

NAR Board of Trustees conference call, May 5, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 8:03 PM Eastern Time.

Present: John Hochheimer, President; Carol Marple, Vice President; Mark Wise, Secretary; Kevin Johnson, Treasurer; Becky Green (departed 8:50 PM); 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.

President's Report

NAR membership is at an all-time high, exceeding our best numbers from October 2019 by 86 members. Total membership as of April 30 is 7846. John said that we can't attribute it to TARC participation, which is down due to the pandemic. We are seeing a small spike in younger members, which has lowered the mean and median age of NAR members by a year. John observed that "people want to get out and fly," and added that Marie has been keeping very busy at HQ, processing an unusually high number of high power certifications.

John spoke with Anne Heacock this afternoon. She has been transferring money from the PayPal account to the general account, much of which is due to NSL registration. John is also working with Anne to clear up some issues regarding Iowa unemployment insurance (which we are required to carry since NAR HQ is located in Iowa).

John worked with Jim Filler (RCP chair) and Dan Wolf (Contest Board chair) on an emergency rules change proposal regarding craftsmanship events, so that scale data can be uploaded in advance of the event.

The modified TARC for 2021 is "cranking away." Qualification flights must be completed by May 17.

John has heard from John Lyngdal, S&T co-chair, that a vendor wants to test experimental motors at NSL. John has let Matt Abbey, the NSL director, know that will not be permitted. Steve said that Gary Rosenfield of Aerotech wants to fly an L motor that has not yet been certified, also at NSL. John asked Steve to coordinate this with Jim and John Lyngdal.

John said that we need to implement and enforce a process for obtaining hold-harmless waivers from all attendees at NAR launches, or at least display signage to let people know that damage to cars is their responsibility, not NAR's. John is working with an attorney to come up with a fill-in-the-blank waiver for launches.

Treasurer's Report

As of April 26, we have \$273,000 in the bank.

The vendor that produces NAR membership cards sent an invoice directly to John for some reason. He passed it along to Kevin, who will process it for payment.

We expect a payment from NASA fairly soon.

Kevin has been processing some refunds for NSL. The vendor from whom we had ordered patches and pins backed out due to COVID, so we need to refund the pre-payments we have received for them. Kevin will give people the option of taking a refund or converting their payment to a donation to NAR.

National Events

NSL: Everything is moving smoothly. Event director Matt Abbey is doing a great job of keeping Ed and Todd informed. Ed said that registration currently stands at a bit over 100 registered flyers, which is less than he expected. Ed will chat with Matt and his team later this week.

NARAM: New York State has raised its limit on the size of outdoor gathering numbers to 500. Banquet rooms are still limited to 33% of full capacity, but an epidemiologist who belongs to MARS (the host Section) believes that number will increase before NARAM.

Registration opened on May 1. Todd said that 15 people have registered so far.

Jim suggested a Plan B for a banquet at an outdoor venue, similar to the picnic after the TARC finals. Ed said that he would talk to Bill and MaryBeth Clune, who are responsible for the banquet. John pointed out that an outdoor picnic may actually be cheaper than a traditional banquet.

NSL 2022: ROSCO is still interested in hosting NSL 2022 in South Carolina.

NARAM 2023: We are looking at returning to the NARAM 58 site in Missouri. The prospective Contest Director plans to travel to the site to determine if it would be workable. Ed has talked to Jay Marsh about using the International Aeromodeling Center in Muncie, IN if the Missouri site is unsuitable. Carol asked about Pueblo, CO, where NARAM 52, 56, and 60 were held. Ed said that he could talk to some contacts in Colorado.

Section Activities

Carol talked to Section Activities chair Chuck Neff about a week ago. We currently have 218 active Sections. Ten Sections, mostly TARC teams, went inactive.

High Power

An unauthorized vendor is producing unlicensed Aerotech hardware. This hardware is not certified and is not allowed at NAR launches, but how can a check-in officer or RSO determine that a rocket has been loaded with a pirate motor? Jim doesn't see it as a major problem since the feedback on the chat boards has been overwhelmingly negative toward the vendor. At any rate, Gary Rosenfield is putting Aerotech's legal team to work on the problem.

Other Topics

Kevin said that the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) is working on aeromodeling history and is looking to aerospace hobby organizations. Should we put them in touch with NAR Historian Jennifer Ash?

The incoming president of the National Science Teaching Association, Eric Pyle, is a NAR member. He has talked with Trip Barber about cooperation between NSTA and NAR. John will reach out to Robin Houston to try to establish a connection

Jim mentioned that the Museum of Flight applied for a competitive grant to obtain funding to process the NAR collections. They did not receive the grant.

The next scheduled conference call will be on June 2, 2021 at 8:00 PM Eastern Time.

Meeting adjourned 9:14 PM.