

NAR Board of Trustees conference call, February 5, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 PM Eastern Time.

Present: John Hochheimer, President; Carol Marple, Vice President; Mark Wise, Secretary; Kevin Johnson, Treasurer; Randy Boadway; Becky Green; Ed LaCroix; Lynn Thomas.

Absent: Jim Wilkerson.

Agenda for Board Meeting at NARCON

John asked the members if they had any suggested topics for the Board meeting scheduled for NARCON on March 6th.

Randy would like to take 30-60 minutes to brainstorm ideas on how to make better use of the free memberships that are available to Junior members.

Ed would like to discuss the 2018 FAA Authorization Act and its impact on radio-controlled rocket glider pilots and future events. John asked Ed for a summary of the issues involved.

Mark asked for 30 minutes to discuss the NAR and social media. John asked Mark and Carol to prepare topics for discussion.

John asked committee liaisons to reach out to their committees as necessary if they perceive a need to discuss committee issues during the meeting.

Kevin said that he'd talked with Brad Cline, the NARTS Committee chair. NARTS has been losing money on shipping, so Brad would like to adjust the shipping rate and discontinue the member discount. He thought that might require Board approval. Lynn asked what the member discount was. Kevin said that it isn't much, but that he would have to check on the actual amount. The current flat rate for shipping is \$6.00, which is less than the current rate for a USPS flat-rate box. John is inclined to allow Brad to use his best judgment. He sees it as a business decision that is within Brad's authority to make, but he expressed his appreciation that Brad would bring it to the Board for discussion. Ed asked whether we should update the NARTS chair's job description to state explicitly that he/she can make the relevant decisions. John said that Tom Ha (Brad's predecessor as NARTS chair) operated NARTS more autonomously than Brad does, and that he didn't see a problem. John asked the Board whether we'd be comfortable with Kevin requesting a more definitive "ask" from Brad in terms of the changes he wants to make. The consensus of the Board was that that was a good idea. Carol asked about putting more product photos on the NARTS website. Kevin will discuss it with Brad.

The 2020 NARCON Board Meeting will take place on Friday, March 6, beginning at 8:00 AM.

Treasury Policies

John and Kevin met with Anne Heacock, the NAR's accountant. She told them that we have allowed ourselves to fall into some fairly lax accounting/financial practices, which could be problematic if we were ever audited. Kevin and John tasked Anne with coming up with a set of practices that will bring us in line with accepted practices, so that we could ultimately pass an audit. The goal for the Board meeting will be to pass a set of policies that will allow us to function in a more financially responsible way. John expects some objections from people who hold NAR checkbooks, but he sees this as necessary. John said that one area where we've implemented good practices is with Section Grants.

Anne is also working with Marie at NAR HQ to streamline some processes. She is also working with the PayPal account to figure out how to make reporting functions work for us, and working with QuickBooks Online to streamline. "I think she's excited with the challenge," John said.

National Events

NARCON: Registration is underway.

NSL: Event Director Matt Abbey told Ed that the local community is still enthusiastically supporting NSL.

NARAM: The website should be up by the end of the week.

CubeSats

Becky has been approached by a representative from the U.S. Department of Education regarding a CubeSat competition. The DoE rep wondered whether we would be interested in supporting this event. Five hundred schools participate, and five schools "win." The other 495 schools may present an opportunity for NAR or Section involvement.

John said it's an interesting concept that may have potential to increase NAR membership as a post-TARC activity.

No Board action is required at this time.

Other

Carol asked about elections. Mark said that he would get the appropriate announcement posted in the March *E-Rocketeer*.

Randy said that Chuck Neff (Section Activities chair) is a bit concerned about opening the groups.io group to everyone. He'd still like to see it limited to NAR members. Randy doesn't really see this as a problem, and would prefer to be as inclusive as possible. John will reach out to Chuck.

Mark said that the hardcopy membership renewal form needs to be updated to reflect the reduction in dues for members aged 21-25. (The online renewal is correct.) John will look into it.

The next conference call will be on April 1, 2020 at 9:00 PM Eastern Time. (There will be no conference call in March, due to the Board of Trustees meeting at NARCON.)

Call adjourned at 9:44 PM.