the NSP's Board of Directors.

My knowledge, program management and delivery experience within my professional and NSP career have provided me with a solid base for continued participation as a national board member. My leadership experience has provided me with the vision to anticipate and respond to the ever-changing needs we face. My extensive experience and understanding of NSP programs coupled with a long-standing desire to continue the work of the NSP will permit me the opportunity to help project the organization into a more modern environment. The Call for Candidates asks for candidates with honesty, integrity and high ethical standards, along with a willingness to work hard, and represent the ENTRE organization at all levels without regard toward divisional, regional or local biases. I am that candidate. While serving as a board member over the last three years, I have worked successfully with the board, the division director team and the national office on important projects to keep the NSP relevant and modern, including Strategic Plan 2030, welcoming bike patrollers into our ranks, chairing the committee to develop a youth protection policy, education program updates including the Introduction to Patrolling rewrite and applying a strategic approach to projects in need of long-term sustainability. I am a strong proponent of teamwork with a proven track record of reliability, foresight, conscientious thinking and unwavering commitment to the mission of the National Ski Patrol.

Resume (please attach as a separate document)

Please attach a professional resume including NSP-related activities.

References (please attach as a separate document)

Please include the name and contact information (email and phone) for up to three professional or personal references. Please also include their role(s)/title, organization and relationship to you. The role/title, organization and relationship to you will be made available to the membership if you are selected as a nominee.

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