**NAR Town Hall**

The NAR Town Hall began at 11:03 AM Eastern Time on January 31, 2021. The meeting was conducted via Accelevents webinar due to the change from an in-person NARCON to a virtual event.

John Hochheimer expressed special thanks to Todd Schweim and Ed LaCroix for putting the virtual NARCON together, calling their efforts “an awesome job.” He also thanked all of the speakers and presenters, complimenting their innovation and creativity.

John gave the semiannual “State of the NAR” presentation. He highlighted the necessity to follow safe fire safe practices and obey burn bans unless you have written permission from a competent authority to launch. He also reminded attendees to notify him at president@nar.org if an incident occurs that may result in an insurance claim.

He discussed NAR’s status as an organization. NAR is bigger now, with transactions exceeding $500,000 annually. Our tax filing requirements, staffing, and financial practices have changed as we have grown. Our increases have been increasing faster than our revenue, and we have made the difficult decision to raise dues. As of March 1, annual dues for a Senior member will increase from $62 to $70, and Junior/Leader dues will increase from $25 to $30. Existing three-year memberships will be honored.

John went on to inform the membership of additional Board actions. Section grants will continue (to a maximum of $20,000 in 2021), we will continue to offer free memberships to recruit new members, and we are subscribing to a cloud-based office suite in order to provide a central repository for NAR documents and working files.

John opened the floor to questions:

Splash analysis: Will Marchant asked about splash analysis for predicting impact points. John said that NAR would be open to offering it if members expressed a desire to have it.

NAR non-profit status: NAR is a 501(c)(3) entity, but there have been problems with the IRS database. We have tried for several years to get re-listed in the IRS database, and our accountant continues to work on the issue.

Insurance: Bob Blomster, our insurance agent, has sent the policy out for bids.

Life membership dues: No decision on the new cost for life membership has been made at this time, but the Board should make a decision within the next month.

G-Suite for Sections: We do not know whether Sections can use NAR’s non-profit status to obtain free G-suite licenses. We will have to look into that.

Accelevents cost: John asked Todd Schweim to answer this question. Todd said that the total income was not yet known, but that 536 attendees had registered. Accelevents charges per day: three days of NARCON events, plus a “practice day” to resolve technical issues.

Facebook moderation: John stated that membership in the NAR Facebook group is not a benefit of NAR membership (thousands of group members do not belong to the NAR), so muting, removal from the group, and other such measures are not subject to the disciplinary provisions of the NAR bylaws.

Bringing back the “Needs Fixing” survey: The Needs Fixing survey has not been used in many years. John said that it provided little actionable data. He suggested contacting Section Activities Chair Chuck Neff directly for Section issues. If a problem requires Board of Trustees action, please bring it to their attention.

Lack of official NAR membership meetings: John said that he could argue the semantics of just what constituted a “membership meeting,” but members have had opportunities to ask questions in board meetings and participate in conference calls. Allowances must be made in the face of a continuing pandemic.

Getting an old NAR number back: HQ does their best to give a lapsed member his/her old number when renewing, but some NAR numbers were lost in the conversion to the current member database. There are a few gaps in the paper record, as well.

Recruitment bonus: NAR used to pay recruitment bonuses for bringing in new members, but the Board saw little evidence that the bonuses had much effect on recruitment. John said that he would be willing to take a look at reinstating the program, but it would have to be more efficient than the previous system.

Payment option for life membership: John said that administering a payment plan would be problematic, and life membership is already a bad deal financially for the NAR.

Reducing the median age of NAR members: John said that we are working hard to do just that. The American Rocketry Challenge (TARC), the Student Launch Program (SLP) and even the Experimental Sounding Rocket Association (ESRA) are bringing younger members into the NAR.

The Town Hall ended at 12:59 PM Eastern Time.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Wise, Secretary