

Camp Quest NorthWest meeting minutes

Round Table Pizza (15730 1st Ave S, Burien, WA)

Friday, March 7, 2014, 6:30pm sharp

Board Members in attendance:

President – Chuck Wolber

Vice-President – Brennon Church

Secretary – Jami Blackann

Members at Large – Becky Friedman, Brian Demong

Action Items:

- * Chuck: Put together hierarchy of staff leads.
- * Chuck: Remind Lou to send a general update once a month to accepted staff.
- * Chuck: Develop a staff training manual, along with a way to confirm that the staff read and understood. Provide links to staff videos.
- * Chuck: Tell Lou about mileage reimbursement for non-local staff members.
- * Brennon: Communicate with parent about CQNW's policy on severe food allergies.
- * Becky: Organize retreat shopping list and send to Chuck.
- * Michael: Put flag contest on the CQNW website.

Meeting Minutes:

Start time: 6:55 p.m.

- * Chuck moves to accept the January board meeting minutes without reading them. Brian seconds.
- * January meeting minutes were accepted unanimously.

Treasurer Position:

- * Jami received Jerry Schiffelbein's resignation from the board.
- * The board accepts his resignation. Jerry Schiffelbein is no longer treasurer.
- * The board is currently seeking out a new treasurer.
- * Chuck moves to nominate Michael Warbington to the open board position. Brennon seconds.

Planning Retreat:

* March 21 – 23, 2014

- * Camp Kirby Benefit Auction during retreat: The board decided not to participate this year. We'd like to show our support in person, but we have too much to accomplish over the weekend.
- * Strategy: Split off into triples to brainstorm, work on specifics of programming.
- * Food: We need to organize dinner on Friday, 3 meals on Saturday, and breakfast on Sunday. Several people have volunteered to cook, and the board discussed meal details.

- * Need a coordinator to put together a menu and shopping list. Chuck and Brennon will do the shopping.
- * Friday: Dinner is served at 7:30pm.

Flag Contest:

* Michael posted the contest to the Facebook groups. Chuck will give him access to the CQNW website so he can post it there.

* Text:

We need your help to create a Camp Quest NorthWest flag!

CQNW needs a flag to fly above our camp that is representative of the character and mission of Camp Quest NorthWest, but the style and design of that flag are up to you! Your design could feature the CQNW “atom” logo, your interpretation of the Architeuthis deity, or whatever other symbol or representation of the camp that you can come up with.

All campers, parents and volunteers are encouraged to submit a design using your choice of medium. Submit a picture in response to this post or email your design to michael.warbington@campquest.org by April 30th, 2014. Your design could be chosen by the board of directors, or your idea could be incorporated into the final flag design.

Staff/Counselors:

* Lou Amadio sent out a breakdown of the staff and cabin counselors who have signed up so far. Need two more male and two more female counselors.

* Need a nurse, lifeguard, dedicated photographers.

Camper Registration:

* 68 registered campers

CQ Leader’s Summit:

* Becky attended the summit and shared her notes and experience with the board. Topics include leadership; CQ at conferences; trans at camp; inclusiveness; branding; teen programs; staff jobs; diversifying staff; managing volunteers; doling out scholarship money; staff training, body image, sexuality, sexual health program and boundaries about conversations; and crisis response. The notes are shared in Google Drive.

* CQ Strategic Map:

** Our Mission: Camp Quest provides an educational adventure shaped by fun, friends, and freethought, featuring science, natural wonder, and humanist values.*

** Our Vision: Camp Quest envisions a world in which children grow up exploring, thinking for themselves, connecting with their communities, and acting to make the most of life for themselves and others.*

** Ensure the financial stability of Camp Quest Inc. and our local camps*

** Provide a superior secular camp experience*

** Sustainably expand Camp Quest*

** Foster a culture of grassroots innovation while ensuring acceptable standards of safety and operation*

** Provide shared services and resources to local camp*

** Foster life-long engagement and passion of empowered volunteers, alumni, and staff*

* Instead of having one board member from each camp be a part of the national org: Camps themselves are shareholders, and they vote on the national board.

* Having male and female staff leads.

- * Action item: Establish action leads with a clear hierarchy.
- * Diversity happens, but inclusion is a choice.
- * Managing Volunteers: Expand the feeling of ownership as broadly and quickly as possible. Make sure there's enough training and support. Make them feel appreciated.
- * Lou: Once a month, contact accepted staff and give them an update.
- * Scholarship Money: How to prioritize. Go to first-time campers first.
- * Chuck: Develop a staff training manual, along with a way to confirm that staff read and understood. Staff videos, need to be watched before coming to camp.
- * Ice breakers in Google doc. Links to videos.

Atheist Alliance of America:

- * Their conference happens while we're at camp.
- * Organizing a mini camp.
- * Vote: Recommend to David that they keep the money West handles conference and keeps the money, but they advertize CQNW. Chuck seconds. Passes unanimously.

External Staff:

- * How much do we want to encourage out-of-state staff attending camp? How much do we reimburse their travel expenses?
- * The board agreed that this year we should honor our commitments.
- * Starting in 2015, the board wants to offer to pay airfare for one or two veterans from other camps for cross-pollination purposes.
- * Non-CQ out-of-state volunteers: We want to foster as many local people as possible. In 2015 we will open up staff applications December 1, but not announce any acceptances until the end of February. The idea is to prioritize local staff first, as these are the volunteers who are most likely to keep coming back to camp.
- * Chuck: Tell Lou about mileage reimbursement for non-local staff members who want to volunteer at camp. Airfare and gas.

Severe Food Allergies:

- * If CQNW can reasonably accommodate the camper, there's no problem. If, for example, a camper has such a severe peanut allergy that they risk death if there's even a minute trace of powder present at camp, we wouldn't have the capacity to accommodate them. Brennon will respond to parent.

Reminder of 2014 Camp Kirby Dates:

- * Reserved: August 9-17
- * Camp: August 10-16

Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 16, 2014
Round Table Pizza (15730 1st Ave S, Burien, WA)

End time: 10:19pm