

NAR Trustee Working Session

September 6, 2023

Session started at 8:03 PM.

Present: John Hochheimer, President; Steve Kristal, Vice President; Mark Wise, Secretary; Kevin Johnson, Treasurer; Don Carson; Lynn Thomas; Jim Wilkerson (arrived 8:18).

Absent: Jasper Barnett; Becky Green.

Others present: None.

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

President's Notes

Marie is retiring effective November 1st. John wants to plan something in her honor. There may be a big gathering in Marion, IA, where she lives. She will still do some work for us as an hourly employee. We will need to transfer HQ to Mayra Marquez's home in Virginia. John is holding an employee meeting tomorrow to talk through the transition. Anne is looking at what we have to do to register in Virginia and set up payroll tax in Illinois (Monica Rooker's home). We do not anticipate any interruption to services. We will use Chase as our bank, re-purposing our WSMC account as our general account.

Treasurer's Report

Our general account balance is around \$20k, which is a bit low, but the committee account has a balance of \$106k. Scholarship and grant checks have been issued, and NARAM expenses have been paid. We had a positive cash flow of about \$30k during the month.

Steve asked about moving some of our funds into accounts with better interest rates. Kevin said he would reach out to Chase to explore options.

NARTS

John and Todd have been talking about a way ahead for NARTS. They agree that we need to control our trademark and branding, so an on-demand print solution to our print products is not the right way to go. We also need to manage the sale of pins and other items that cannot be produced on demand. Steve said that Café Press, Zazzle, etc. return a percentage of sales, so we would still make some money.

We need to find a volunteer to manage NARTS. Steve has been trying to identify candidates, as has John, but no one comes readily to mind. Kevin said that he would like to see orders placed through the NAR website and forwarded to the producer on the back end. John asked Kevin, Lynn, and Steve to take the lead on this. Todd suggested that this would be a good time to reinvent what NARTS should be in terms

of products, workload, and business approach. John suggested a “fire sale” of current inventory at the next few events.

Grant Eligibility

One of this year’s Extracurricular Activity Grant recipients is not a NAR member. Should we allow that? Don pointed out that we might be awarding grants to people who are not covered by our insurance, and that schools, for example, really like to see that extracurricular activities have insurance coverage. Steve pointed out that requiring membership may be a big expense for someone who hopes to receive a grant but is not assured of receiving one. Steve suggested giving the recipient a free membership for the first year. The Board’s consensus was that it was a good idea. Mark will reach out to the teacher and offer him a free membership. Jim suggested reaching out to the teacher to talk up the advantages of membership, invite him to join, and offer him a free membership if the cost is prohibitive.

Corporate Membership

Don is about three-quarters of the way through an initial draft of a policy on corporate membership. He will send it to Lynn and Mark in the next day or two to start the discussion.

Website

Don said that Todd, Chuck, and Jon Bolden are spending an inordinate amount of time fixing the website. There are about 40 plug-ins, and the interfaces can be problematic. Todd said that Tripoli dumped their old site and started over some years ago and we may want to consider that, but it would be an enormous undertaking. Todd does not see this as something that could happen in the next twelve months, as we have some higher priorities. Kevin knows of a company (WP Engine) that manages WordPress websites. We will contact them for a Request for Proposal.

National Events

Steve said that an NRC event may be associated with NSL East, but that there may not be sufficient interest.

Planning for NARAM is off to a good start. There was some discussion about mandating that NARAM be scheduled within the first three weeks of July, when everyone is off school. Before and after that, some schools somewhere are in session.

Recruiting has begun for WSMC 2025. Steve said that more kids (35) have signed up for the flyoffs than ever before. There are only 32 spots on the team. Steve said that there is a huge untapped potential of kids who are interested in competitive rocketry. He also noted that there is currently a shortage of mentors.

The next meeting will take place on October 4 at 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

Meeting adjourned at 9:08 PM.