

MEMORANDUM

To: Former Southeastern Mass. Chapter Chairs
From: Bob Bentley
Date: 22 August 1999
Subject: SEM Distinguished Service Award

I hope this memo finds you all well. I hope also that you have had an enjoyable summer and have been as active as possible. I know I have. I have a request for your assistance.

At the Spring Meeting of the Club, I was present at the Outdoor Leadership Development Committee meeting where the Chair, Joe Kuzneski, suggested that there was a lack of recognition for the volunteer leaders of the Club. I had to wholeheartedly agree. Although the OLDC may be working on a Club level, I took the idea and made a recommendation to the Executive Committee that a Chapter level award is appropriate. I recommended to the ExComm that a Committee consisting of past Chapter Chairs was most appropriate. They agreed. I am the first Chair of this Committee.

As I explained it to the Executive Committee, I said that I have personally known (and know) many persons in the Southeastern Mass. Chapter who have given (and give) countless hours to the Chapter who have never received more than a thanks, and sometimes not even that!

I envision that we will receive nominations from the membership, and make nominations ourselves. If they can be all sent to me, I will - if necessary - set up a meeting of the former Chairs to review the nominations, and make the recommendation {a phone poll is more to my liking....}. The nominations could be from anyone, and they could be specifically for in-Chapter work, or Club- wide work, but I suggest that the award be based on efforts provided to the AMC only. Nominations would not need to be submitted every year for the same person, but could be "updated" on an annual basis. I would also suggest that it be only one person annually. Once this person has received the award, they no longer are eligible to receive another one.

Having seen how the Club's Distinguished Service Award presentation works, I feel that a lot of the "fun" is trying to guess who will be the selectee. I would suggest that this be a "secret" process so that the recipient only finds out that she/he is getting it at the Annual Meeting of the Chapter. Awards made by other Chapters include an engraved gold Sierra cup, and the name of the recipient is included on a plaque which is transported to all Chapter events. The award, in my opinion, should be something more than a piece of paper. I personally like the concept of an engraved gold Sierra cup, but anything more substantial than a piece of paper is good.

I do believe that the nomenclature is important, and the ExComm has agreed. We will call it a "Southeastern Massachusetts Chapter Distinguished Service Award."

Please let me know your thoughts on this. Thanks in advance for your help!!