NAR Board of Trustees conference call, September 7, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 8:08 PM Eastern Time.

Present: John Hochheimer, President; Steve Kristal, Vice President; Mark Wise, Secretary; Kevin Johnson, Treasurer; Don Carson; Becky Green; Steve Lubliner; Lynn Thomas; Jim Wilkerson.

Absent: None.

Others present: Matt Johnson, John Thompson.

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

**President’s Message**

John reported that total NAR membership has been flat for past two months but is still near 8,900. We usually get a big increase in September and October, as TARC teams and mentors register. John expects our membership to reach 9,000 in the next month or two.

There was a dual-deployment malfunction during a launch over the Labor Day weekend. A descending rocket hit a spectator’s car, breaking a window. The rocketeer who was involved filled out the insurance form, but John has let the owner of the car know that he needs to work the claim through his auto insurance. The NAR liability policy has a $5,000 deductible, of which the member involved is responsible for the first $1,000. Bob Blomster, our insurance agent, crafted a note that satisfied all parties.

**Treasurer’s Report**

Kevin reported that our total account balance at US Bank is 311,649.30. We still have two accounts at Americhoice Credit Union that we are trying to close. Our total cash on hand between the two institutions is $319,912.97.

We sent out the checks for the Cannon and Extracurricular Activity grants during the month, totaling $8,500.

Our largest outstanding expense is $27,000 for scholarships. Those checks should go out during the month.

**Member Input**

Matt Johnson submitted a proposal to the Board for an appropriate to buy durable signs to be added to the NAR’s range gear and shipped to national events. Some of the envisioned signs include *Food Vendor, Rocket Launch, Take It and Fly, First Aid, Returns, Check-In, Parking,* and *Registration.* As Matt saw it, the proposal would eliminate the need for each Event Manager or Contest Director to create new signs for each event. He and Randy Boadway worked together on the designs and shopped around vendors in the Dayton, Ohio area for price information.

John has talked to Ed LaCroix, who is still in charge of NAR range gear, and he has passed Matt’s artwork to Ed. The Board would like to use Matt’s designs, build the signs, and add them to our range equipment. John said that the cost of shipping 24x36 inch sandwich boards (the size Matt proposed) to events would be prohibitive, and he will work with Ed to figure out the largest practical size. John expressed his appreciation to Matt and to Randy, who was not present, for their work.

**Research Grants**

As a follow up to the discussions that the board has been having regarding the structural safety of 3D-printed parts, Steve L. sent a proposal to the Board members to set up a program for NAR research grants. Steve’s vision is to provide grant money from the NAR for research to study questions that the Board deems important, “basically for NAR to get a handle on technology and technological problems,” as he said. He envisions a maximum $1500 grant for supplies, facilities, and test gear. Grants could go to individuals or teams, all of whom must be NAR members. Grants would not be awarded in support of commercial entities, nor for the NAR Research and Development competition. Any intellectual property thus generated would be the property of the NAR. Proposals would be submitted to NAR board.

Jim complimented Steve on the thoroughness of his proposal.

Don asked whether Steve envisioned this as an open opportunity, or would we send out research questions and solicit proposals. Steve said both, that we could pose research questions or prospective researchers could generate their own ideas.

Becky asked Steve how many grants he envisioned for any given technology. Steve did not propose a limit by topic, but he was thinking in terms of awarding three or four grants per year.

Steve proposed tabling the idea for a month to give Board members time to review the proposal more thoroughly.

John said he thought it was a great idea, and he would like the Board to work on it to get a really solid proposal to send to more people for review. “Let’s kick the tires on this a little bit and figure out what we really need to put in there and how to direct people on this.” John would like to have a few people work with Steve on this. John will think of candidates and discuss it with participants at Black Rock this weekend.

**Round table with Trustees/Staff**

Becky said that she is getting ready for ARLISS. She still has not heard back from Girl Scouts and will reach out to them after ARLISS. She added that teams from Japan, Peru, Mexico, and Hawaii would be attending ARLISS, and that a total of 16 teams would be participating.

Lynn has still not heard from the Civil Air Patrol.

Jim said that the HPR committee has had some questions regarding the requirement for Sections to identify proctors for the Level 2 written exam. He has been referring them to the relevant page on the NAR website. The L3CC has been notified about the 3D-printed parts policy, which has led to some comment on the message boards.

Jim added that he is still drafting responses to input he has received regarding NAR awards. He liked the idea of a Carlisle Award to supersede the Giant Bumblebee, as well as a Spadafora Award for outstanding volunteer service at the local level.

Steve L. said that he has been communicating with Tom Beach regarding questions that the local authorities have regarding appropriate fire-safety equipment. John said that he would talk to Steve offline. We would appreciate any authoritative data that we could provide to the Bureau of Land Management to show that water better than dry chemical for suppressing grass fires.

Steve K. had a good talk with Matt Abbey regarding hosting NSL West next year. He added that Ed LaCroix has been talking to Vern Richardson regarding NARAM. Steve is looking at candidate sites for NSL East next year.

Don reviewed the NAR bylaws during the month. He said that they need to be updated. He spoke with John last week regarding drafting revisions. He said that most of the necessary changes are pretty straightforward. John suggested that Don work with Becky, Lynn, and Mark on the revisions.

Todd said that the September issue of *Sport Rocketry* has been sent out and billed. Monica Rooker is our new social media coordinator and she is working out well, sending posts daily. Todd is working with Higher Logic and Will Marchant on a members-only forum.

The next scheduled conference call will be on October 5, 2022, at 8:00 PM Eastern Time.

Meeting adjourned at 9:03 PM.