

# 10-1-15 annual meeting minutes

Friday, December 04, 2015

9:41 AM

At 9:34 a.m., Chairman Jim Penland called to order the National Rendezvous and Living History Foundation's annual meeting Thursday, Oct. 1, 2015, during the Eastern Primitive Rendezvous in Thornton, W.Va.

## Roll call:

Chairman Jim Penland - present

Vice Chairman Jean Heschke - present

Secretary Vicki Johnson - present

Daniel Cain - present

Eric Davis - present

Hank Felder - present

Jerry Heister - present

John Hensley - present

Ruth Py - present

Robert Woody - present

Parliamentarian Mark Adamik Jr. - present

Office Manager Beverly Heister - present

Public Relations Director Greg Bagshaw - present

Quartermaster Dan Duhamel - present

NMLRA rep Jim Fulmer - absent

NNLRA rep Jerry Middendorf - absent

A quorum of 9 voting delegates was present.

Also present was Melissa Adams, the new Eastern delegate elected earlier in the week.

## Quartermaster Report

At Dan Duhamel's request, the quartermaster report was moved to the top of agenda.

He reported all new radios had been purchased for the large trailer and everything seemed to be in working order.

He said the trailer was going to be commercially hauled to the Southeastern site at a cost savings of \$10 over the average run by a delegate.

Dan said he's still waiting for water buffaloes, so he's planning to buy at least 6 from a food-grade source for \$50 agreed upon previously.

He reported the trailer roof did not to be sealed because equipment was dry after the Northeastern.

Jean H asked if archery targets could be better protected by hanging them in the trailer rather than letting them fly around. Dan suggested making a sling from the old tavern top canvas to place in the top of the trailer for storing targets.

Jerry H said more steel targets are needed for the range. He said there were a lot of steel targets at one time but there are only 3-4 left. Jim P said he would donate the steel targets he has and a running buffalo.

Dan D asked to address the board as a former four-year delegate. He said didn't have the time to spend on the board so he decided not to run again, and he said he would not consider running again unless the matter of Rodd Pederzani's actions as former treasurer were handled legally.

#### Treasurer's Report

In his report, Acting Treasurer Jerry Heister reported he had \$4,860 in Booshway Bucks at his house as of Aug. 31, for a total of Booshway Bucks and cash of \$20,032.

He said the board had been under the impression that the Booshway Bucks account should contain \$25,000. However, he said he contacted former delegate Joe Crimmins, who was a board member when the blue and green tokens were purchased. Joe said \$10,000 of each color were made, so Jerry said the account should contain \$20,000 instead. He moved \$5,000 on July 6 from the Booshway Bucks account to the operating fund in early July.

He reported, as of the meeting date, there was \$23,685.76 in the operating fund, but some bills were pending.

Jerry H said it's becoming difficult to set up individual accounts for each event because banks either don't want to recognize the organization or don't like temporary accounts. He said he wrote checks for the Eastern directly from the operating fund, and plans to do the same at the Southeastern.

He said banks are regional and it's hard to find one that works for all the events, and they don't want to set up temporary accounts. And sometimes banks don't recognize the foundation despite showing them the paperwork.

He said we need a better system or a different bank. It's getting more difficult.

Took cash to a bank and the bank wouldn't sell him a cashier's check, and Homeland Security rules further complicate the matter.

Jerry suggested getting an account set up as soon as the previous event is over.

Eric suggested providing booshways with a Visa card with a set amount, and would provide another check and balance.

Rita Lurvey asked how much is still left from Eastern, and Ditto said there was at least \$3,000 or so from gate receipts that isn't yet in account.

Regarding individual events, Jerry H said he doesn't have a profit and loss statement yet, but the 2015 Northeastern reported a \$490 profit.

The Old Northwest budget didn't work out as planned and Jerry H reminded delegates they needed to work with the booshways on creating a realistic budget. The Old Northwest lost \$1,000, and he reported the old rates were charged at the gate during the early part of the week.

Jerry H said mistakes are costing money and he urged delegates to catch them before they happen.

Jean H suggested taking the pre-registration form off the website and putting the gate registration form with the higher rates on instead.

