

10-2-14 annual meeting minutes

At 9:34 a.m., Chairman Jerry Heister called to order the National Rendezvous and Living History Foundation's annual conference Thursday, Oct. 2, 2014, during the Eastern Primitive Rendezvous at J&J Cron Farms, Troy, Ohio.

Roll call:

Jerry Heister - present
Jim Penland - present
Rodd Pederzani - present
Vicki Johnson - present
Greg Bagshaw - present
Daniel Cain - absent
Dan Duhamel - present
Eric Davis - present
Jean Heschke - present
Ruth Py - absent
Jim Fulmer - absent
Jerry Middendorf - absent
Mark Adamik Jr. - present
Beverly Heister - present

A quorum of seven voting delegates was present.

Dan D made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 10 meeting as emailed. Seconded by Jean H. Motion approved 7-0.

Rodd P said he didn't have a treasurer's report on paper because he's been away from home for quite a while and doesn't have internet access. He said ballpark figures are \$37,000-\$38,000 in the operations account and \$18,000 in the booshway bucks account. There was about \$1,300 in the Southeaster account. He said the Northeastern account was still open. Eric D made a motion that each board member get a written copy of the report when it's available. Dan D seconded it. Motion passed 7-0.

During the secretary's report, Vicki J said she purchased a new recorder for use at meetings and she reminded everyone they were being recorded. Eric D made a motion to accept the secretary's report. Seconded by Jim P. Motion approved 7-0.

Delegate reports

Corps of Discovery 2014 - Toronto, Ohio

Dan D said COD numbers were down this year because of the weather and mud at the site. Made a few dollars.

Jerry H said Daniel Cain was elected as Corps of Discovery's first delegate to the board, but he couldn't attend the Eastern this year.

Corps of Discovery 2015 - Toronto, Ohio - May 14-17

Dan D said the event is at the same site as it's been for the last few years and plans are in good shape. The land owner is improving the property. He said the Masonic Beavers are planning a Beaver camp at the site again in 2015. And all three ranges - gun, archery and hawk & knife - will be operating in 2015 for the first time.

Old Northwest 2014 - Spencer, Ohio - Boosway Gary Flegel

Vicki J reported the event was wet and numbers were down. Gary Flegel had to completely rearrange his plans at the last minute, but he made adjustments well. During the event, almost all the people walked over to the landowner's house led by bagpipe music and visited him in his living room. The man has cancer, and it was very emotional.

Old Northwest 2015 - Glencoe, Ky - June 24-July 1, 2015 - Boosway Wayne Badida

Dan D reported he talked with Wayne at the Old Northwest and Vicki J reported she has been in touch with Wayne B often. He is in on top of things and has asked lots of questions. Flyers have been out for quite a while. Plans are going along nicely. The camp area is on top of a hill and they are putting in place transportation options. There is still some question about where to place the vendor area - on the hill near the camp, down below near the gate or somewhere in between. They were going to ask the opinions of area vendors.

Old Northwest 2016 - Grand Valley, Mich. - late June 2015 - Boosway Hank Felder

Vicki J reported Hank and his crew have done a lot of research about the best ways to run a large event. Hank attended this year's Old Northwest so he could propose the Michigan site even though the (independent) Midwest was taking place at the site at the same time. The staff took notes about what went well and a few things that needed adjustment based on the (independent) Midwest so they have a really good idea about what it takes to run a large event.

Midwest - no events or sites scheduled

Eric D reported he has some good potential sites for the Midwest - Attica, Ind., Freeport, Ind., and a few historical fort sites along the Mississippi River. Eric and Jerry H said they spoke with a man at the Eastern who might be willing to take charge with the support of Eric and the foundation. He said if an event went well at one of the fort sites, it might open up the others as well. He's continuing to work on the prospects.

Jerry H said Roy Shafer (spelling?) is a boosway possibility.

Northeastern 2014 - Carlton Hill Multi-Use Area - Boosway Alan Kraft

Jean H reported the 2014 NEPR had 315 people attending, the highest is quite a while. They saved money by filling water buffaloes for \$1 each by loading them on pickup trucks and taking them into town. But there was an issue with a deadend road that was a local party spot, and disgruntled people did some damage to the entry. Other damage was done to a hooter when fireworks were placed inside

which blew off a urinal and cost the event \$30 to replace. The next day state troopers and forest rangers caught the vandals.

All in all, she said it was a beautiful site, the event would be welcome back and the profit was \$5,700.

