



**Branch Leadership Committee**  
*Meeting Minutes for December 20, 2023*  
6:00pm to 7:30pm via Zoom

**Meeting Information**

Zoom Meeting [Link](#)

**Branch Leadership Members**

- James H,
- AJ Schuehle (BHAM)
- Nick M (EVE)
- Brad P (FH)
- John M (KIT)
- Mel (KIT)
- Janette Z (OLY)
- Bob K (OLY)
- Curtis S (TAC)
- Owen G (TAG)
- Craig K (SEA)
- Cindy H (GA)
- Bill A (Safety)
- Sara R
- Becca P
- Brad N (Board Seattle)

**Agenda**

1. Welcome and Introductions--James
2. Review and approval of the meeting agenda for December 20, 2023
  - Motion to Approve: Nick; Second: Brad: Passed
3. Review and approval of the meeting [minutes](#) from November 15, 2023
  - Motion to Approve: Nick; Second: Craig: Passed
4. Activity Charters & Standards
  - Tacoma Branch [Charter](#)
    - 2nd Reading & Discussion
      - Motion to Approve: Nick; Second: Bob: Approved
  - Cross Country Ski [Standards](#)
    - 2nd Reading & Discussion
      - Motion to Approve: Brad; Second: Nick: Approved



- Off-trail Navigation [Standards](#)
  - 1st Reading & Discussion
    - Motion to Approve: Nick; Second: Craig: Approved
- On-trail Navigation [Standards](#)
  - 1st Reading & Discussion
    - Motion to Approve: Brad; Second: Nick Approved (Craig sustained)
- Hiking [Standards](#)
  - Discussion: There was a midsummer revision to the definition of hiking by the Hiking Council that missed review by BLC.
    - **Old definition:** “Hikes in The Mountaineers are front-country or back-country hiking trips that take place outside of city or suburban parks, streets or greenbelts. When the hike is designed for youth clubs, outreach programs, or camps, it is a Youth Hike. When the hike is designed for families (children plus guardians), it is a Family Hike.”
    - **New definition:** “Hikes in the mountaineers are front-country or back-country trips. When the hike is designed for youth clubs, outreach programs, or camps, it is a Youth Hike. When the hike is designed for families (children plus guardians), it is a Family Hike.”
      - Discussion
        - Need to be careful about gatekeeping to keep leaders out of certain activities.
        - Issue about equity and inclusion to make sure leaders are treated fairly and leadership qualities are handled fairly.
        - Is there some way to make sure that hikes in the urban environment have leaders who have adequate safety training for the urban environment?
        - A branch can define within their charter standards and safety protocols to follow them.
        - Due diligence for BLC to formally approve the definition.
        - Continue to discuss at the summit to align with urban walks. Focus on safety aspects
          - Motion to Approve: Brad; Second: Bob Approved
- Updated Activity Council & Standards [Spreadsheet](#)
  - Continued great progress for 2023!

## 5. Discussion Item

- Behavioral Policy Discussion



- Look for opportunities to improve policies and procedures.
- Thanks to the board and staff for addressing.
- Communication plan? Something to say at end of the year to those who attended the meeting as to next steps?
  - Weighing risks of communicating vs not. Risks of communicating are higher and to open the door to things we need to respond to.
  - BHAM looking at forming a subcommittee in the branch to meet the needs of the branch and coordinate with Mountaineers and board.
  - FH: looking a scenario training.
  - FH petition was helpful and could serve as a basis for other branches.
  - SEA: upcoming topic for branch council meeting on Jan. 4.
  - EVE: Will re-up a code of conduct for instructors and activity leaders.
  - Need to address fear of retribution. Also, can miss behavior issues on with screening.

#### 6. Branch Reports—Mountaineer Branch Chairs

- Open leadership positions
- Relevant Updates
- Status of Branch Charters
  - OLY: Not much new. Will look into updating the charter.  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the branch members have to vote.
  - TAC: Nothing new since November report. Still looking for a treasurer.
  - EVE: Had annual banquet and well attended. Sara and Michelle attended for awards. No open leadership positions. Peak pins: centralize administration of pins completed?
    - Yes, is streamlined. Mountaineers manage the inventory of pins. Go to [info@mountaineers.org](mailto:info@mountaineers.org) to request pins.
  - BHM: vacancy in chair elect. Have found a new treasurer and new hiking and climbing committee chairs. Have a new secretary. Charter should be presented to BLC January.
  - SEA: Discussion with chair elect candidate. Looking for a secretary. Good shape with activity councils. Banquet planning and volunteer recognition underway for January. 130 registered.
  - FH: Open positions-Lori re-voted Lori as secretary. Three committee chairs new and candidates identified (snow shoe, climbing, backpacking). Still trying to reform exec cmte to take care of business between council meetings. Blog posts for open at large positions. Want exec cmte to be more representative of the branch membership. First Aid course started.

#### 7. Committee & Organizational Reports

- Safety



- Finalizing the annual safety report up to Sept/Oct. Seeing quite a bit of rock fall near miss. Having to with new melting. More cuts on rocks due to sharper edges from rock falls. Report should be completed in January.
- Global Adventures—Cindy
  - Trained 20 new leaders in Nov/Dec. Will receive 7 new adventure proposals for 2024-25 and quadruple activities and increase revenue.
- Operations - Sara & Becca
  - **Leadership Conferences**
    - Seattle LC was successful with 165 attendees.
    - Leadership Conference at the Tacoma Program Center - March 23, 2024: [Registration Link](#)
  - **Leadership Development Series.** This year's series began in October 2023 and runs through April 2024. Check out our [upcoming events!](#)
  - Website: Please report website issues to staff. Feel free to use feedback from for the website.

#### 8. Information Item

- BLC retreat scheduled for Sunday, January 28 from 9am-2pm at the Tacoma Program Center. All members of branch leadership (Branch Chair, Chair Elect, Past Chair) are invited to attend. If none of those positions from your branch is available, please try to arrange an alternate proxy (ex: Treasurer, Secretary, Branch Director) to represent your branch. [RSVP for the retreat.](#)
  - Lunch, coffee, and snacks provided for retreat.
  - RSVPs:
    - BHM:
    - EVE: Nick M
    - FTH: Brad P, Travis V, Ben M
    - KIT: Mel W
    - OLY: Bob K
    - SEA: Craig K
    - TAC: Owen G
  - No meeting on January 17, put any critical updates between now and retreat on Basecamp.

#### 9. Adjourn

- Next meeting BLC Meeting: January 17, 2024