Greg B said both registration forms are on the website.

Eric Davis made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Seconded by John Hensley. Approved 9-0.

## Event Reports

Corps of Discovery 2015 - Dan'l C said the event made a little bit of money and all went well.

Corps of Discovery 2016 - Dan'l C said the event will be at the same site and the same people are running it.

Old Northwest 2015 - Vicki reported a change of location was needed because of mud, and there were no problems except the ones discussed during the treasurer's report.

Old Northwest 2016 - Booshway Hank Felder reported plans are going well for the event to take place June 24-July 1, 2016. Improvements are being made to the grounds and wood is ready to go. Moving the archery range to the back so they don't have to shuttle people back and forth. The staff is using the local fire department to provide water and an ice contract is completed. Most of the area is under shade.

Midwest - Eric Davis reported he had a potential site to review later in the meeting.

Northeastern 2015 - Jim P reported there was a problem with the water supply, but it was worked out. It was a nice site and the owners would like to have the event back in the future. Had 487 adults and 90 children visited.

Northeastern 2016 - Jim P reported the event is to take place in Maine and the town's historical society is supportive. The town is paying for a clam and lobster bake for the camp feast and up to \$10,000 toward firewood. A town's Old Home Week will be going on in conjunction with NEPR. Also going to pay for advertising. Jean said participants will have to carry their medallion at all times.

Northeastern 2017 - Jim P said the booshway is Sarah Fisher and the event is to be July 14-22 in Pawlet, VT. There is no rental cost for the land and the staff is looking to use slab wood from a local lumber company for \$2-\$3 a truck load. Still working on a water source.

Eastern 2015 - The event was going on during the meeting and booshway Ditto said he had a lot of good comments. Attendance was better than he expected since the event was organized in four months. There were 581 people as of Sept. 30, compared to 492 at EPR 2014. Staff member Melissa Adams said the landowner would welcome us back and has more land available. It was noted there were logistics problems with visitor transportation.

Eastern 2016 - Jerry H said a plan is in place, except a land contract, for having the event at Cooper's Lake in Pennsylvania with Ed Stout as booshway. He already has a staff in place.

Eastern 2017 - Jerry H said East Smithfield was voted as the site. He had visited the site while at the Northeastern and said it has plenty of room and is a very nice site. Owners Steve and Rose are reenactors and are charging \$1,000 each. Wood cut on site would be \$75 a cord. He said this is the type of land agreement the foundation needs because money is getting short. He said the site also will be available in the future. Booshway is Dave Wells and he's already getting his staff together.

Southeastern 2015 - Woody said the site hasn't changed much and is ready to go. Jim P noted an article in Muzzle Blasts by John Curry, who attended SEPR 2014.

Southeastern 2016 - Woody said the site will be the same and the same people will be running it, except Bleu Reavis, one of the landowners, will be booshway. And the event will be back more toward the end of October.

Jim P called a break at 11:15 a.m.

The meeting returned to session at 11:30 a.m.

Roll call:

Jim Penland - present

Jean Heschke - present

Vicki Johnson - present

Daniel Cain - present

Eric Davis - present

Hank Felder - present

Jerry Heister - present

John Hensley - present

Ruth Py - present

Robert Woody - present

Parliamentarian Mark Adamik Jr. - present

Office Manager Beverly Heister - present

Public Relations Officer Greg Bagshaw - present

Quartermaster Dan Duhamel - absent

NMLRA rep Jim Fulmer - absent

NNLRA rep Jerry Middendorf - absent

A quorum of 9 voting delegates was present.

Approval of Minutes from the April phone conference.

Ruth P noted a correction to the minutes of the April 2015 meeting. On page 3, she noted it says Southeastern 2016 instead of 2015.

BB guns page 4, the word "available" is misspelled.

It was clarified that Jim P sent a letter to former treasurer Rodd Pederzani, and no response was received.

Ruth Py made a motion to approved the minutes as corrected. Seconded by John Hensley. Approved 9-0.

#### Secretary's Report

Vicki J said she would like to create a schedule of information to be submitted to Muzzle Blasts for use on the pages dedicated to rendezvous. PR director Greg Bagshaw said he would like to see the information before it was submitted.