Northeastern 2015 - French Azilum, Towanda, Pa. - July 15-25, 2015 - Booshway Karen Fuller

Jim P said the event said canoeing will be available on the river, and Jerry H reminded people that they use their canoes at their own risk because our insurance doesn't cover water events. He also said canoes should be made to look period with spray paint or by another method as much as possible.

Booshway Karen is working with a neighbor on a shooting range, and representatives are visiting town business for gatebook ads.

Northeastern 2016 - Maine - July 15-22, 2016 - Booshway Perley Euroquet

Jean H said the Orrington, Maine, site is 35-40 acres of relatively flat land in a historical town. The entire town is interested and involved in the event to the point of running the town Old Town Week festival the same week as NEPR. The site is near Boston and advertising heavily. Showed the potential artwork. Received letters from the governor, state legislature and state historical society inviting us to go there.

Eastern 2014 - Troy, Ohio - (going on during this meeting)

Rodd P said numbers are down dramatically with 526 people attending. He said he heard people were overall not pleased with the site, partly because of the rain two years ago and they were not pleased with the condition of the field this year. People don't like it being stretched out and long and don't want to walk so far. Despite the beautiful weather this year, people weren't here to enjoy it.

Easter 2015 - Doddridge, W.Va. - Sept. 25-Oct. 1, 2015 - Booshway Mark Adamik Jr.

Jerry H said the event at Doddridge, W.Va., is looking good. Booshway Mark Adamik has the Tomahawks behind him. Jerry said Doddridge is a "love it or hate it" site but he has had many questions about when the Eastern would be going back to Doddridge and Muddy Run.

Jerry said the landowner is happy to have us there again.

Ditto said there are gas wells on the property and he has received questions about them. There are new gas wells there, but they are well away from the camping area. He said the only things that has changed is a new well header near the back gate. He said the tavern is still standing and has been used as a hunting shed so it needs tidying since the last time we were there in 2006. Overall, the grounds are in fantastic shape. The road is much better.

He said the event is on track. The staff is working on a budget and getting vendors in line. Beverly Heister is the scribe and is getting flyers out and information on the website. He hopes attendance will exceed 1,000.

Southeastern 2014 - Oct. 24-31, 2014 - Yadkinville, N.C. - Booshway Mickey Mickalus (spelling?)

Delegate Ruth Py was absent, so Greg B said everything is on track and moving forward for SEPR 2014. He said this is the fifth year in the same location so the volunteer base is shrinking and he has had problems getting people to work parties.

He also said there is no ice contract and he's still looking for a way to get ice provided.

Eric D said the ice company owners are consolidating and it's going to be more difficult to get contracts.

Southeastern 2015 and 2016

Greg B said there are not sites in place yet for SEPR 2015 or 2016.

He reported there is a group sending out letters demeaning to the foundation, and working to talk people out of coming to the event.

He said there is possibility of working with the North Carolina Free Trappers, except their events are done in modern clothes.

Greg B said Ruth P was working on using the Florida Frontiersmen site, but he thinks it would diminish numbers to go that far south and he didn't know the status of that site.

Jerry H called for a 10-minute recess at 10:31 a.m.

Session resumed at 10:47 a.m.

Roll call:

Jerry Heister - present

Jim Penland - present

Rodd Pederzani - present

Vicki Johnson - present

Greg Bagshaw - present

Daniel Cain - absent

Dan Duhamel - present

Eric Davis - present

Jean Heschke - present

Ruth Py - absent

Jim Fulmer - absent

Jerry Middendorf - absent

Mark Adamik Jr. - present

Beverly Heister - present

A quorum of seven voting delegates was present.

OLD BUSINESS

By-Laws

Jerry J took responsibility for not getting anything done yet on by-law revisions. He said he would continue to be involved even though he would no longer be chairman after the meeting.

Jerry H said he would continue to work on them with the new chair.

Length of Term for Officers

Rodd P said suggested the terms of officers be more than one year. As treasurer, he said it took him the first year to learn the job, and then the treasurer could be voted out of position, leaving a new person to start over learning the job.

Eric D said an alternative would be an outside accountant, but that would cost money.

During discussion, several options were mentioned, which included making the treasurer an ongoing, non-voting appointee of the board. Or the treasurer could still be a delegate when a qualified person was available. Or a bookkeeper could be appointed and the treasurer could remain a delegate. Or the treasurer could be an appointed position similar to Ditto as parliamentarian who is overseen by the chairman who would have access to all the accounts.

Jim P suggested ask all the delegates their feelings on the matter. Jim P separate from delegate job. Jean agreed. Vicki agreed. Dan D agreed, but added possibility to appoint bookkeeper instead and still have a delegate as treasurer. Eric agreed with Jim. Rodd agreed with Jim. Greg agreed, but said there are some checks and balances to be discussed. Jerry H agreed and suggested to make the treasurer a member of the board under the direct charge of the chair.

