

NRLHF April phone conference meeting

Jerry Heister called to order the April meeting of the board of directors of the National Rendezvous and Living History Foundation at 7:02 p.m. April 10, 2014. We met via phone conference.

Roll call:

Present

Chairman Jerry Heister
Vice Chairman Jim Penland
Treasurer Rodd Pederzani
Secretary Vicki Johnson
Greg Bagshaw
Eric Davis
Jean Heschke
Jim Fulmer
Jerry Middendorf

Absent

Dan Duhamel
Ruth Py (but joined in early in the meeting)
Mark Adamik, Jr. (parliamentarian)

Quorum was present with 8 voting members.

Jerry J welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for approval of the December 2013 phone conference minutes.

Jim Penland made a motion, seconded by Eric Davis, to approve the minutes of the last meeting, the Dec. 13 phone conference. Approved 8-0.

Ruth P. joined the meeting.

During the treasurer's report, Rodd P pointed out a correction that Dan D had made him aware of. Rodd said via email:

In these minutes under Treasurers report it states, "Rodd P. said there is \$60,568.48 in the operating account, and he transferred funds to Booshway Bucks account to keep it at \$25,000." That means We would have liquid assets of \$85,568.48. Which would mean that We have an increase in revenue of \$1,286.82 over last year. This statement is incorrect. The total cash in the BBucks account is actually 18,990.46 plus the physical BBucks them self of \$6,010. Puts the total of both cash and physical @ \$25,000. I received a phone call concerning my statement of how we are down from last year. Well when you read these minutes We would actually be up. With the corrections that need to be made, in the minutes, we are down by \$4,718.70. At the time of the December Board Meeting the accounts were as follows:

Operating account - \$60,568.48 & Booshway Bucks account - \$18,990.46 & SEPR account - \$4.48 = \$18,990.46. The Sepr a ccount is now closed. Now there are no events with accounts opened.

Thank You DD for bringing this to my attention. If you have any question please feel free to call me, or if your at Alafia you can ask me there. Thank You all.

The total of all accounts should have read \$79,526.96.

Rodd P reported there were two event accounts open for the Old Northwest and Eastern. He said the Northeastern was having difficulty because there are no Wells Fargo banks in that region, and he was trying to get an account set up at another bank for NEPR. A new law says email signature cards are no longer valid, so that was the only option.

He reported \$72,898.39 total in all accounts. He said there are only about \$6,000 in physical Booshway Bucks.

Eric D made a motion to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Jerry H. Approved 9-0.

During the secretary's report, Vicki J didn't have anything to discuss. Jerry H asked if a recorder still was needed before EPR, and she said yes, we still need one.

Reports on Rendezvous – Delegate in Charge

Corps of Discovery - Dan Duhamel was absent, but the event was set for May 15-18 at the Toronto, Ohio, site.

Old Northwest 2014 - Vicki Johnson

The event is set for Spencer, Ohio, June 20-28, and the details are in place.

Vicki J said she talked to Booshway Gary Flegel earlier that day. He had his money and was working on the final details with the health department. Work parties had been getting rained out, and the next one was for the first weekend in May.

Old Northwest 2015 - Dan D (but report from Vicki J)

The event is set for June 24-July 1, 2015, in Glencoe, Ky. This is the event that is running Wednesday to Wednesday.

Vicki J reported she has been in contact several times with Booshway Wayne Badida and he has a good handle on the details. He calls often with questions. She asked Rodd to send him some actual numbers from past ONWs and he's working on a budget.

Midwest 2014 and 2015 - Eric Davis

Eric D said no 2014 Midwest is scheduled, but he's continuing to look for future sites. A potential site in southern Illinois didn't allow shooting and wouldn't allow guns at all, so is not feasible. He's looking at another site in the southern tip of Missouri, and is trying to find a booshway and staff for that area.

Northeastern 2014 - Jean Heschke

Jean H said the event is scheduled for July 11-19, 2014, at Carlton Hill Multi Use Area, Middlebury, NY. She said everything is running smoothly and pretty well set. She's been in touch with Booshway Alan Kraft and bids are in. The staff turned in a budget and was waiting on funds, and the staff can't get on the grounds until July 1.

