



Communications Workers of America

**The Union for the
Information Age**

For release November 18, 2016

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CWA: Park City Ski Patrol Ratifies First Contract with Vail Resorts

PARK CITY, UT – Almost one year after voting to organize as a union, the Park City Professional Ski Patrol Association announced on Tuesday the ratification of its first contract with Vail Resorts. The two-year agreement was passed by a two-to-one margin on Monday night. The membership consists of patrollers from the former Park City Mountain Resort and Canyons Resort, and the newly created Mountain Safety patrol, who now operate as a single department at the Vail Resorts managed Park City Resort.

Highlights of the agreement include: expanded educational and professional development opportunities; a strengthened avalanche dog program; a joint patrol/management safety committee to address safety issues; a grievance and expedited arbitration procedure to work out disputes; just cause in disciplinary actions

“Anytime two groups with separate histories and cultures are combined, there are bound to be some growing pains. And of course, Mountain safety is brand new, and has to be integrated as well,” said Julia Edwards, a ski patroller on the union's negotiating committee. “This contract helps unite us with common benefits and work rules.”

“Just knowing that we are no longer at-will employees and have access to a legal process to address safety issues or work out potential disputes is a big deal,” said Stuart Johnson, also a patroller. “This is good first step.”

“We're excited that we have a foundation, and we look forward to building on it with a more active and collaborative membership,” said Colton Fannesbeck, who represented Mountain Safety during negotiations. “We're only in our second year here at Park City, and already we have rights and benefits that aren't available to the Mountain Safety patrollers at other Vail resorts.”

The negotiating committee was comprised of members representing patrollers at both the Park City and Canyons Village base areas and Mountain Safety. The contract will cover about 200 employees through the end of the 2017-2018 ski season.

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The Park City Professional Ski Patrol Association is part of CWA Local 7781, The United Professional Ski Patrols of America. Through Local 7781, The Communications Workers of America represent Ski Patrollers at Park City, Crested Butte, Steamboat, and Telluride. The CWA is committed to improving the working conditions of Ski Patrollers - who statistically have one of the most dangerous jobs in the United States and Canada - and within the ski industry in general.

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