

MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING OF AMERICAN HIKING SOCIETY

October 11, 1981 Leesburg, Virginia

The Annual Meeting of members of the American Hiking Society was called to order at 9 a.m. by President Paul Pritchard. About 75 AHS members were in attendance.

Pritchard gave a few words of greeting, and referred to the changes in AHS since our first Annual Meeting which was held in a small office. He stated that AHS now believes the solution to our problems is not in Washington DC; "it's back with us in our own communities and AHS must become a grass roots organization."

Executive Director Laura MacKenzie also spoke, citing that AHS "is your protection", that it "protects your solitude on the trail."

Former President Jim Kern told the group that when Kemsley left Backpacker Magazine "it took months for the loss of Backpacker's support to hit AHS." Now our ties with Backpacker have fallen apart; the editor does not contact us. Our membership has fallen off. The merger with IEA yielded only 45 members. Our Executive Director was overconfident, spending money we didn't have. "Things were so bad," he said, "that Friday four of us spent the day trying to raise funds to tide us over, and by the end of the day we had \$4300 promised (including \$2000 from North Face)."

"I like to remember," Kern said, "that for 40 years the Sierra Club never had more than 10,000 members. Who knows where AHS will be in 37 years!"

Kern and Pritchard then stated their belief that local hiking clubs can give AHS good publicity and can encourage donations and memberships. They proposed that AHS could appoint state chairmen to help in this organizing effort. Several persons volunteered for their states.

Jay Ellis as chairman of the Nominations Committee gave his report. It was moved and passed that the Board of Directors be increased to 15 members. Kay Beebe, Chuck Williamson and Susan Butch Henley were elected to fill those vacancies.

Suggestions from the members at this point included: AHS needs a clear statement of what it is, to help a club determine why it should affiliate with AHS; events such as hikes or outings should be planned for AHS members only, in places scattered across the United States; some improvements are needed in the structure of the Annual Hike-In.

It was stated that AHS now has 2,149 members. A dues increase to \$25 was discussed but no action was taken.

Kay Beebe reported on the AHS Volunteer Vacations. Jim Kern reported on HikaNation. Glenn Seaborg reported on the California HikaState of this past summer.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30.

Respectfully submitted

Louise B. Marshall
Louise B. Marshall

Executive Director Larry Buckner also spoke, citing that AHS "is your protection", that it "protects your collection in the trail."

Former President Jim Kern told the group that when Family Life Backpacker Magazine "it took months for the loss of Backpacker's support to hit AHS". How our club with Backpacker have fallen apart, the editor does not contact us. Our membership has fallen off. The merger with FLS yielded only 47 members. My Executive Director was searched for, spending money on a search. "I'm sure he's out," he said. That being said, it was found the day before he was found to give us some help in the way of the day we had 4,100 members including about 1000 new members.

"I like to think of this club, that for 40 years the Sierra Club cover had been a good club members. We know what we will be in 10 years."

Kern and Kirk also spoke about their belief that local hiking clubs can give the club additional and new membership solutions and members. They proposed that AHS could appoint state directors to help in this organizing effort. Several persons volunteered for their states.

Don Hill, as chairman of the Nominations Committee gave the report. It was voted not passed that the Board of Directors be changed to 13 members. Kay Beebe, Chuck Williamson and Steve Smith were elected to fill these vacancies.

Suggestions from the members at this point included: AHS needs a clear statement of what it is, to help a club determine why it should affiliate with AHS, should such as hikes or outings should be planned for AHS members only, in places scattered across the United States. Some improvements are needed in the structure of the AHS... ..