Greg B said anybody could write articles, and Vicki offered to keep it organized. Information should be sent through Jim P.

Ruth Py made a motion to accept the secretary's report. Seconded by Hank Felder. Approved 9-0.

#### Public Relations Report

Greg B said profit & loss statements should be sent to him for posting on the website as well as to the treasurer. He doesn't want to have to track them down.

He said event flyers also should be sent to him so he can use the information for updating websites.

He said he hopes to have a webmaster for each event, but Katrina (Huey) Fox has been assisting.

Beverly H said she's been getting calls at the office asking for details because there's not enough information on the websites. People are asking for directions, maps and flyers and "nitty gritty" information.

Greg asked that booshways and other staff members proofread information after it's posted.

Melissa Adams asked what information was put on Facebook pages. Bev said she and Greg and others monitor the pages for items posted for sale and check out people before they are added.

Ditto said he received a call from somebody from the History Channel, but other board people said they had received similar calls and it costs money to have the show come to an event.

## OLD BUSINESS

### Taxes

Jerry H, who has been acting as treasurer, said the tax preparer in Texas has offered to do the 2014 taxes for \$400-\$500. She filed for an extension and cleared up the previously imposed fine.

### Treasurer Position

Jerry H presented Andy Huey as a candidate to replace him as treasurer, and said he thinks Andy will do a good job. Andy would be a volunteer and would not be a board member. He has been a U.S. Department of Agriculture farm loan officer since 1988, has an agricultural economics degree from Ohio State University and has worked as an accountant.

Andy said he would like to help the foundation, and he thinks the person keeping the books and writing the checks shouldn't be separate from the group doing the planning.

Jerry reiterated that the position is NOT paid and is not a member of the board. In addition to keeping books and writing checks, Andy would coordinate taxes with the business office and attend board meetings and phone conferences.

Jim P said he would be bonded.

Jerry J said he would be expected to follow the treasurer's job description in the book, and Bev said he has received a delegate/booshway book.

Rita Lurvey asked if he would be making sure the taxes are completed.

Jerry said there are two things the foundation must do each year. First is to file an entity report in March or April with the state of Indiana for \$10, and secondly, file taxes as a 501c3.

Jerry and Andy will be getting together to make the transition.

John Hensley made a motion to appoint Andy Huey as NRLHF treasurer. Seconded by Ruth Py. Approved 9-0.

Jean H asked about requiring two signatures on checks, but others said it wouldn't work because people live too far apart.

Woody said there should be two names on the account - Andy as treasurer and Jim as chairman - and both should have access at all times.

The group revisited the discussion about the difficulty in setting up bank accounts.

Jean H asked for details on checks and balances on reimbursement from receipts. Jim P said delegate expenses should be turned in to him and he'll pass them along to Andy.

Jerry H agreed to remain acting treasurer until after the Southeastern 2015 and until the paperwork and other transfer details are complete even though his term as delegate ended at the end of the EPR 2015. He also said he would be available to help Andy as he got started with his duties.

#### Paper Booshway Bucks

Beverly H said she has an issue with the use of paperwork Booshway Bucks as event scribe regarding how they would hold up to use and stay dry.

Jim Penland made a motion to not use the paper Booshway Bucks until we start having trouble with the metal ones. Seconded by Jean Heschke. ... Withdrawn after discussion.

Bev pointed out there might be a problem with Booshway Bucks being ruined by getting wet.

Visitor Allan Benslay said paper "money" might be copied. Jean H suggested lamination, but it was deemed too expensive.

Eric D asked for proof of how many Booshway Bucks are in existence and gave his opinion of the "black hole" of Booshway Bucks.

Ruth P suggested recalling all Booshway Bucks in three or four years after the foundation's bank account has more money. Then they could be recreated and serialized.

Eric repeated his concerns about the Booshway Bucks program.

Jim withdrew his motion. And second agreed.

#### BB Guns Rules and Regs

Eric D said the rules and regulations should be completed in the next month or two. They are basically reiterating the NMLRA rules and regs. He said Becky Waterman isn't president of NMLRA anymore.

