

NAR Board of Trustees conference call, March 2, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 8:06 PM Eastern Time.

Present: John Hochheimer, President; Carol Marple, Vice President; Mark Wise, Secretary; Kevin Johnson, Treasurer; Becky Green; Steve Kristal; Steve Lubliner; Lynn Thomas (joined 8:13) Jim Wilkerson.

Absent: None.

Others present: Ed LaCroix, National Events Chair

Todd Schweim, NAR Communications Director, managed the technical aspects of the meeting and provided input as appropriate.

President's Report

John said that John Lyngdal has asked him whether NAR can insure NASA Student Launch ("SLI") practice launches as we do for TARC launches. NAR currently has no policy in this regard.

Steve L. moved that NAR provide insurance to NASA Student Launch teams making official SLI practice and competition flights at NAR or TRA sponsored launches. NAR membership would not be required of the participants. Steve K. seconded. Motion carried 7-0, with one trustee not yet present.

Steve L. asked what we would do about insuring Spaceport America/ESRA launches using commercial motors. The Board did not reach a conclusion.

Keith Vinyard has asked John whether NAR will pay to rent utility vehicles (Gators or their equivalent) for NARAM 63, at an estimated cost of \$3500. John said that this is a matter for the NARAM organizers rather than the Board. John told Keith that the rental could be built into the NARAM budget, but that the Board would not create a separate line item in the NAR budget.

John has been exchanging e-mails with Bob Brown, the TRA president. They have a phone call scheduled for March 3. John added that the periodic conversations have been productive.

John reported that the quote for insurance this year was \$77,063 for general liability insurance, \$19,493 for the add-on to bring the maximum coverage to \$5,000,000 (as required by NASA for the SLI contract), and \$1,600 for Director and Officer insurance. The amount is within a few hundred dollars of the amount in the draft NAR budget for 2022.

Membership stands at 8584 as of 28 Feb. John noted that the dues increase in 2021 did not depress membership. Marie and Mayra continue to be busy providing member services.

John has received additional feedback on NARCON 2022. Members are still registering for the event in order to view the content of the sessions. Todd reported that as many as 70-80 people at a time were viewing content two weeks after the event. Steve K. said that he has received a lot of positive feedback on his NARCON FAI presentations. As of March 2, 510 tickets for NARCON 2022 had been sold, compared to 542 for NARCON 2021.

John reported that he has received good feedback on the updated NAR Member Guidebook. He said that he has received numerous requests for a printed version, to which he has replied that the Guidebook is a PDF document and members can feel free to print it from the NAR website.

Treasurer's Report

Kevin that that NAR's finances are in pretty good shape. We currently have \$191,000 in the general account and \$109,000 in the committee account. The annual insurance premium (\$98,156) is due on April 1.

Kevin is in the process of transferring the remaining funds from the Americhoice Credit Union accounts.

Kevin moved to accept the 2022 NAR budget as proposed during the NARCON Board meeting. Lynn seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Committee Reports

Safety

Steve L. worked with Jim and Trip Barber on a letter regarding the use of epoxy to plug motors for use in gliders. They all agreed that this was not permissible under the NAR Safety Code. Another question arose regarding 24 mm and 29 mm upscales of featherweight rockets, and whether it was permissible to eject the motors as was done in the 13 mm and 18 mm versions of such rockets. The consensus was that this was not compliant with the Safety Code, as the upscaled models were not "featherweight" by any reasonable standard. Steve will write an article for *The Electronic Rocketeer* to clarify this for our members.

High Power

Jim has had discussions with John Lyngdal (Standards and Testing Committee co-chair), John Thompson (High Power Committee chair), and Pat Gordzelik (Level 3 Committee chair) regarding the use of 3D printed components for Level 3 certification flights. They agreed to recommend a motion for the Board not to permit such use, at least until enough data is available to evaluate the suitability of proposed 3D-printed parts compared to the use of traditional materials.

Steve L. asked why the discussion was limited to Level 3 certification attempts. Jim said that his focus was on Level 3 mostly due to the potential use of 3D-printed parts in SLI rockets, but that he would be happy to explore the broader HPR safety question with Steve.

Jim moved that 3D-printed structural components are not currently allowed for Level 3 certification flights. Kevin seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Steve L. proposed an amendment generalizing the motion to all HPR certification flights. John and Jim responded that the original motion was in response to a specific request from the Level 3 Coordinating Committee.

John asked Steve L. and Jim to come back to the Board with specific recommendations on the use of 3-D printed parts in HPR. Jim said that he would bring John Lyngdal, Pat Gordzelik, and others into the discussion. Steve L. suggested that John bring this up in his March 3 phone call with Bob Brown. John replied that the topic was already on his list.

Section Activities

Carol reported that NAR had 228 active Sections as of a couple of weeks ago. She said that Chuck will send out Section renewals in about a week. Todd said that some software issues needed to be resolved before renewals could begin.

National Events

Steve K. said that current events in Ukraine have had an effect on the 2023 World Spacemodeling Championships. Russia and Belarus will not be allowed to compete, and Steve did not expect to Ukraine to field a team.

Ed said that website development for NSL and NARAM is underway. Bobby Weatherford, the NSL 2022 event director, is sending content to Todd. Ed and Todd expect the websites to be up before the end of the month

Education

Becky is in talks with a Girl Scout leader in California regarding a pilot program for STEM badges that could be rolled out nationally.

Miscellaneous

Jim reported on his review of NAR awards. He has reached out to the Facebook group participants who complained most vociferously about the retirement of the Best Midwest Qualified Flight (BMQF) award. He said that if no one wants to take it on, BMQF will not be reactivated. Jim suggested codifying policy for the President's Award, Howard Galloway Spacemodeling Award, G. Harry Stine Lifetime Achievement Award, David Gregorek Award, and Giant Bumble Bee Award. Jim is currently discussing awards with Mark Bundick (former NAR President) and Dan Winings (former Records Subcommittee chair) and plans to talk to former NAR Presidents J. Patrick Miller, Trip Barber, and Ted Cochran. Jim will update the Board during the April conference call.

Steve K. reported that 19 juniors have expressed an interest in trying out for the FAI Junior team. They have all been connected with mentors, and Mike Nowak has been making kits for them. Estes and Space Camp will also be promoting the recruiting effort.

The next scheduled conference call will be on April 6, 2022, at 8:00 PM Eastern Time.

Meeting adjourned at 9:42 PM.