



## ***FAR WEST SKI ASSOCIATION "CONVENTION 101" "HOW DO I GET THERE" FAQ'S***

### **What is the FWSA Convention?**

The Convention is the annual meeting of Far West Ski Association's council and club leaders and members, along with ski resort sales and marketing personnel from all over the world, snowsports personalities and more! The Convention takes place in late May or early June, and is usually hosted by one of FWSA's eleven councils, at a property located within their respective regions.

### **What Happens at a Far West Convention?**

Events include a silent auction/dance, travel expo (where delegates get to meet one-on-one with resort personnel), educational leadership panel sessions, meet and greet with ski personalities like Billy Kidd or Deb Armstrong, and the awards banquet and dance. There is also a business meeting on Sunday, when officers are elected, and other Association business takes place. All of these events (and meals!) are included in your registration fee. Also available (for an additional fee) are optional events such as the Thursday Night Pub Crawl, Michael German Memorial Golf Tournament, wine bus, kayaking or other specialty trips.

### **I Just Joined a Club. Can I Go To Convention?**

Of course! Everyone can go to Convention! You don't need to belong to a snowsports club to enjoy the FWSA Convention, but since most convention events are keyed toward snowsports club activities and leadership, a snowsports club member would benefit the most from his/her convention experience.

### **What is a Delegate?**

"Delegate" is the term we use for snowsports club members or direct members who attend the Convention. There are voting delegates and non-voting delegates.

### **What is a Voting Delegate?**

A "voting delegate" is a club member who is assigned by their club to vote during the FWSA business meeting, including officer elections, by-law changes, and resolutions. Each club is eligible for a certain number of voting delegates, as determined by club size. Clubs are free to use their own method to designate their voting delegates. Delegates who are not appointed to be voting delegates are non-voting delegates. An officer of your club needs to complete and submit the Convention Credentials Form in order for you to be counted as a voting delegate.

### **What is a Non-Voting Delegate?**

A non-voting delegate is any club delegate who is attending the Convention, but not appointed as a voting delegate.

### **How do I Become a Delegate?**

It's so easy! You can 1) sign up with your club president/delegate chairperson, or 2) sign up by downloading forms from the FWSA web site (we recommend you sign up with your club president). Complete the forms, write a check, and either submit to your club president/delegate chairperson (preferred method), or send directly to the FWSA Convention Registrar. That's all there is to it! You're in! Now make your hotel and plane reservations, and you'll be golden!

**FAR WEST SKI ASSOCIATION CONVENTION**  
**"NOW THAT I'M HERE" FAQ'S**

**I'm Here-What Do I Do First?**

First of all, check into your room, drop your luggage, and relax! You're here! When you're ready, head downstairs and look for signs pointing to "FWSA Registration." If the Registration table is open, check in and get your packet and goody bag. If not, you'll meet lots of fellow conventioners in the nearest bar while you wait!

**I'm Registered – What's Next?**

Open your delegate booklet, and look for the schedule of events. This is extremely important! You'll want to note when transportation for the optional events is departing, when things like the Silent Auction starts, when meals and free beverages are served, etc. Also find your coupon book. This has the tickets that get you into the events. **DON'T LOSE YOUR DELEGATE OR COUPON BOOKS! WRITE YOUR NAME ON BOTH!** Now the fun begins!

**Thursday Night "Crawl"**

This event is SO much fun. Folks from all throughout the ski industry always arrived on Thursday nights (because of the fun activities on Fridays) with nothing to do. In 1997, NWSCC invented the Thursday night "pub crawl" and it's been a tradition ever since. Up to 120 ski industry and ski club revelers participate in this Thursday night gathering—it's a great way to start convention weekend for clubbers and industry.

**Friday Activities**

Don't miss your bus! Whether you're golfing, kayaking, savoring wine or some other activity, the Friday activities are the best way to enjoy some fun "down-time" with the industry. They really have a great time at these events because they don't have to have their "game faces" on (not until Silent Auction, anyway!), and really enjoy getting to know ski club members one-on-one. So have fun! And don't forget to thank them...they may have sponsored your event!

**Friday Silent Auction**

Most important—find your "passport" in your delegate packet, and use it to make Travel Expo appointments (which take place on Saturday morning) with those ski areas you'd like to see your club visit. This event is open to the public, and is a great time to gather general information about the individual resorts or products our industry is sharing (and what the heck—buy a ski vacation or two!). There's a DJ, so find a dance partner!

**Saturday – Business!**

Saturday begins with a brief business meeting, including introductions of FWSA officers and other VIPs, as well as a call for interested parties to indicate their interest in running for FWSA board positions. Then we recess for...

**Travel Expo**

Now you get some serious face time with the industry reps you signed up with the night before. They have time to sit in small groups of 5-7 and show videos, answer more detailed questions and hand out additional information. Make sure you attend all of your appointments. You must turn your completed passport in to be eligible for all the prizes!

**Panel Sessions**

Here's where you can really learn the nuts and bolts of running a snowsports club, or some aspects of it. Knowledgeable club leaders are there to provide information and share resources with you to help you be a better club member. Other club members are there with ideas and suggestions, too. It's a great, round-table way to learn more about clubs.

**Caucuses**

After lunch, the guest speakers and more panel sessions, it's time for Council Caucuses. Each council meets in a different room, and all candidates for all open FWSA offices are given time to make campaign speeches and answer questions from club members. After the candidates depart, open discussion on the candidates' pros and cons takes place. This provides valuable education that helps us all be informed voters on Sunday.

### **Saturday Night Awards Banquet**

The biggest party of all! This banquet will honor ski industry personnel and club members alike. The “Great 8” FWSA awards are also presented, as well as the Council Man and Woman of the Year awards. There’s usually a theme, so use your imagination! After dinner, a band will be there so that you can rock the night away. There may even be an “après party” going on somewhere—keep your ears and eyes open!

### **Eye Opener Party**

Behaved yourself on Saturday night, did you? Or you don’t need much sleep (or face it, you’re a glutton for punishment)? Then this event is for you. Starting at 7 a.m. and lasting until 8 a.m., you can help yourself to some morning beverages (including coffee, tea, bloody marys and mimosas), fruit and muffins, and say hello to the day with a hundred or so of your fellow convention buddies. Fortify yourself for the business meeting!

### **Sunday Business Meeting**

Now for the most important part of the convention—elections!! Every year, the offices of president, secretary and treasurer must be voted upon. Functional VP’s (which include membership, international travel, North American travel, marketing, communications, council services, and public affairs) are chosen for 2-year terms (these are split, so not all offices are being voted upon at one time). There are 2 positions on the FWSA board of trustees to be filled. Additionally, voting may take place on by-law changes and resolutions. It’s important you are there for these important decisions, especially if you are a voting delegate.

And don’t forget—they’ll be announcing the location of next year’s convention. You’ll have just enough time to recover from this one!

More questions? Contact: Sheri Parshall, NWSCC 2008 Far West Convention Chairperson at [cougskier@aol.com](mailto:cougskier@aol.com)

***COME JOIN THE FUN!! COME TO FAR WEST SKI ASSOCIATION’S 2008 CONVENTION!! SIGN UP TODAY!!***