NEPR 2015 - Jim Penland

The event is set for July 15-25, which includes early setup dates, at French Azilum, Towanda, Pa. Jim P said he had recently talked to Boosway Karen Fuller and they were working on getting the paperwork in. He said there might be a change in ownership, but it shouldn't affect the event.

Parliamentian Mark (Ditto) Adamik Jr. joined the meeting.

Eastern 2014 - Rodd Pederzani

The event is scheduled for Sept. 26-Oct. 4 at the Troy, Ohio, site.

Rodd P said boosway is Mike Jamison. The second work party was scheduled for the weekend ahead. Melinda Wenrick took over the clerk job for Melissa Adams, who was having health issues and decided not to remain in the job in case she wasn't able to fulfill her duties. Rodd P said everything was going in the proper direction.

EPR 2015 - Jerry Heister

The event is scheduled for Doddridge County, WV, with Ditto as boosway.

Jerry H said they had been in touch with the landowners and were looking at the paperwork from previous events there to help guide new paperwork. He said staff members were planning a trip to the site in mid-May. They had permission to visit and find out what work needs to be done.

Southeastern - Ruth Py

The event is scheduled for Oct. 24-31, 2014, at the Yadkinville, NC, site. Boosheay is Mickey Mikulis.

Ruth P said the paperwork is in on the budget and she has been in touch with Mickey. A couple people were still needed to fill staff positions.

SEPR 2015 - Greg Bagshaw

No dates or site has been selected yet, but Greg B said he has been approached by people with three sites for 2015. One is in Virginia and one in Alabama. He said he had made arrangements to visit the Alabama site on Feb. 15 but the visit was canceled Feb. 13, and again March 14 but it was canceled March 13. He has been in touch with the landowner again and is trying to reschedule.

Ruth P offered to write a letter to the Florida Frontiersmen about having a future SEPR at the Alafia site. Jerry H suggested Greg and Ruth continue checking to find the least troublesome path.

Greg said the Yadkinville site will continue to be available after the death of Ronnie Reavis, one of the landowners.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Update By-Laws

Jerry H said he will be working on the update soon because this Eastern is end of his tenure as chairman, and he wants to have the rewrite done before then. He plans to check on the legalities and asked NMLRA representatives Jim F and Jerry M about checking with NMLRA's lawyer, Jim Tucker. Jerry H said he worked with him before and understands he was at the root of setting up the original by-laws and probably knows the path to take for updating.

B. Length of term for officers

Jerry H said this matter is to be addressed during the by-laws review because terms are set by by-laws.

C. Booshway Bucks – more needed?

Rodd P said we're running short of Booshway Bucks to be given as prizes, and suggested we might want to redeem them from campers and not just from vendors. But Jerry H and Eric D disagreed, saying the purpose of Booshway Bucks is to encourage people to buy items from vendors who attend NRLHF events.

If we run out of Booshway Bucks, Jerry H said we would pay prizes in cash.

Eric D suggested a couple methods of setting a time limit on use of Booshway Bucks such as using them at the event where they were awarded or using them within 12 months.

Greg B noted the same minimum amount of prizes is needed no matter the size of the event, and more may be needed for Highland games, cooking contests and other special competitions. Jerry H said it's the delegates' responsibility to advise the booshway when belt tightening belt is needed.

Eric D suggested trying paper Booshway Bucks to keep costs down, using an embosser to prevent people from making copies.

Greg B suggested closing out the current Booshway Bucks in a two-year timeframe similar to when the board retired the red ones.

Eric D made a motion, seconded by Greg B, to form a committee to address the Booshway Bucks issue and give the board a recommendation on how to proceed. Approved 9-0.

Jerry H appointed Greg B, Eric D and Jim P as committee members, and asked them to have a recommendation to vote on by the annual meeting at the Eastern.

D. Rules and regulations for use of BB guns

Eric D said he is working with NMLRA President Becky Waterman on getting funds to buy BB guns for use at events in states that do not allow children to shoot muzzleloaders. He said Becky asked to get Jim F involved. They are working on getting a company to sell BB guns at a good price as well as clanger targets.