John H said Eric has been promising BB guns for years, but we still don't have them. That led to a heated discussion between Eric and John. Eric said he would have BB guns and targets in both trailers by next week. Jim P said they should be given to Dan D and he would distribute them.

#### Visitor Comments

Allen Benslay offered several suggestions about increasing participation in NRLHF rendezvous.

He suggested adding another event at Yadkinville and changing the name, which would free the Southeastern to move to spring and move around in the south as it used to. He said a new event would give more people a voice on the board and might bring in more revenue.

Allen also made suggestions about providing absentee voting for sites and delegates, a requirement that delegates live in the area where they are running for delegate, rewording land contracts, and providing better communication with the rendezvous community regarding by-laws changes.

During discussion, Jerry H noted NRLHF had not lost any event since it took over running rendezvous from NMLRA.

Jim P suggested the possibility of rearranging states in regions and adding more rendezvous because "putting the events where the people are" might bring in more money. Also possibly adding one in the northeast and maybe rearranging states to create more regional events.

Jim P paused the meeting for a lunch break at 12:40 p.m.

The meeting returned to session at 1:51 p.m.

Roll call:

Jim Penland - present  
Jean Heschke - present  
Vicki Johnson - present  
Daniel Cain - present  
Eric Davis - present  
Hank Felder - present  
Jerry Heister - present  
John Hensley - present  
Ruth Py - present  
Robert Woody - present

Parliamentarian Mark Adamik Jr. - present  
Office Manager Beverly Heister - present  
Public Relations Officer Greg Bagshaw - present

Quartermaster Dan Duhamel - absent  
NMLRA rep Jim Fulmer - absent  
NNLRA rep Jerry Middendorf - absent

A quorum of 9 voting delegates was present.

OLD BUSINESS continued

Paper Booshway Bucks

The board discussed the use of paper Booshway Bucks beginning with 2016 events and possibly using both paper and metal for a while.



Options discussed for the paper version were dating them, using onion skin paper to make them weather-friendly, embossing them, signing them, serializing them and essentially making them into foundation gift certificates that are good for a specified period of time, maybe a year.

### Creating New Event

Jim P suggested creating a new NRLHF event that would be ongoing at the Yadkinville, N.C., site, possibly called the Old North State Rendezvous. It would continue to take place during the latter part of October. Creating the new event would free the Southeastern to move around in the southern states as it used to, but would move SEPR back to spring.

Jim P said he likes the idea of adding more smaller events because the larger events are drawing less attendance than they used to.

Jerry H said, in his opinion, too many small events tend to detract from one another and cause more turmoil. He asked if it would be a good idea to spread the foundation thinner right now in its current financial condition.

Newly elected Eastern delegate Melissa Adams said her conversations with people show they are looking for more events closer to their home areas. Jim P and others agreed.

The board decided delegates should talk to people and get their opinions.

### NEW BUSINESS

#### Midwest

Jerry H asked if it's time to let go of the idea that NRLHF might still run a Midwest Primitive Rendezvous. He suggested the Midwest be tabled on the board's agenda until such time as someone comes to the board with a site and a booshway who wants to run a Midwest.

He said the Midwest was not a large money-maker most years, and the financial outlay required to continue to look for a site might not be worth the expense.

He suggested the board not retire the Midwest Primitive Rendezvous name, and in the event that a Midwest would be continued in the future, board members would handle getting the first one started and people attending could then elect new delegates.

Woody said adding a Midwest back into the lineup would be similar to adding a new event at that point. A delegate would be appointed at the time.

Eric said he would be happy to help whenever needed.

Jerry didn't make a motion.

## Welcomes to the Board

The board welcomed Melissa Adams, who was elected at EPR 2015 and will be replacing Jerry H at the end of the event. Melissa said she isn't new to running events, even though she's a new face to many people who attend the Eastern.

Hank Felder, who was elected in June as an Old Northwest delegate, also was welcomed to the board. He said he's been involved with living history for 36 years at many smaller rendezvous and about five years ago when retired he decided to get involved at larger events.

Both new people were given votes of confidence.

Jerry Heister, who is going off the board, gave an emotional statement said he isn't done with the foundation. He said he has put in a lot of time and will not see it die. He will be 110 percent supportive and continue to volunteer in any way he can. He said he appreciated all the support he received when he was chairman.

