

NAR Board of Trustees conference call, October 2, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 PM Eastern Time.

Present: John Hochheimer, President; Carol Marple, Vice President; Mark Wise, Secretary; Randy Boadway (checked in 9:08 PM) Kevin Johnson, Treasurer; Becky Green; Ed LaCroix; Lynn Thomas; Jim Wilkerson.

Absent: None.

Junior Level 1 Written Exam

Jim reviewed last month's discussion. Based on input from Steve Shannon of TRA, Jim added three questions to the written exams. He sent out the updated question pool earlier this evening for board members to review.

Jim amended the original motion to change the exam to 23 questions and change the effective date to December 1st, 2019. Lynn seconded. Carol suggested a clarification to "NAR Section officers" rather than "Section officers" to avoid ambiguity. Passed unanimously.

The final version of the motion is as follows:

I move that the NAR amend its Junior L1 certification process to include a written test. This test –

- **Will be 23 questions**
- **Will consist of a master question bank available (with answers) for study**
- **Will be distributed to NAR sections**
- **May be administered by Section officers or Jr L1 certification team members (L1 or higher)**
- **Will be taken and passed prior to the certification flight**
- **May be re-taken immediately in case of a failure but may only be taken twice in a seven-day period**
- **Will comply with any other details and processes as the L2 test**

Details will be announced to the NAR membership through the September *E-Rocketeer*, section news, highlight on the website, NAR Facebook page announcement, and other means.

The requirement will be enacted for Jr L1 certification attempts occurring on or after December 1st, 2019. Certification paperwork without the accompanying test certification completed after that date will be returned as incomplete.

Request from Section Activities Chair for software

Chuck Neff, the NAR Section Activities Committee chair, is trying to improve communications with Sections. We have been using Yahoo Groups for years, but it has limitations that are affecting our ability to communicate with Sections in a timely fashion. Chuck has found a group chat software package,

Groups.io, that would suit our needs. A single site would cost \$50.00 per year, and an enterprise version with more features would cost \$1100 per year, including a 50% discount for non-profit organizations.

Randy spoke in favor of the idea, and added that the enterprise version could be used to improve communications among TARC mentors and other NAR interest groups. Carol said that Groups.io will migrate the current contacts from Yahoo Groups easily, but that we to let people know that they need to register. Randy would like to know more about what the enterprise version would give us for the additional cost, and suggested another 30 days for research.

Ed suggested asking Chuck for a detailed written proposal. Carol said the relevant information was available on the Groups.io website, and added that she felt Chuck's request was reasonable. Randy said we could approve the funding and let Chuck do the research, but he definitely would like more info before committing \$1100 annually.

John asked if we'd be comfortable spending up to \$110.00 to allow Chuck to test Groups.io. He added that if all we're going to support is TARC and Sections, the more basic plan may be all we need. Ed wondered whether we could buy the basic package and upgrade if we decide it's necessary, and mentioned that he thought it might be useful for NRC communications. John will talk to Chuck, and we will continue the discussion during the November conference call.

National Events

Ed reported that the hotel and convention center contracts have been signed for NARAM-62. He expects to provide a substantial update during the November conference call, including a Request for Proposals from Steve Lubliner for a wireless sport range launch system, and updates on NARCON, NSL, and NARAM-62. Steve is trying to confirm a keynote speaker for NARCON.

John asked whether we wanted to pencil in 6 March for the NARCON board meeting.

John said that James Duffy is preparing a bid to host the 2022 World Spacemodeling Championships ("The Internats") in the United States. This would be the first WSMC in the U.S. since 1992. A filing fee of 500 Euro (€500, \$550.00 as of today) must be submitted to FAI with the proposal, which would probably be recoverable through sponsorships. Ed said that he was in favor of the idea, but that it should be cost-neutral to NAR. He asked about the possibility of scheduling WSMC adjacent to NARAM. Kevin said he wasn't sure that the proposed site, which is on private land, would be available for the necessary length of time. Ed expressed concern that it might be difficult to run NARAM two weeks after WSMC. John said that James has four to six weeks to submit the proposal, and he (John) will invite James to next month's conference call to discuss the proposal.

Jim moved that NAR provide 500 Euro to the U.S. Spacemodeling Team to apply to host the 2022 World Spacemodeling Championships. Becky seconded. Passed unanimously.

Plans for Treasury

Kevin reported that transitioning the Treasurer's duties from Tom Ha to Kevin has been moving more slowly than anticipated, but the essential tasks are getting done. John will send out a note to board members to meet to discuss the transition and any necessary changes. John sees the participation of himself, Kevin, Ed, and Carol (i.e. the Treasurer and the Executive Committee) as essential.

Kevin has a couple of expenses that have come in for payment (Trip's expenses for the NFPA meeting, the Museum of Flight's invoice for artwork for Phase II fundraising). John directed Kevin to pay those

expenses from the committee checking account. Kevin is keeping track of donations for appropriate recognition. He has access to the NAR treasurer's e-mail address.

Miscellaneous

Jim mentioned a series of posts to the Facebook page that were outside the Safety Code (and thus not permitted on the page). He spoke to the poster, who saw nothing wrong in what he was doing. Carol has also communicated with the poster and suggested that he set up his own Facebook page for such projects. Since this isn't the individual's first violation, Carol has turned on post approval for him, effective for 30 days.

Carol sent John an e-mail regarding cash awards for B division R&D at NARAM. The board did not vote to continue the awards, and at least one contestant and parent were upset. John pointed out that the award money had come from Robert Alway, the fund has been depleted, and the board has elected not to continue funding. Carol suggested we either vote to continue payments to incentivize B division R&D or support the payments this year but communicate that we won't continue the payments beyond that point.

Carol moved that B division R&D prize money be awarded at the previous year's level (\$1000, \$600, \$400, and \$200) for NARAM-61 only. Mark seconded. Passed unanimously. Carol will send contact information to John and Kevin.

Ed asked John about the results of the NFPA meeting. John said he would ask Trip and report back to the board.

Becky asked about the possibility of revamping the S4 (Small Satellites for Secondary Students) program as a spinoff of TARC, to be flown as ARLISS payloads. John said he and Becky could discuss the idea at a later date.

John closed the call by announcing that our peak membership last month was 7674, another all-time high.

The next call will be on November 6 at 9:00 PM Eastern Time.

Call adjourned at 10:14 PM.