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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT of NATURAL and CULTURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION of PARKS and RECREATION
172 Pembroke Road Concord, New Hampshire 03301
Phone: (603) 271-3556 Fax: (603) 271-3553
Web: www.nhstateparks.org

December 30, 2020

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu
and the Honorable Executive Council
State House
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

REQUESTED ACTION

Authorize the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, Division of Parks and Recreation to make a **Retroactive** payment to the National Association of State Park Directors (VC #173155), Raleigh, NC in the amount of $3,000 for Membership Dues for the 2021 Season upon Governor and Executive Council approval for the period November 1, 2020 through October 31, 2021. 100% Other Funds (Agency Income).

Funding is available in account, Parks Administration, as follows:

	FY 2021
03-035-035-351510-37010000-026-500251 Organizational Dues	$3,000

EXPLANATION

The Division of Parks and Recreation (Division) has been a member of the National Association of State Park Directors (NASPD) since its inception in 1998. The NASPD is devoted to promoting the nation's state parks and helping state park systems effectively manage and administer their state park systems. The NASPD is composed of fifty state park directors, plus territories of the United States of America, including the newest member, Puerto Rico. This item is **retroactive** as NASPD did not send the invoice until recently.

State Parks are an integral part of the tourism economy and add to the quality-of-life of NH citizens and protect many of the state's defining features. Membership in the NASPD is important in order for New Hampshire to be part of, contribute to, and to learn from, the national conversation about how state parks can best serve our citizens. Examples include: NASPD's highly popular two-year certificate State Park Leadership training program for senior park leaders; other training programs and conferences to share best practices, trends, etc.; annual data compilation and analysis from all states on parks, inventories, facilities, budget and finance, staffing levels and more; advocacy for various programs such as the Land and Water Conservation Fund; website and other social media to provide public information and visitor use of each respective state park system, i.e. stateparks.org; and other national park program initiatives such as First Day Hikes.

Listed below are answers to standard questions required for Governor and Executive Council organization dues and membership approval submissions. A copy of the invoice from the NASPD is also attached.

1. How long has this organization been in existence and how long has this agency been a member of this organization? **Since 1998, NASPD has been a 501c6 with the IRS, but the organization was informal before that since the 1940's. New Hampshire has been a member since the beginning.**

2. Is there any other organization which provides the same or similar benefits which your agency belongs to? **No, there is no other national association for state park directors.**

3. How many other states belong to this organization and is your agency the sole New Hampshire state agency that is a member? **All fifty states belong to the NASPD and the Division is the only NH agency eligible to be a member.**

4. How is the dues structure established? (Standard fee for all states, based on population, based on other criteria, etc.). **The dues are based on a standard flat fee for all states.**

5. What benefit does the state receive from participating in this membership? **NASPD membership includes opportunities to participate in the organization's annual national leadership school as well as national level conferences with state and federal partners to protect and promote the many benefits of outdoor recreation in support of the nation's environment, heritage, health, and economy. Being part of the national network assures that NH's perspective, accomplishments, and future needs are included in legislation and federal grant programs (e.g. LWCF) that provide resources for improvements and accessibility to outdoor recreation opportunities in our state. Membership allows NH to participate in national state park initiatives like First Day Hike.**

6. Are training or educational/research materials included in the membership? If so, is the cost included? Explain in detail. **NASPD provides a state park leadership program and various training conferences. There is a cost to attend but there are also scholarships available to be applied for. However, the applicant must be from a member organization to participate or attend the State Park Leadership School which is available for a separate fee.**

7. Is the membership required to receive any federal grants or required in order to receive or participate in licensing or certification exams? Explain. **No. However, NASPD is a key legislative advocacy group that has been successful in retaining the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) which has deployed many millions of outdoor recreation funding in New Hampshire and other states throughout the country. The program has been in existence for more than fifty years and the effort continues to keep it funded and administered. NASPD is the primary organization fighting for stateside allocation of federal LWCF dollars.**

8. Is there any travel included with this membership fee? Explain in detail any travel to include the number of employees involved, the number of trips, destination if known and purposes of membership supported trips. **No, travel is required or provided for members (other than Board members which NH is not currently). One annual meeting is held for the NASPD membership in varying states, and there are other training programs, but travel is not provided as a benefit of membership. As a member of NASPD (as well as the Northeast Association of State Park Directors), there is one annual conference per year that members are asked to attend. Likewise there may be travel expenses for the state's volunteer activities coordinator in the future as a member of the National State Park Association of Volunteer Administrators (NSPAVA) which receives financial support from the NASPD for its biennial conference.**

9. Which state agency employees are directly involved with this organization? (Indicate if they are members, voting members, committee members, and/or officers of the organization.) **The Director of the Division of Parks and Recreation. As NSPAVA above formalizes its inclusion with the NASPD, the Division's volunteer activities coordinator would be directly involved in the future.**

10. Explain in detail any negative impact to the State if the Agency did not belong to this organization. **In addition to the many benefits noted above, NH would not have the benefit of interactions with other state park directors to share how park systems across the nation operate and address the challenges and provide new opportunities to serve the recreational needs of the public.**

Respectfully submitted,

for Philip A. Bryce
Director

Concurred,

Sarah L. Stewart
Commissioner

National Association of State Park Directors
PO Box 91567
Raleigh, NC 27675

AMERICA'S STATE PARKS

BILL TO
New Hampshire Div. of Parks & Recreation
Attention: Phil Bryce
PO Box 1856, 172 Pembroke Rd.
Concord, NH 03302-1856

INVOICE # 200113
DATE 12/01/2020

TERMS Due on receipt

DATE		AMOUNT
	November 1 ,2020 to October 31, 2021 Annual NASPD Membership	3,000.00

BALANCE DUE **$3,000.00**

Payment is due upon receipt of this invoice.

Please remit to: National Association of State Park Directors
PO Box 91567
Raleigh, NC 27675

The National Association of State Park Directors is in compliance with the contribution restrictions of Section 3517.13 (I) and (J) off the Revised Code

NASPD IRS EIN: 86-0896436