Eric D said Becky hopes to have rules and regulations written for the BB gun events that are similar to muzzleloader regulations by the Eastern.

Jerry H suggested a meeting break at 8:50 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 9:06 p.m.

Roll call:

Present

Jerry Heister
Jim Penland
Rodd Pederzani
Vicki Johnson
Greg Bagshaw
Eric Davis
Jean Heschke
Jim Fulmer
Jerry Middendorf
Ruth Py
Mark Adamik, Jr. (parliamentarian)

Absent

Dan Duhamel

Quorum of 9 voting members present.

OLD BUSINESS (continued)

E. Quartermaster position/equipment - Dan D

Jerry said he suspects Dan D is willing to take the job of quartermaster, but Dan D could not attend the meeting.

Jim P said he, Dan D, Mark Rebres (Corps of Discovery leader), Jean H and Jean's husband, Bill, reorganized the foundation trailer, and he thinks DD would be excellent for the quartermaster job.

If that is his plan, Jerry H said he would work on a contract to present to the board.

Jerry H reviewed the matter of buying the foundation trailer from former quartermaster JD Simmerman. He said JD was asking \$6,000 for the trailer, but Jerry said he could buy a new one for \$4,000. He said they came to a verbal agreement on \$5,000 for trailer, which included getting the trailer to the NEPR. Jerry said JD got the title in his name and ownership now is ready to be transferred to the foundation.

Jerry H said when JD sent the title, he also sent bills for shipping equipment to three events in 2012 which had not been paid. He verified the non-payment with Rodd P. Two of the trips were more than 500 miles and included \$75 for an overnight fee.

In addition, there were bills for 6 hours of canvas repair at \$60 per hour. Jerry noted the contract said \$25 per hour, and JD agreed.

The total amount of the bill was \$8,500.

Eric D made a motion to pay the bill, seconded by Greg B. Approved 9-0 (with a note that Jerry H did not agree, although the chairman has no voting power).

Jerry H said board members should be aware \$8,500 would be coming out of the foundation's account. He said the foundation had almost \$100,000 and now the account is less than \$75,000, and he suggested the need to tighten belts and watch event budgets. He said the foundation's accounts would be depleted in 6-8 years if money is spent at the same rate.

One reason is fewer people are attending events. Jerry said the last time an Eastern drew more than 1,000 people was in 2009.

Rodd P suggested looking at other ways of increasing revenue.

Greg B suggested focusing on better advertisement in local media at event sites to draw more public, and more admission fees.

Jerry H said the biggest revenue is camp fees, but the average age of campers is going up every year and now is 55-60 years old. He said we have to look at some ways of getting more people involved.

Jerry H said the discussion had varied from the quartermaster issue, but he would get in touch with Dan D to find out his plans.

F. Job description for PR position

Greg B is the designated public relations person. He provides websites but said he isn't receiving cooperation from event staffs on updating their own websites.

Greg B requested he be designated an administrator on Facebook event pages.

Jerry H said if the delegates are doing their job, they are getting information to Greg or appointing someone to handle the website updates. Greg said he doesn't mind maintaining the sites, but he minds not having the information he needs.

Greg said the new domain names are working well because people now know where to find information, and it doesn't vary for each event.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Corps of Discovery Delegate

Jerry H said he thinks a Corps of Discovery delegate is needed.

Eric D noted the by-laws say each event should have two delegates.

Jerry H made a motion that the board approved a delegate seat for the Corps of Discovery event on the NRLHF board. Seconded by Greg B.

During discussion, Rodd P asked when the new position would be elected. Jerry said at this year's event in May.

Greg B noted one person could not be delegate for two different events.

The motion was approved 9-0.

B. Consistency in voting procedures for each event: Days, hours, calls
Rodd P suggested voting procedures be standardized instead of being left up to each delegate so campers know what to expect.

Discussion ensued about the best methods of handling calls for delegate candidates and sites, and about which days were best for voting.

