

NAR Board of Trustees conference call, May 1, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 PM Eastern Time.

Present: John Hochheimer, President; Carol Marple, Vice President; Mark Wise, Secretary; Tom Ha, Treasurer; Randy Boadway; Vince Huegele; Kevin Johnson; Ed LaCroix; Jim Wilkerson. Absent: None.

Website

Todd Schweim and Jon Bolden have added a "Latest News" link under the scrolling banner. John will publicize it in the *E-Rocketeer*. John asked Carol to reach out to Todd in order to publicize this on the NAR Facebook page. We will accept submissions from members, but they will be moderated.

The board discussed a problem with certain vendors advertising on the Facebook page. We're being taken advantage of by at least one persistent vendor who isn't even a NAR member. We want to encourage interaction between members and vendors, but we don't want to give away too much free advertising. John asked Carol and Mark to look into creating a vendor section in the Facebook group.

Treasurer's Report

Our balances took the usual annual "dip" for insurance, SLI, and TARC expenses, as well as for section grants.

Tom sent the board members all of the financial reports from after NARCON, with some modifications to the budget as explained in his e-mail and attachments.

The 2019 budget shows a net income of \$17,297 for the year.

John asked Tom to move \$40K into the appropriate checking account to cover SLI expenses as well as \$5400 to the company that prints our membership cards.

John Lyngdal invoiced NASA for our participation in SLI on 23 April. We should see the funds within a month.

Tom is working on the IRS-990 form that we are required to submit annually. The form is nominally due to the IRS on 15 May, but we'll get an extension to 15 November. Anne Heacock, our accountant, will work with Tom.

John and Anne have been tag-teaming the IRS with regard to NAR's 501(c)(3) non-profit status. We're in good standing with the IRS, but one of their databases still shows us as "suspended." John will obtain a form from IRS to show that we're valid. Northrop Grumman has a donation for us, but they can't transfer the funds until we can verify our non-profit status.

National Events

NSL – Everything is in order. Ed needs to check with Todd Schweim for registration data.

NARAM/Rocketry Festival – The website continues to be fleshed out. Registration isn't ready yet, but Ed hopes to resolve that with Todd soon. Ed has sent Todd a template containing all the information he wants to capture, as well as working out the fee schedule. Several of our people met with the Academy of Model Aeronautics in Muncie last weekend to discuss joint efforts (John, Todd, Ed, Matt Steele, Brian

Muzek, and others.) Things like tents, toilets, and water coolers need to be confirmed. AMA Site 1 will be the sport range, and AMA Site 3 will be the competition range. Ed will send AMA a diagram of our range layout.

We discussed the “Alpha Challenge” for the Rocketry Festival, which would combine AMA’s Alpha rubber-powered airplane (<http://www.amaflightschool.org/alpha>) and an Estes Alpha III in a make-it-take-it event. AMA will provide plaques.

John reiterated Jay Marsh’s remarks from the NARCON board meeting that AMA really, really wants to work with us and build a long-term partnership for the benefit of both organizations.

NARCON 2020 – The location has been confirmed. We will start the contracting process for hotels soon. The dates have not been confirmed yet because a major event takes up all of the hotels in the host city and surrounding area during the usual NARCON timeframe. Late February/early March looks like a plausible timeframe for NARCON

NSL 2020 – Ed has a phone call scheduled with the event director in the next few days.

NARAM-62 – We have a tentative location.

Vince asked why AMA is so interested in working with us, since they have 200,000 members and we have just over 7000. Ed and John said that it’s because we’ve “cracked the code” on recruitment and AMA hasn’t. (TARC impresses the heck out of them.)

Section Championship – The draft rules have gone out to section advisors. The comment period ended 26 April. Eleven comments were returned, only one of which expressed no support. Ed will discuss the comments with the Enhancing Competition Subcommittee and send the revised draft to Board members in time for a vote during the June conference call, so that they can take effect at the beginning of the new contest year on 1 July.

Ed has been thinking about how we fund awards. He’ll talk to Pat McCarthy about the possibility of becoming NAR’s industry representative for obtaining funding for awards. Ed ran the idea past Matt Steele, who agreed that Pat is extremely well-connected in the aerospace industry and would be a great help if he’s willing to do it. Ed will also ask Bob Sanford to be NAR’s representative to the rocketry manufacturers and vendors, since he knows so many of them. John advised Ed to wait on outreach to the aerospace industry until the IRS issue is resolved.

HPR Committee

John asked Jim about progress on the Junior L1 issue. He has talked to TRA president Steve Shannon, but there hasn’t been much progress yet.

NEON

The system was updated a couple of weeks ago.

Kevin pointed out that NEON is a contact management system, and that it’s not really made for managing a non-profit organization. NEON has had to adapt the software for our purposes. Jonathan Rains has spoken to them about membership renewal issue.

Kevin expects to get a list from Marie of structural things we’d like to change. The NEON upgrade may affect this.

Other items

Vince brought up an insurance question that came up in e-mail earlier this week. Some Spaceport Cup teams would like to buy insurance through NAR, but the appropriate plan would be to insure through their colleges.

Randy brought up some issues regarding potential perceived conflicts of interest. He will be “out and about” in his capacity as proprietor of eRockets and Semroc for the next few months, with media presence at some of the events. His company’s banners will be displayed, along with banners of other businesses and organizations. Since NAR and NARAM will be promoted at some of the same events (the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force, the Armstrong Air and Space Museum), Randy believed it was necessary to tell us. Tom expressed concern, but wanted more information before offering an opinion. Jim asked for clarification, and was satisfied with Randy’s explanation. Ed and Carol said that if he was representing eRockets, he could wear whatever he liked, but if he was representing the NAR, he should wear NAR imagewear or neutral clothing. Kevin said he had no concerns, and that Randy has done a good job of keeping the roles separate. Carol clarified that her concern was with perception rather than objective reality.

John asked about equal access to booths at these events. Randy said he recruits other vendors to participate in these events; for example, Merlin Missile Solutions will be at the Air Force Museum and Armstrong Museum events.

Randy left the call at this point so that the remaining members could continue the discussion. John said that Randy had done the right thing by calling our attention to the potential conflict.

Ed said that in his experience as a vendor employee and vendor proprietor, conflicts of interest had never been a problem.

After extensive discussion, John summed up: If Randy is staffing a NAR booth, he needs to dress in NAR-branded or neutral clothing. Jim added that if eRockets is sponsoring an event, other vendors must be allowed, too. John will talk to Randy tomorrow and follow up with the Board via e-mail.

Tom Ha moved to accept the meeting minutes from NARCON. Jim Wilkerson seconded. Members will send their votes to Mark by e-mail in the next few days.

Call adjourned at 10:37 PM. The next conference call is scheduled for June 5, at 9:00 PM Eastern Time.