



CENTRAL ZONE ELECTION – ELECT TOM CARR FOR ZONE PRESIDENT

On March 19th, a critical meeting was held with all patrol leaders to inform us that the zone was in a leadership crisis. This was an election year, and no one had put their name forward to be the Zone President. Marion will be stepping down at the June AGM. As well, Don Rivers, our executive Director is retiring in a few months. We do not have a VP Operations or a VP Administration. The tasks done by the vacant portfolios were being done by Marion or Don. The Patrol Leaders were asked to look to our patrols to help find someone that would put their name forward to become the Zone President. Whoever becomes our Zone President would need to find people to take on the various leadership roles and help them understand how to effectively manage their portfolios. The person that we need right now to be our Zone President must have a solid understanding of all the zone's leadership positions, and the many tasks it takes to run a zone. Although I strongly believe that it is important to have new leaders with fresh ideas to bring about a healthy growing zone, right now we need a Zone President that has the understanding, knowledge, and experience that I have to rebuild our leadership team. This will allow us to develop succession plans and ensure our continued excellence in the coming years. I have been the VP Training, VP Operations and twice been the Central Zone President. I have an intimate knowledge of how patrols, zone, division, and national function and interact and I still know many of the people that we will need to work with to move forward. I have sat on awards committees for zone, division and national and been awed by how much has been done, and how important the actions and efforts of so many patrollers have contributed to this amazing organization. I have full confidence that together we can develop new leaders to continue to keep Central Zone vibrant and forward thinking.

Goals

1. Focus on the primary goal of operating the zone. It is not about putting things back the way they were, times have changed. It is about finding the people we need, helping them understand their roles and encourage those interested in helping to do so. We need to look at how we are structured and find the simplest, most efficient way for this zone to operate.
2. Work with and support the Central Zone Board of Directors to develop plans for their strategic directions.
3. Not to get lost on tasks, events and projects that detract from the primary goal. Those things can wait until we have a solid team in place and patrollers who want to get involved, or if we find we have a need for other projects such as leadership training.
4. Listen to you, filter what is being said and identify what we can do to improve your patrolling experience. Most importantly, get back to you about your concerns or ideas.
5. Central Zone is about 350 members. Significantly less than 20 years ago. With that in mind, I see eliminating positions between the VP Operations and the Patrol Leader. It will be important not to simply download tasks to the Patrol Leaders but hold regular, short, effective meetings to engage patrols, help PLs with their patrols, provide support with retention, member issues and resort relationships. This way the PLs and VP Ops, can communicate effectively and hopefully patrollers who wish to be involved with zone projects or tasks can be identified and engaged quickly.
6. I will continue to do so with newsletters, meetings and personal, face to face meetings. Informed patrollers are more receptive to offering to help or taking on a role. Leaders are more effective when they know the issues as they arise.
7. I would work to see if there are ways to make qualifying as a patroller, instructor, or instructor trainer simpler, less time consuming and a good experience for those involved.
8. Within 2 years, I hope to have developed a solid, complete team that effectively moves information in both directions and is working to develop new leaders so that we share the work, are informed and are not in a position where we do not have leaders or potential leaders to continue with the excellence we are known for in Central Zone.

Please support me in this election so I can support you.

Vote Tom Carr for Zone President - tom.carr@skipatrol.ca