Jerry H made a motion to change the requirements for the position of treasurer to where it can be a non-voting member of the board to be appointed and approved by the board, and cannot be a family member of any board member. Seconded by Dan D. Motion approved 7-0.

Jim P asked when the motion takes effect when new business begins, and Jerry H said as soon as new business begins.

BB Guns

Eric D said state differ so much that rules regarding use of BB guns would have to be broad. He said NMLRA has a youth certification course for ages 12 and older. He suggesting putting that on the schedule for all camps.

Jim P said the Northeastern did a BB shoot this year and gave a prize of a bag of candy.

Dan D asked where we are in the process of getting BB guns available for use at each event. Eric D said the process is still under way. Eric said he has clanger targets made for BB guns.

Greg B said the process has been going on two years and asked why the holdup. Eric D said they should be available by next year.

Dan D made a motion that the foundation buys six BB guns - three for each trailer - if none have been donated by Jan. 1, 2015, and the cost will be covered by Eric Davis if necessary. Seconded by Rodd P. Motion passed 7-0.

Eric D made an addendum that said he would cover the cost if he does not get the donations. .

Delegates were reminded to make sure their events are following the rules and regulations of individual states.

Dan D made a motion that every foundation event run a BB gun range for a minimum of two days. Seconded by Eric D. Motion passed 7-0.

During discussion, board members said the range would be placed under the direction of the range officer.

Guest question about gate hours actually being enforced. And a discussion ensued about how well the gate hours are working. And we should note the gate is open for packing in.

Quartermaster Position, Equipment and Duties

Dan D said a small group went through the large trailer in March and inventoried everything. They created lists of items in categories so inventories can be done before and after each event. He said the group determined some equipment updates are needed, and there are not enough water buffaloes to run an Eastern, some archery targets are old.

He said there is a new top for the tavern tent and a new fly for the gate tent.

The group discussed the delegates need to be more involved in putting equipment back into the trailer after each event and make notes about what is needed for the next event.

Eric D suggested every set of delegates supply a list of items needed for each event, so we know the differences in what each event needs. It would be in the best interest of each event and in the best interest of the foundation as a whole.

He suggested some changes be made to make the people in charge more accountable for equipment.

Dan D suggested appointing someone as quartermaster to coordinate with delegates and booshways of each event to make the right equipment is available. But not pay a quartermaster.

Eric D suggested adding the position of quartermaster to each event. But Eric said delegates should do the coordinating.

Jerry H suggested going back to the former practice of the booshway and some of the staff of the next event being there to help load the trailer from the previous event.

Eric D suggested every event have its own trailer and equipment so they can be accountable for it. He reiterated his idea of working toward having a trailer for each event.

Greg B and Jerry H said someone has to be designated to take care of problems when they come up.

Several board members argued about how inventory of trailers should be handled and who should be in charge.

To clarify point, Jim P summarized the points made and stressed that filling out the inventory and paperwork should be required.

Eric D said each event should have its own equipment and be accountable for it. He suggested each director in charge be accountable for it.

Dan D said a particular person should be in charge of repairs.

Jim clarified Dan D is saying a particular person be in charge of repairs.

Eric stressed each event should have ownership of its own equipment.

Discussion included creating a third trailer to meet the needs of the Southeastern and Northeastern. Trailers then would be dedicated 1) to the Corps of Discovery and the Old Northwest, 2) to the Southeastern and Northeastern, and 3) to the Eastern separately. The long-term goal is to stop spending large amounts of money carrying trailers thousands of miles from one event to another.

Eric D said he would like to see an inventory after each event.

Jim P said individual delegates often don't have the ability or space to take care of the equipment of their event. But he suggested putting delegates in charge of making sure repairs get done.

Jerry H said there is a need for a quartermaster to take care of repairs in between events.

The overall division was between some board members who want the delegates to be in charge of the equipment inside the trailer versus other board members who want a particular person, a quartermaster, is in charge of making repairs in between events.

Jerry H suspended discussion at 12:15 p.m. for a one-hour lunch break.

The meeting resumed at 1:13 p.m.

Roll call:

Jerry Heister - present

Jim Penland - present

Rodd Pederzani - present

Vicki Johnson - present

Greg Bagshaw - present

Daniel Cain - absent

Dan Duhamel - present

Eric Davis - present

Jean Heschke - present

Ruth Py - absent

Jim Fulmer - absent

Jerry Middendorf - absent

Mark Adamik Jr. - present

Beverly Heister - present

A quorum of seven voting delegates was present.

