

NAR Board of Trustees conference call, April 7, 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; Ed LaCroix; Steve Lubliner; Jim Wilkerson.

Absent: Lynn Thomas.

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

President's Report

We have paid most of the insurance bill, with remainder on to ease our cash flow. Insurance certificates have gone out. Membership picked up considerably in March, with 7712 members at the end of month. This compares favorably with our all-time high. John will examine the numbers to see where the uptick may be coming from.

Three candidates for the 2021 Board of Trustees election submitted nominations by the April 5 deadline.

Treasurer's Report

Kevin reported that NAR is "still pretty healthy," with \$97,000 in the general fund and \$8700 in the committee account.

National Events

NSL – Things are moving forward. Fifty-five adult all-day flyers have registered for the event, and six all-day flyers under age 18 have registered. Ed expects a last-minute rush of registrations.

NARAM – Dan Wolf (contest director), Bill and MaryBeth Clune (sport range co-directors) and Todd Schweim met via conference call. Ed asked Bill to research New York's guidance on group sizes. Groups may currently be limited to 200, which would present a problem for NARAM. be a problem. Todd has updated the website to make sure that the dates and times are current for 2021, and he has asked Bill to review the website for accuracy. Todd said that as soon as he receives some additional information from Clunes, the NARAM website can go live within a day.

Steve asked what day the board meeting would be held. The consensus was to hold the meeting on Monday, July 26th, with the Town Hall during the evening of the 27th.

NSL 2022 – A Section and potential event director have expressed interest in hosting NSL next year, but Ed has not received a firm commitment.

NSL 2023 – Ed has heard from a member in Maine who has offered to host NSL 2023 at the former Loring Air Force Base.

NARAM 63 – There has been some interest in holding NARAM 63 in Missouri.

Safety Committee

Steve sent the Board members a draft letter regarding Experimental Sounding Rocket Association (ESRA) participation at NSL. Steve, Jim, NSL director Matt Abbey, and Matt Berger from ESRA met at the end of March to confirm ground rules for Spaceport America Cup participation at NSL. Steve is looking for board approval for Spaceport America Cup participation at NSL. Teams wishing to participate must submit application packages by May 1 for technical approval.

Carol asked if there were any concerns about them breaking NSL's altitude waiver of 30,000 feet. Steve said there was no more concern than with any other flyers. ESRA flyers will be scrutinized more carefully than other HPR flyers, more like SLP teams.

Carol asked if there were any concerns about anything that ESRA can do that isn't permitted at a NAR launch. Steve said they will be held to NAR requirements.

John asked whether any Board members had problems with the proposal. No one had any objections. Steve will notify Andy Berger of the Board's decision.

John asked Steve to remind everyone that fire is an ever-present danger. Steve said that he would include it in his next safety note in the *E-Rocketeer*.

John asked Ed to work with Matt Abbey to include a safety note regarding altitude sickness, etc. at NSL. (The field elevation is 7600 feet). Todd said that information has been included on the website. John asked to include a brochure anyway to reinforce the message.

Dehydration at that elevation is a major concern. We will check with Matt to make sure that water is available at the field.

Education

Becky has been trading e-mails with Vince Huegele, the Education Committee chair. He had mentioned that volunteer Robin Jackson is on her second professional development class and has enlisted ten more recruits. One of these recruits will complete the curriculum in Spanish for posting to the website. A professor at Millersville University (Pennsylvania) is working with education majors to qualify them in the narTcert program. Robin has written an article to run in the next issue of *Sport Rocketry*.

John thanked Carol for uploading the NARCON content to YouTube.

Life Membership Price Point

At the current dues level (\$1000), a NAR life membership pays for itself in 13 years. Is it time to raise the price? John suggested creating "tiers" for life membership by age brackets so that we don't wind up on the wrong side of the actuarial tables.

Ed proposed creating Patron levels that would provide some sort of in-kind gift for their contribution.

Steve moved to continue the Life Membership program. Becky seconded. Motion carried 6-1, with Ed opposed.

John proposed a tiered dues structure for Life membership based on actuarial tables, so that NAR does not lose a significant amount of money over the duration of a long-lived rocketeer's life membership: \$1000 for members over age 65, \$1500 for members aged 60-65, \$2000 for members aged 55-60, and \$2500 under age 55.

Steve moved that Life membership dues be increased to \$1500 for members aged 55 and over, \$2500 for members under 55. Motion died for lack of a second.

Jim moved that Life Membership dues be increased to \$1000 for members over age 65, \$1500 for members aged 60-65, \$2000 for members aged 55-60, and \$2500 under age 55, to take effect as soon as it can be implemented in all applicable NAR systems. Steve seconded. Motion carried 6-1, with Ed opposed.

Kevin moved that Life Members receive an enameled pin in recognition of their contributions. Steve seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

RC Rocket Glider Issue with FAA

John has received some questions regarding radio-controlled rocket gliders in the context of the Federal Aviation Regulations. the FARs. John suggested a blue-ribbon panel to coordinate with the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) and FAA to identify and clarify the issue, determine what we may need to do to address it, and report to the Board.

Steve said that “rockets,” as defined in the FARs, clearly include rocket gliders and radio-controlled rocket gliders. John did not disagree but said that other factors were at work.

The Board’s consensus was to allow John to talk to some people to get the ball rolling.

Other Topics

Ed has heard from Gary Rosenfield regarding Tripoli developing their own NARCON-like event. They will host some in-hotel technical presentations during LDRS, called “TRA-Tech.” Gary would like us to announce it on the NAR Facebook page. John has no objection; in fact, he would be happy to include the announcement in the next *E-Rocketeer*. John will talk to Steve Shannon and Gerald Meux of TRA regarding reciprocity in advertising.

The next scheduled conference call will be on May 5, 2021 at 8:00 PM Eastern Time.

Meeting adjourned 9:29 PM.