

NAR Board of Trustees conference call, February 6, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 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 (arrived 9:50 PM). Absent: Jim Wilkerson.

Transparency

Effective immediately, the Board will begin posting minutes of our monthly conference calls to the members-only section of the NAR website. Mark will work with Todd Schweim (webmaster) to determine the best location on the website. The secretary will send draft minutes to Board members within one week of the conference call, and allow another week for comments and edits. Two weeks after the board meeting, the secretary will see to it that the minutes are posted to the website.

Any motion made during a conference call will be tabled for that month, included with the meeting minutes, and voted on during the next conference call. This will allow NAR members to comment before the vote.

Treasurer's Report

Pat McCarthy is "going gangbusters" getting sponsors for NARCON. Tom has sent four invoices to Pat for NARCON sponsors. Pat also has a NAR checkbook for NARCON expenses.

Every check written last year has been entered into the books. Tom has begun reconciling accounts for the year. We are up to date on paying invoices. NARAM 59 and NARAM 60 have been closed out; NARCON 2018 was closed out previously.

NAR HQ manager Marie Stumpe's employment status has been resolved, and she is now a NAR employee rather than a contractor.

Tom is currently working on the 2019 budget. Other open tasks include writing checks to pay the authors of selected articles in *Sport Rocketry*, and investigating the possibility of using PayPal to pay section grants. Tom's initial assessment is that PayPal would require a good deal of manual work and be unnecessarily complicated.

National Events

John reported on behalf of Ed, who was unable to join the conference call until later.

NARCON registration is continuing to grow. The second hotel is now full. Ed talked to Todd Schweim (webmaster) late this afternoon to let him know that we will have to update the NARCON website with an announcement from Pat McCarthy (NARCON event director) to announce that hotels are full and recommend other arrangements.

The National Sport Launch is progressing. The website is up and information is being pushed out to members. We are in the process of securing an event hotel for NSL.

NARAM-61 continues to come together. Brian Guzek (NARAM-61 contest director) will pass information to Todd to post to the website. Ed will have a proposed logo ready for review "pretty shortly."

Agenda topics for board meeting

Pass any suggested topics to John so that he can include them in the agenda.

Randy brought up the necessity for a member survey. John said that he's working on it.

Section Championship proposal

Ed sent it to Board members for review. John and Ed have discussed it; the next step is to have Chuck Neff (Section Activities chair) to pass the draft to Sections for comment/review. Our goal is to get an update from Ed at NARCON and vote to accept or reject the proposal at that time. We will implement the Section Championship on July 1 if it passes. Ideally, John would like to announce it at NARCON.

Section Grants

John and Randy are working on ways to streamline the process. Randy Gilbert has resigned from his position as section grant assistant. We need to develop some redundancy in check writing (i.e. more authorized check writers) and be able to respond to grant applications within 48 hours of receipt.

Section free memberships

Carol said that Chuck Neff had posted a reminder for sections to use the free memberships they receive to bring Junior members into the NAR. Lots of Sections would like to raise the maximum age for the free membership to 20, which would include all ages in the Leader category. Some sections would like to eliminate the age restriction entirely, or at least raise it to age 25.

Randy said the original intent was to introduce youngsters to organized rocketry, *Sport Rocketry* magazine, and activities, as well as to encourage sections to get kids involved. The thinking was that even if members didn't renew when they were young, they might become Born-Again Rocketeers in adulthood.

Carol wondered whether the program has grown beyond the original intent. It's great to get kids involved, but their parents pay subsequent dues. Randy said that he and Chuck have discussed this. "We're pulling teeth to get people to give this membership away," Randy said. What would be a better way to get kids interested in NAR, so that they come back in the future? Much of the discussion in the Yahoo NAR Sections group revolves around Junior L1, TARC, SLI, etc.

Carol asked whether we need a different sort of a kid-centered program. Would a certificate for a youngster's first rocket built and flown be sufficient? Is the money best spent on a membership or some other purpose, especially if we're trying to target young kids?

Randy said that the existing program has not met its objectives, and it may be time to eliminate it. There were about ten free memberships redeemed in 2017, more than that – but not a great number – in 2018.

Miscellaneous

Kevin brought up the idea of allowing Jennifer Ash (NAR Historian) to use NAR's FedEx account for members to ship their historical collections to her by pre-arrangement. Jennifer will work out a policy for use of the account and share it with the Board.

Ed, after a conversation with Todd, asked about the use of microsites by Sections. They aren't being used much – just a couple of sections, actually. John said that Jon Bolden (our web contractor) suggested using another site to host microsites.

Call adjourned 10:12 PM. The next conference call is scheduled for April 3, at 9:00 PM Eastern Time.