"The reason I do this is because I would like to see my grandchildren be able to take their grandchildren to events like this," he said. "There are parts of it I'm not going to miss at all. I love the whole bunch of you and I wish everybody the absolute best in everything you do. I hope the foundation does nothing but grow."

He said he's available to share his knowledge he has collected through the years and board members should not hesitate to call him if he can help to clarify anything.

## Rules in the Gatebook

Jim P said a suggestion was made to NOT print the NRLHF rules in the gatebook for each event, but to post them on a bulletin board instead as they do at the Southeastern.

Ruth P said more people would be inclined to read the bulletin board. She suggested the sheets be laminated so they could be re-used by each event.

Hank Felder made a motion to remove the line from the gatebook requirements requiring the rules and regulations be printed in the gatebook. Seconded by John Hensley. Motion dropped.

Ruth Py made a motion to allow office manager Beverly Heister to make the changes needed in regard to the rules and regulations and send them to Chairman Jim Penland, who will send them to board members for a vote. Seconded by Jean Heschke. Approved 9-0.

## Election of Officers

By board acclamation, Jim Penland was reelected as chairman and Jean Heschke was reelected as vice chairman.

Vicki Johnson was reelected as secretary by acclamation with a difference in duties.

The board appointed Karen Fuller as a non-voting recording secretary to keep meeting minutes and similar duties.

Andy Huey was appointed to a non-voting treasurer position.

#### Two Letters to the Board

Jim P reported he had received two letters - one from Mike and Diane White and one from RC Wrobel. The issues were presented to the board while the person involved was not identified until after discussion. The letter-writers took exception to a recent event when the person went through vehicles in the parking lot searching for jumper cables without asking the permission of vehicle owners. The person's car apparently wouldn't start early in the morning when she was leaving camp for day trip. The letters said the person then stood up at a camp meeting and admitted to her actions, thanking an unknown person the use of the jumper cables. The letters said the action was a breach of trust by someone who clearly knew better.

The board discussed the issue, saying the vehicles in the parking lot are much like the tents where we live. They aren't locked with the understanding that other people will respect personal space. If the person had requested help, he or she would have received it.

Hank Felder suggested the person be put on probation for one year and sent a letter from the board reprimanding the behavior.

Jim P then identified the person as Jennifer Beatty.

Hank Felder made a motion that Jennifer Beatty be placed on probation for one year and sent a letter of reprimand for her action of entering vehicles without the consent of the owners, with the understanding that more serious sanctions would be enforced if the behavior was repeated. Seconded by Jean Heschke. Approved 9-0.

A second concern was raised regarding the behavior of John Affonso and his treatment of a person helping with wood at the Northeastern. During discussion, it was noted his demanding interactions with people are a continuing problem and not an isolated incident. He has been warned about his behavior.

Hank Felder made a motion that John Affonso be placed on probation due to his rude behavior toward other people with the understanding that further infringements would be dealt with more severely. Seconded by John Hensley. Approved 8-1 with Eric Davis voting no.

Eric said the booshway, segundo and other staff members should take care of problems like this as they happen.

Jerry said now that motions have been made, tools are in place to deal with the matters more severely if needed.

Midwest

Jerry Heister made a motion that the foundation suspend from its agenda the Midwest Primitive Rendezvous and its delegate to the board until such time as proposals for an event site and booshway would arise, at which time a delegate would be appointed. Seconded by Eric Davis. Approved 9-0.

The board thanked Eric D for his service to the board and for staying on as Midwest delegate after his term expired. Eric said he was happy to be of service and he would remain available if anyone needs his help.

#### Registration Clarification

Jerry H reported that at the Old Northwest a person in the age range of 28-30 registered a significant other of about the same age as a dependent. The couple was new to rendezvous and he explained to them the reason for the dependent rule. He suggested the board clarify the wording for "dependent."

Board members discussed including older "children" who are developmentally disabled, and including the word "children" on the paperwork.

Jerry Heister made a motion to add the phrase "children you may claim on your income tax return" to the portion of the registration paperwork regarding dependents. Second by John Hensley. Approved 9-0.