CONTINUED OLD BUSINESS

Still on Quartermaster agenda item

Jerry H recapped the discussion and agreed there must be a better methods of taking possession of and caring for the foundation's equipment.

Eric D said the solution should be a long-term goal of adding trailers or other steps to aid in taking better care of equipment.

Jerry H agreed three trailers might be needed - EPR itself, SEPR and NEPR together and COD and ONW together.

Jerry H tabled further discussion on the need for an individual to be a quartermaster until the December meeting, and asked delegates to consider ideas on how to implement better methods of caring for equipment.

PR Position Job Description

Greg B, the board appointed PR person, said he doesn't have an official job description.

He said better coordination is needed to get publicity information from booshways and scribes to him as the PR person.

Jerry H suggested making sure public relations information is coordinated with Greg should be placed under the booshway's list of duties. The booshway should do it or appoint someone.

Sending Financial Paperwork to Treasurer

Rodd P said he isn't getting final financial paperwork from staffs in a timely manner, and he is getting phone calls from people who write checks for fees about why their checks are not cashed.

Beverly H said she needs the paperwork from the gate as soon as possible because people are requesting refunds within 30 days if they were not able to attend an event for which they registered.

The board clarified that gate paperwork should be returned to the Beverly H at the office within 10 days of the end of each event. And overall financial information should be returned to Rodd P within 30 days of the end of each event. All paperwork should be shipped by UPS and certified.

Nominations and Elections

Jerry H opened nominations for election of officers, beginning the secretary.

Dan D nominated Vicki J to continue as secretary. Vicki accepted. She was approved by acclimation.

Jerry H explained a delegate can be on the executive board only five consecutive years, so he was unavailable for reelection as chairman.

Jean H nominated Jim P as chairman. Jim accepted. He was approved by acclimation.

Jerry noted Jim can serve three more years on the executive board because he already has served as vice chairman for two years.

Vicki J nominated Jean H for vice chairman. Jean accepted. She was approved by acclimation.

The board thanked Jerry for his service as his term ended. Jerry said he appreciated the support, and turned over the meeting to new chairman Jim Penland.

NEW BUSINESS

Camp Fees

Jerry H said camp fees have been raised only one time since the foundation's inception in 1999. In 2007, fees were raised \$10 across the board.

Jerry H made a motion to raise camp fees for dependents by \$2.50 per person and all other fees by \$5 per person

Dan D said the changes should go into effect Jan. 1, 2016, because flyers already are printed and in circulation for some 2015 events.

Jerry withdrew his motion.

Jerry H made a motion to raise fees beginning with the 2016 season to reflect an increase \$2.50 for each dependent, and \$5 for all other fees except \$15 for traders and \$10 for blanket traders. Seconded by Dan D.

Eric D asked for clarification on blanket traders.

Jean H read the trade blanket rules from the book which states large trade blankets with a fee of \$10 include trade goods from \$501 to \$1,500.

Greg B noted a clarification should be added that notes storefronts cannot be considered trade blankets.

The fee increase motion was approved 6-0 with Eric D abstaining.

Dan D made a motion to change trade rules on large trade blankets to read two or more blankets 110x110 inches and including merchandise worth \$501 to \$2,000 beginning with the 2016 season. Seconded by Eric D. Motion approved 7-0.

Membership Number

Beverly H requested a clarification that a person's NMLRA membership number be included on forms for the \$10 discount to be given - both on pre-registration forms and on registration forms at the gate.

She also asked that gate captains make sure their assistants are following the rules and charging the extra \$10 at the gate for people who do not pre-register.

How to Approach Problem Campers

Jim P asked how to handle the problem of obnoxious or otherwise problem campers before and after an event begins. He said the question is handled in the book during events, but not before and after camp.

Discussion centered around Jeff Hunt, who was extremely obnoxious and caused a problem at the Northeastern before the event began.

Jerry H said he as (then) chairman attempted to handle the problem by discussing with Jeff that he stay away from NRLHF events until Jeff had handled his alcohol problem. Jerry suggested Jeff not attend any foundation events this year or next year and receive treatment, and Jeff agreed. However, Jerry said Jeff then got on Facebook and called Jerry a liar and said he had been banned from events.

Since then, a board member said a "highly accurate" source said Jeff had stopped treatment.

Rodd P noted Jeff is scheduled to be gate captain at the 2015 Old Northwest.

Board members agreed Jeff Hunt cannot be allowed to attend foundation events if his behavior does not change.

