

NAR Board of Trustees conference call, August 5, 2020

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

Present: John Hochheimer, Carol Marple, Vice President; President; Mark Wise, Secretary; Kevin Johnson, Treasurer; Becky Green; Ed LaCroix; Steve Lubliner; Lynn Thomas; Jim Wilkerson.

Absent: None.

Todd Schweim managed the technical aspects of the Zoom meeting and provided his input as appropriate.

Virtual NARCON

Ed and Todd are making steady progress toward developing a schedule for the 2021 virtual NARCON. The current plan calls for 6 hours of technical sessions, with 3 sessions per hour for a total of 18 sessions. We are currently considering three parallel tracks for the sessions: Model Rocketry, High Power Rocketry, and Commercial Spaceflight.

Todd said that we have learned the capabilities and limitations of Zoom, thanks to the NARAM virtual board meeting, Manufacturers' Forum, and Town Hall. He recommends that presentations be 50 minutes long, to provide 10-minute breaks between sessions for technical resets. Ed and Todd have developed a list with e-mail addresses of potential presenters to invite, and Trip Barber has provided some interesting prospects for international presenters. Ed is looking to put together a small team to build the tracks.

We need to set the dates for NARCON as soon as possible so that Todd can place the appropriate ads in *Sport Rocketry*. The Board discussed holding NARCON earlier in the year than is traditional in order to put more space between NARCON and the National Sport Launch. The Board agreed on January 30-31, 2021, with technical sessions on Saturday and virtual tours on Sunday. (Note: the winter Board meeting and Town Hall do not need to be coupled to NARCON and will be held on different dates.)

John recommended identifying a champion for each track. For possible champions, he suggested Trip Barber for student engagement, Chris Flanigan for international events, and James Duffy for scale modeling. It is important to recruit dynamic people to support each track, and to identify some new volunteers to go along with the people who volunteer year after year.

Steve asked if there was a plan for a featured speaker. Ed said that there will be a keynote speaker. Carol suggested Vern Estes, especially since he and Gleda would not have to travel to a virtual event. John said not to discount the possibility of paying an honorarium for a speaker if necessary. Ed knows someone at SpaceX and will check with him to see if the company has someone who does speaking engagements. Carol mentioned that NAR member Jim Banke knows several astronauts. Jim added that Museum of Flight liaison Pat Fitzpatrick is well connected in the aerospace community. Carol works at Northrop Grumman, and she may be able to reach out to someone in their space division. Jim will e-mail Ed and Todd with suggestions.

National Sport Launch

Ed, with Becky's help, has reached out to ROSCO in South Carolina. They are interested in hosting NSL 2022.

Committee Liaison Assignments

Since Randy Boadway has stepped down from the Board, Carol will take over his position as Board liaison to the Section Activities Committee. John will look over the other committee assignments before adjusting committee liaison positions.

Board Call Format

John said that the Zoom format has been highly effective for conducting the monthly conference calls. The Board meeting on Zoom also went well, to his way of thinking. He suggested that we open up the conference calls as Zoom webinars. We could try it for six months to see how well it works.

The Board's consensus is that the idea is worth trying. John and Todd will determine the dates and set meetings for the next six months.

High Power Rocketry

Jim and Carol have discussed the duration of the Level 2 exam's validity with Steve Shannon of Tripoli. The consensus among all parties was to continue the policy of allowing the written exam to expire after one year. All parties agree that it does no real harm to re-take the test if necessary.

Jim moved that the NAR release the new Level 2 exam and study guide. Ed seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Jim updated the Board on the HPR certification working group. They have posted a draft document to the Level 3 Coordinating Committee (L3CC) list, outlining proposed changes to Level 2 and Level 3 certification procedures. Jim has talked with Trip Barber, who felt strongly that the draft should be sent out the membership for comments before its final approval.

Steve had some suggestions, which he will discuss offline with Jim before we socialize the draft with Tripoli's leadership. Steve suggested socializing our proposal with the Canadian Association of Rocketry as well.

The Board will continue this discussion in subsequent monthly conference calls.

Finally, Jim said that Tripoli has expressed reservations regarding our lifetime certification. TRA would prefer that HPR certifications expire after an extended lapse in NAR membership. Steve said that he agreed with the TRA position. John will talk with Gerald Meux (incoming TRA president) and Steve Shannon (outgoing TRA president). John can see both sides of the issue, and he would like to see both organizations adopt similar policies.

Hot Wash of Board and Town Hall Calls

John asked the Board to send their thoughts on the three Zoom meetings (i.e. the summer Board meeting, the Manufacturers' Forum, and the Town Hall) to him and Todd.

Facebook

The Board discussed some concerns with the NAR Facebook page. Carol has looked at the user statistics and found that traffic has fallen off over the past 90 days. The Board discussed possible causes and solutions and directed the Facebook admins to take appropriate action.

Miscellaneous

Steve proposed that NAR require launch rails for all high-power flights. No action was taken at this time.

Mark updated the Board on the 2020 scholarships. Estes has asked for contact information for the Gleda M. Estes Scholarship and Len Fehskens Scholarship recipients so that they may mention them on the Estes Facebook page and other appropriate publicity. Mark contacted both recipients for permission to put Estes in touch with them.

Kevin said that Chuck Neff would be sending him receipts for the Section Excellence Awards.

The next scheduled conference call will be on September 2 at 9:00 PM Eastern Time.

Call adjourned at 10:36 PM.