

Membership Meeting Minutes
February 12, 2024, 7am
Breckenridge, CO
attendance appx 98 members

- I. Laurent – Hello and thank you all for allowing me to be your president.
Seems ridiculous to approve the minutes a year later. **Will send these minutes to the membership within a month or 2 for approval.**
Move to approve the meeting minutes from February 14, 2024. Seconded. All in favor.

- II. NCSU- John Cole
366 attendees, 40 sponsors and exhibitors with over 100 reps exhibiting.
Future dates: Big Sky 2026, Sun Valley 2027, Breckenridge 2028
Laurent – We are having issues finding venues big enough for our conference.
Motion to approve the report. Seconded. All in favor.

- III. Heidi DeCamp- Secretary
 - A. Membership is at 758 members; 139 have not paid their dues.
320 attendees – good attendance at this meeting.
Motion to approve the report. Seconded. All in favor.

- IV. Randy Basinger– Past President
Positions open:
President Elect – Matt Stewart introduced himself. Nominations from the floor? No
Treasurer – Chris Horstman introduced himself. Nominations from the floor? No
Exhibit Chair – Stephen Jones introduced himself. Nominations from the floor? No
VOSEF Assistant Chair – Allen Johnson introduced himself. Nominations from the floor? No

Randy -The current process of picking the board members is to choose from an ongoing list.
Explanation of how board members are chosen: We have a running list of volunteers. When a board position comes up the Past President looks at that list and chooses a few that might be appropriate for the position. She/he speaks with them about the potential position and then recommends their choice of the best candidate. Just because you aren't on the slate of candidates doesn't mean the board doesn't want you. The Past President works hard to balance the board and make sure it is diverse.

Henney – Would like information of what the whole board does, what is required of each board position.

Randy – The organization is growing with more members desiring to get involved. We are looking to change the current process separating the volunteers into 2 groups:

1. General volunteers – i.e. Moderators, reviewers
2. Board Member candidates

Randy - We have decided to form an ad-hoc committee to streamline the process of getting volunteers. We hope to be able to better match volunteers with the commitments available – letting the volunteer know of the time commitment as well as what exactly the job entails. We will consider an application that gathers information of the individuals so that they can be better matched to the potential board position/volunteer opportunity. It is our hope that this process will be more transparent, more inclusive and encourage people to become involved.

Ross – Can we put what positions are open on the website?

Laurent – Note the board has a 50/50 ration female to male members.

Will put the Policies & Procedures manual, and application for volunteering, on the website.

Motion to approve the slate of candidates for the board and the report. Seconded. All I favor.

V. Wendy Baltzer– Sponsor Chair

We believe that our sponsor relationships have improved.

There is a need to increase sponsor fees to keep up with pricing. Last increased in 2023, we decided to increase Sponsor prices by 7% and increase exhibitor fee by \$500 (from \$2000 to \$2500). The we plan on increasing fees by 3% every year after this.

We will add FPP's to Bronze sponsors. Sponsors get to choose their table placements – Exhibitor table placements will be assigned.

There were 5 new sponsors this year and they want to come next year!

Laurent – Costs are increasing, and we need to pass that on to the S&E. Thanks to Wendy and Andrew for all their hard work this year.

Motion to approve report; seconded. All in favor.

VI. John Chandler– Treasurer

John - Chris Horstman and I will work together well in the next year.

The VOS is in a stable financial position. Dues stable, S7E fees met goal, attendance above goal, expenses (so far) seem reasonable, Investments profile performed well. We had a small loss at Tahoe in 2024.

Investments at Vanguard up 14% this year. 2.1 million in assets.

We should increase the dues for the 25-26 membership year.

Motion to approve report; seconded. All in favor.

VII. Katja Lin– Education Foundation

Heritage Guild initiative soft launch has yielded over \$250,000 already. This has been officially rolled out to the whole membership at this meeting. See the website, or Heidi, for more information.

Silent auction bidding is underway and ends tonight. The entertainment for the foundation night is Scotty Weise – seems like a super fun guy.

Laurent – Thank you to Katja for being here

Motion to approve report; seconded. All in favor.

VIII. Mike Karlin – Scientific Program

Success with not extending the deadline to submit abstracts! Huge year this year with number of abstracts submitted. Program went well with a few changes.

Laurent – Mike does a demanding job and he made it entertaining. Well done Mike!

Motion to approve reports; seconded. All in favor.

IX. Salah Malek - Research

There were 4 Hohn Johnson award submissions this year. Can the membership please spread the word about applying for Hohn-Johnson and Wade O. Brinker awards!

Laurent – These funding opportunities are amazing. We will highlight the results of the awards in the future. If a recipient presents at VOS first – they receive a check for \$500. If we believe in it by funding it, we want them to come back and present it at VOS!

Motion to approve report; seconded. All in favor.

X. Callie Blackford-Winders – Communications

Please like the social media posts to get more attention to them. Instagram has been added.

Please send pictures of the conference to Callie!

Motion to approve the report; seconded. All in favor.

XI. President – Laurent Guiot

Very happy with how the conference went this year. Conference space was a little small for 370 attendees but we made do. The VOS is in capable hands with Kristin Shaw next year.

Motion to approve; seconded. All in favor.

XII. New President – Kristin Shaw

Welcome new members to the board and thank you to outgoing members.

Dr. Rachel Frank will be our Jaques Jenny for 2026 and I'm super excited to have her.

Motion to approve the report; seconded. All in favor.

XIII. No Old Business

XIV. New Business

A. Need to increase the dues for the 25-26 membership year.

Motion to increase the dues by 5% on a yearly basis.

Discussion – Wanda – Does this increase include student/intern/residents? Yes.

Petkov – Institutions can afford to pay dues increase for s/i

Laurent – 5% is arbitrary – to stay on board with the cost of things. We can adjust and round up to nearest dollar.

Revised motion: increase dues by 5% each year, up to the nearest dollar. To be amended at future membership meetings, as necessary.

Motion to approve; seconded. All in favor.

B. The Wolfpack (NCSU) is leaving after the 2026 meeting. They are a team of 3 going down to 2 people in the department. VOS is a full-time commitment for them and the biggest group that they work with. They couldn't justify the time commitment. Stay tuned for the solutions. We can look at the other organizations from last time we did this search. Wolfpack is committed to help us through this process.

Thank you, Wolfpack, for your help up til now.

We hope to have solutions this fall.

Any ideas – please contact Heidi, Laurent or Kristin.

Thank you to the wolfpack!

Motion to adjourn/ seconded. All in favor. Time 7:50am.