#### Booshway Bucks

Jerry H outlined a Booshway Bucks plan that would separate them from the treasurer's duties. Possibly not right now, but in the future. Eric agreed it would install another financial check and balance.

#### Absentee Ballots

Jean H suggested the board implement an absentee ballot system to allow people who must leave before voting day a chance to vote on delegates and sites.

She said her plan would include keeping the locked ballot box and the voting tally sheet at the gate after three calls for nominations have been made. People who must leave early could vote on their way out.

Jean Heschke made a motion to implement an absentee ballot voting system to allow voting on delegate and site by people who must leave camp before scheduled voting hours as long as three calls for nominations have been made. The sheet where medallion numbers are marked off would be available at the gate along with ballots. Different colors would be used for absentee and regular voting. Upon request as they leave camp, campers may have their medallion numbers marked off the sheet and they may cast their ballots. In the event the same medallion number is provided during regular voting hours, the votes would be thrown out by the people counting votes. Seconded by Ruth Py. Approved 9-0.

#### Delegate Clarifications

Jim P said a question has arisen about requiring delegates to live in the region they represent on the board.

Jerry Heister made a motion requiring all delegates to reside within the region they are representing. For the lack of a second, the motion died.

The board discussed many aspects of the issue such as higher expenses for delegate travel.

Jean H said a matter regarding members of the same family serving as delegates at the same time had been voted on previously but had not been recorded in the minutes.

Hank Felder made a motion to re-record the previous board vote that more than one family member may not serve on the board at the same time. Seconded by Jerry Heister. Approved 9-0.

#### Board Appointments

The board reappointed Greg Bagshaw as public relations director, Mark "Ditto" Adamik Jr. as parliamentarian, and Dan Duhamel and Mark Rebres as co-quartermasters.

It was noted that office manager Beverly Heister was hired on a two-year contract until the end of 2017.

#### Other Notes

It was noted that Jim P and Jean and Bill Heschke picked up three archery targets from Cabela's and the receipt was turned in.

It was also suggested the board consider at a future meeting the idea of having three meetings per year instead of the current four. In addition to the annual face-to-face meeting, two phone conferences would be scheduled. The matter is to be discussed further.

Jim P called for a 10-minute break

The board returned to session at 3:40 p.m.

A roll call was taken officially, but Vicki noted the following:

Jim Penland - present  
Jean Heschke - present  
Vicki Johnson - present  
Daniel Cain - present  
Eric Davis - present  
Hank Felder - present  
Jerry Heister - present  
John Hensley - present  
Ruth Py - present

Robert Woody - present

Parliamentarian Mark Adamik Jr. - present  
Office Manager Beverly Heister - present  
Public Relations Officer Greg Bagshaw - present

Quartermaster Dan Duhamel - absent  
NMLRA rep Jim Fulmer - absent  
NNLRA rep Jerry Middendorf - absent

A quorum of 9 voting delegates was present.

#### Continuing Notes

Ruth mentioned there may be participants that have sites in mind who might not know how to go about contacting someone about them.

Jean suggested the board consider alternatives to a camp feast because camp feasts are a lot of work and are expensive and often the food is cold by the time people get to eat it.

Because the idea behind the camp feast is to get people together socially, board members discussed alternatives such as ice cream socials.

Jerry said this might not be a good time to cut out the camp feast because we recently raised fees. Others suggested less expensive food such as stew, chili or ham & beans.

Melissa Adams provided her phone number to the board, 614-565-0513.

As he leaves the board, Eric asked that the board consider legal action against Rodd Pederzani for larceny theft, which is a felony. It also could include a civil action. He suggested the matter be placed on the foundation's website and elsewhere to keep people informed because he stole everybody's money. Greg said an audit would be conducted as part of the investigation.

Ruth Py made a motion that the board legally pursue the matter of theft of NRLHF funds by former treasurer Rodd Pederzani in any way possible that is in the best interests of people who camp at NRLHF events. Seconded by Hank Felder. Approved 9-0.

The board thanked Jerry and Eric for their years of service on the board

John Hensley made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Ruth Py. Approved 9-0.