

NAR Board of Trustees conference call, July 7, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 PM Eastern Time.

Present: John Hochheimer, President; Mark Wise, Secretary; Becky Green; Ed LaCroix; Steve Lubliner; Lynn Thomas (arrived 8:53 PM), Jim Wilkerson.

Absent: Carol Marple, Vice President; Kevin Johnson, Treasurer.

Members present: Don Carson, John Thompson.

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

President's Report

John discussed the 2021 World Spacemodeling Championships, which will be held in Romania in October. Some U.S. team members plan to attend. Trip is helping to coordinate the effort but will not travel to Romania. Few, if any, Juniors will participate.

John plans to catch up on President's, Galloway, and Stine Awards. Trustees should send him their suggestions.

Safety

John said that Section leaders have been asking Chuck Neff about the safety and legality of wireless controllers. John believes the time is right to develop a best practices document to describe how to operate a wireless system safely and successfully. John asked Steve, in his capacity as Safety Committee chair, to draft best practices. Steve will work on it and get back to John.

Ed asked about homemade wireless controllers in a "Misfire Alley" layout. Steve said that wireless systems are legal (answering a question from Chuck Neff), and that he can address the remaining questions in a 200-word article in the *E-Rocketeer*.

John also asked Steve to think about the safety implications of thrust vectoring. What sorts of guidelines should we give Sections with regard to rockets that utilize thrust vectoring for stability? Steve has already done some work in this regard.

Treasurer's Report

John provided an update in Kevin's absence. We are currently in a strong cash position. We received the payment from NASA for SLI support, which we will use to pay off the balance of our annual insurance premium. The Board will review the balance sheet during the meeting at NARAM in Geneseo. We are in a good position largely because the expenses for SLI, TARC, and liability insurance did not arrive all at once. The dues increase also helped. We are doing as well or better than John anticipated at the beginning of the year.

John provided an update on NAR's non-profit status. He finally reached a representative who closed out our case with the IRS. When NAR became a non-profit in 1963, the IRS did not have some of the categories that exist now, so that NAR (because of its age) lacked the appropriate tag. John needs to complete a form, have it notarized, and file it with the IRS. That will resolve our non-profit status.

Jim brought up the idea of an increased travel reimbursement for NARAM, since no Board travel was involved for NARCON and traveling to Geneseo can be expensive for trustees on the West Coast. Jim moved that NAR provide a one-time increase of Board members' travel allowance to \$1500. Becky seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

National Events

NSL 2021 follow-up: Kevin, Ed, and Matt Abbey reviewed accounts for NSL. After reimbursing the NAR for the seed money we provided, the host Section netted approximately \$6,100.

NARAM: Ed participated in a videoconference on July 6 with the contest director, event directors, and host Section. As Ed said, "All trains are on track and heading to the station."

NSL 2022 and NARAM-63: Locations, host Sections, and event directors will be announced at NARAM. A hotel contract for NARAM-63 has already been signed.

Section Activities

John said that we are hearing more and more permutations of what people want to consider a Section to be. He does not see this as a bad thing, but it does make it difficult to deal with things like Section grants. Chuck Neff, Section Activities Committee chair, has spent a lot of time thinking about the issue, and is considering breaking Sections into tiers, to include *Public Sections* (traditional Sections), *Private Sections* (such as school and TARC groups, who charter Sections for the insurance), and *Family Sections*. We will discuss this in some detail during the NARAM board meeting.

High Power/L3CC

Jim said that we are seeing more instances of NAR/University students who qualified Level 1 and Level 2 in a weekend and want to start a Level 3 project with their total HPR experience limited to two flights. He added that some vendors are selling kits and casings so that someone could progress from G to L motors in a weekend. These people often don't know what they're doing. Jim firmly believes that we need some sort of structure in place to prevent these "speed runs." High Power Services chair John Thompson, who was attending the meeting, agreed. He suggested that we require a flight log recording progress from Level 1 to Level 3. "There should be a process that NAR and Tripoli can agree upon," discouraging the rush to Level 3. John Thompson expressed concern regarding insurance implications. Steve said there should probably be a joint meeting of NAR and TRA to resolve this issue once and for all.

We will discuss this issue more thoroughly at NARAM, but John Hochheimer's inclination is to create a joint NRA/TRA committee to come up with recommendations to take to the boards of the respective organizations.

Steve asked John whether there was any more fallout from the experimental motors flown at a NAR launch in Florida, which was discussed during the June conference call. John continues to communicate with Chuck regarding messaging to Sections about best practices.

Education

Becky said that the June 30 deadline for Science Fair entries has passed. We received two entries. Becky composed congratulatory e-mails. She will forward an e-mail to Todd, giving their names and providing photos for inclusion in *Sport Rocketry*.

Other Topics

Lynn will respond to an e-mail sent to all Board members by a Ph.D. candidate researching space tourism, to let him know that it is not within the scope of NAR's activities.

Jim asked if we could have Marie research the number of Level 2 certifications last month who had spent less than a month at Level 1? The data might be useful. John will ask Marie.

Don Carson thanked the Board for their work, and for the opportunity to participate in the meetings.

John asked the Board to collect committee reports before NARAM.

The next scheduled conference call will be on September 1, 2021, at 8:00 PM Eastern Time.

Meeting adjourned at 9:26 PM.