Greg B made a motion that calls for nominating delegates and sites/booshways be made the first Saturday, Sunday and Monday of each event at the camp meeting, with voting to take place Tuesday with an option of adding Wednesday if deemed necessary by the delegate in charge. Seconded by Eric D.

Greg then withdrew his motion, and Eric agreed.

Eric D made a motion that calls for nominating delegates and sites/booshways be made the first Saturday, Sunday and Monday of each event at the camp meeting, with voting to take place Tuesday with an option of adding Wednesday if deemed necessary by the delegate in charge and the booshway. Seconded by Greg B.

Jerry H requested to amend to the motion to say the rule does not apply to the Corps of Discovery. Eric and Greg accepted the amendment.

Motion was approved 9-0.

It was noted the topic might be another update to the by-laws.

C. Consistent days for Feast (Wednesday) and Highland Games (Thursday)
Board members agreed scheduling should be at the discretion of the booshway and staff members.

D. Rules & Regulations, page 9, second paragraph needs to be looked at
Item was from office manager Beverly Heister.

Rodd P said it concerned a rule about an event site being in place at least 9 months before the events is schedule.

Jerry H said that rule has not been followed for quite a while, but he would review it as part of the rewrite before the Eastern.

Rodd read the section:

"Any Foundation Sanction Event that does not have an approved site and budget nine (9) months prior to the event start date will be cancelled for the year. (Usual start dates: Southeastern Rendezvous, first of April; Old Northwest Rendezvous, end of June; Midwest Rendezvous and Northeastern Rendezvous, middle of July; Eastern Rendezvous, end of September.)"

Rodd made a motion to remove the paragraph in question found on page 9, second paragraph, of the delegate/booshway book under Rules and Regulations under Lack of Event Sites or Personnel. Seconded by Jean. Approved 9-0.

- E. New handbooks – new information – PLEASE read and make sure each staff member receives information that pertains to them

Jerry H said he and Bev H often hear from staff members who do not know what their job is. Jerry said it's the delegates job to make sure the booshway copies and delivers job descriptions to staff members and they understand the requirements that pertain to the job. It's the delegate's job to help the booshway to his or her job properly.

Rodd P reminded everybody that before a bank account can be set up, a land contract and budget must be complete, and booshway and clerk agreements must be signed.

- F. Extra items

Landowner agreements

Rodd P asked for clarification on a matter of having landowner agreements signed before a site can be voted on by event participants. He was concerned that wording might cause the foundation to owe 10 percent if the event is cancelled.

Jerry H said the contingency clause would make the rest of the contract void if the board or event participants do not approve the site.

Others

Jim P and Jean H noted numbering is messed up on voting tally sheets and Jean said she found no blank bid proposal sheets in the book.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE FOUNDATION

- A. Reminder – ALL event gatebooks must be sent to the business office for review before being printed. There have been a few complaints that rules are not listed in the book, and there is no access to web while at event

- B. Inventory of equipment trailer
Added by Jim P

Jim P said everything was taken out of the trailers, everything was inventoried and photos were taken. Poles were painted and color-coded so it's easy to see which poles go with which tent. Tents, stakes and poles were loaded together back into the trailer.

The gate box in the large trailer was taken apart and extra items given to the gate box in the COD/ONW trailer.

Red tags were placed on items that need repair.

Jean H said they also went through the radios and made a list of items needed, radios that needed repairs and items there were plenty of.

Rodd P made a motion to appoint Mark (Ditto) Adamik Jr. to look into getting a quote for new radios from manufacturers. Seconded by Jerry H. Approved 9-0.

C. Jillian Miner and video slide show issue

Greg B reported Jillian Miner has objected to seeing a picture of her daughter in a video that has been used to promote NRLHF for two years.

After review before the meeting by several people, nobody could find any legality that said the board must remove the picture from the video. However, it was noted Greg B has removed the picture from the video for future distribution. But it will not be removed from videos already in use.

Jerry H said he would inform Jillian.

D. Chairmanship

Jerry H suggested board members think about who might be a good chairman to replace him because he is no longer eligible after this year's Eastern. Jerry H said he still plans to run for delegate, but cannot be chairman.

Rodd P made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Jean H. Approved 9-0.