

NSSHA SPRING BOARD MEETING

FEBRUARY 25, 2026

Via Zoom

Call to Order: Tony Franks called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and asked Secretary Nancy Allen to call roll to establish a quorum (5 officers/directors required). Present were Tony Franks, Nancy Allen, Paul Hugo, Mike Blote, Meredith Randall, Linden Beck, Caroline Peterson, Lisa Long, Stephanie Holson, and Julie Newlin. Jen Huntley joined later. Dawn Johnson and Mary Clarke Ver Hoef were absent. A quorum was established.

Welcome New Members: Tony welcomed two new area representatives: Linden Beck (Area 2) and Stephanie Holson (Area 7). NSSHA now has representatives for all nine areas.

Officer Vacancy: The nominating committee nominated Jen Huntley to fill the Editor position after Kathy Lewin retired. Nancy moved to accept the nomination, Meredith seconded, and the board approved it unanimously.

Approval of Minutes and Treasurer's Report: The minutes were distributed before the meeting for review. Paul moved to approve the previous meeting minutes as submitted, Meredith seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mike Blote presented the Treasurer's report. Since July 1, NSSHA has received \$2,935.96 in dues and made one expense payment for the annual meeting. The board discussed the difference between checks received and online payments. The current bank balance is \$49,795.44. Paul moved to accept the Treasurer's report as submitted, Jen seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Review of 2025 Annual Meeting at Camp Sacramento: Because the Sciots tract clubhouse was unavailable due to construction, the 2025 annual meeting was held at Camp Sacramento for the first time. Tony asked for feedback on the venue. Most board members liked Camp Sacramento and felt parking was adequate, possibly better than at Sciots. Some suggested attendance may have been affected by confusion over the last-minute location change. Meredith recommended earlier notice, better signage, and possibly using Boy Scouts to direct traffic. She also noted that the venue highlighted Camp Sacramento for members from the Sacramento area. Nancy commented that the staff were accommodating, and others noted the building was cooler and more comfortable. Paul said he would contact Camp Sacramento to confirm availability for this year.

Tony called for a motion on this year's annual meeting location, pending availability. Lisa suggested Sciots might be better because it is centrally located among several cabin tracts and within walking distance for some members. When asked whether construction at the Sciots clubhouse was complete, Tony said he believed it was. Paul moved to hold the annual meeting at Camp Sacramento. Tony amended the motion to hold it at Camp Sacramento on June 27, and if unavailable, at Sciots tract.

Meredith seconded the motion, and it passed. Julie later confirmed by text that the Sciots clubhouse construction was complete and that NSSHA is on the Sciots calendar.

Quarterly Meetings with the El Dorado Forest Supervisor: Tony, Paul, Meredith, and cabin leaders from all three Forest Service districts have been meeting with David Fournier, the current El Dorado Forest Supervisor, and staff from the Placerville, Pacific, and Amador districts. In response to a question, it was clarified that they attend these meetings on behalf of both CCORP and NSSHA. Discussion topics have included permit renewals, O&M plans, burn permits, trees, and other general cabin issues rather than burned-cabin issues. Meredith added that they have now met with three forest supervisors, one interim forest supervisor, district rangers, permit administrators, and key staff. Mike asked whether this information is being shared with NSSHA members, and the response was that it should be.

Communications from NSSHA: The board discussed communicating with cabin owners through email, regular mail, and the website. Paul has website admin rights and can make updates as needed. Tony suggested more frequent newsletters or e-blasts, assuming NSSHA has a strong email database. Jen, as editor, asked whether software support would be available if needed and raised the possibility of using social media such as Facebook or Instagram to drive traffic to the website. She asked what the best communication method would be. Paul noted that NSSHA represents more than 1,000 cabins, but only a small percentage of members attend the annual meeting.

Meredith asked how many email addresses NSSHA has, and Paul said he would find out. Paul suggested sending communications to tract leaders and asking them to distribute them within their tracts. Meredith suggested attending tract meetings as NSSHA representatives, and Paul encouraged board members to attend other tract meetings when possible.

Satellite Meeting on Highway 88: Tony and Paul want to hold a meeting in Amador to reach the Amador district and asked Stephanie to find a location. Meredith suggested dividing the meeting into three sessions by location. Julie asked how many tracts are involved, and Paul said he would find out. Julie also asked when most dues are received; Mike replied that they usually come in after the newsletter is sent and after the annual meeting.

Yearly NSSHA Calendar: Tony suggested creating a two-year calendar of meetings and communications. He specifically mentioned the March 11 meeting on the CPRA (Cabin Program Restoration Act) and asked for input. Julie asked whether board meetings are held on Wednesday nights, and Tony said yes. Nancy asked Meredith about the future of the CPRA following Representative LaMalfa's death. Meredith said they are considering a replacement and expect more information in March. Nancy also asked whether meetings could start later, around 7:00 p.m. Tony said that was possible. The goal is to hold more meetings, but keep them shorter.

Mike asked who owns the annual newsletter. Mike and Paul prepared it last year. Jen, as editor, should be able to take over most of that work.

Tony called for a motion to approve the yearly calendar. Nancy moved to approve it "with possible changes," Meredith and Mike seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Lisa asked whether the annual meeting date could be announced earlier in the year through an e-blast so members can plan before making summer arrangements.

Forest Service Updates: Tony, Paul, and Meredith recently met with Supervisor David Fournier. They described the meeting as productive and said he was gracious, experienced, and knowledgeable about government processes.

Linda Babcock is currently serving on the Lassen National Forest as Acting District Ranger. Jami Martin is serving as Acting Resource Officer on cabin issues and reports to District Ranger Andrew Mishler.

Hazard Tree Mitigation and Fuels Reduction: Tony and Paul said NSSHA should provide services that reflect the dues members pay. One possible service is fuels reduction to improve fire resilience in cabin tracts. As a nonprofit, NSSHA may be able to secure grant funding for fuels reduction and hazard tree mitigation. Lower tracts received some support, but upper tracts did not because funding ran out. A new round of funding is available, led by RCD, with Sierra Valley Enterprises (SVE) as the contractor. A second project, the Huckleberry Project (Caldor Fire Burn Scar Restoration Project), has not yet begun. RCD may seek grant funding on behalf of NSSHA to complete the work started last year before funds were exhausted.

Tony also encouraged the creation of Fire Safe Councils within cabin tracts. These councils can access chipper programs. Julie noted that Sciots tract has become a Fire Wise Community linked to the Strawberry Fire Council.

Adjournment: Tony moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:51 p.m. Nancy seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Nancy Allen, Secretary
February 28, 2026