Jim P suggested sending Jeff a letter requesting he stay away from foundation events for three years and get the help he needs. After three years, his status would be reevaluated. If he hasn't received help, a lifetime ban from the Northeastern would be considered.

Board members suggested making the ban two years from all foundation events.

Jerry H made a motion that the board empower Jim Penland, as chairman, to send a letter to Jeff Hunt stating that he is asked not to be present at any foundation event for the year 2015 after which time he will be on a one-year probationary period after showing verification of rehabilitation. Seconded by Eric D. Motion passed 7-0.

Paypal Refunds

Rodd P said the foundation is losing money when refunds are made from money paid through Paypal because Paypal keeps a 10 percent fee.

Jerry H made a motion that all refunds - through the mail or through Paypal - be charged a \$5 processing fee beginning Jan. 1, 2015. Seconded by Dan D. Motion passed 7-0.

Treasurer Change

Jim P said because of the vote earlier in the meeting to remove the treasurer position from the executive board and make it an appointed position, the board needed to appoint a treasurer.

Treasurer Rodd P was not re-elected as Eastern delegate.

Jim P made a motion to appoint Rodd Pederzani as treasurer as a non-voting board member. Seconded by Vicki J. Motion passed 6-1 with Greg B voting no.

Underage Drinking at the Tavern

Rodd P said he learned of a situation in which an underage person had been served alcohol at the tavern and another instance where people not registered as camp participants had been served alcohol at the tavern. He was concerned about foundation liability if something would happen.

The board decided the gatebook should contain information about a requirement that period clothing be worn in the tavern. People participating also should wear their medallions and carry identification to prove they are at least 21 years old.

Jerry H made a motion that the foundation from this day forward not spend money for, pay for or donate any money for alcohol at any event the foundation holds. Seconded by Rodd. Motion passed 7-0.

Booshway Bucks

Greg B said he has heard complaints from people who win Booshway Bucks that there isn't anything they want to buy at the vendor stores. He suggested the board look at methods of redeeming Booshway Bucks from campers.

A lively discussion began during which the purpose of the Booshway Bucks program was explained, the pros and cons were discussed, the need for changes was discussed along with various methods of making changes taking into consideration traders views and camper views.

The discussion continued into a discussion about the amount of money it takes to run an event versus how much money comes in during the event, how to fix the accountability system and the need to use profit and loss statements.

Delegates were asked to keep track of how much staffs are spending and make sure only the amounts of wood, water and hooters that are needed are being contracted. Each event is different, depending on numbers pre-registered.

Dan D made a motion that a profit & loss statement for every event should be made available by Dec. 1 to Greg Bagshaw to be placed on the website, to the office and to the treasurer. Seconded by Rodd P.

Eric D suggested delegates have more control over their event budgets.

Jerry H made a motion that each year's taxes be done by a certified tax preparer. Seconded by Dan D. Motion passed 7-0.

Regarding the 2012 taxes, Rodd P said the last letter he received was forwarded from the office. Beverly H said the last letter she received said the foundation was being charged a fine per day.

Regarding 2013 taxes, Rodd P said he talked to a CPA so taxes can be done in an orderly fashion.

FOR THE GOOD OF ...

Jim P and Jean H said the NEPR medallions didn't have "NRLHF" printed on them. Vicki J said she would check more carefully in the future to make sure medallions contain all needed information.

The board discussed offering a partial-week registration for foundation events.

Jerry H suggested people who want to stay for a partial week be allowed to set up Wednesday during the event for a reduced fee and be able to stay until the end. He said the plan would allow for a partial week of camping, would fill in spots later in the week that are left vacant by people who leave early, might keep traders in camp longer and doesn't cost any more to the foundation but would bring in more registration money.

Greg B said people who want partial-week registration want it to be on the first weekend.

Jerry H made a motion that starting in 2015 campers be allowed to enter the gate on the Wednesday after opening day for a fee of \$40 per person whether NMRLA member or not, and they be allowed to stay for the duration of the event.

Motion withdrew motion and plans to have a motion written for next meeting.

Jim P suggested the former tavern top that was replaced be used to repair other pieces of canvas as needed. Or to be sold. Also the gate fly.

Dan D said is some equipment and odd items not used at events no longer stored on the trailer.

Greg B made a motion to approve \$300 be spent to ship the foundation's burlap stores from the home of former board member Wade Reynolds in South Carolina. Seconded by Jerry H. Motion passed 7-0. (Please note we didn't set a place for the burlap to be shipped. The matter was clarified at the 12-16-14 meeting that the burlap was to be sent to Dan Duhamel's in-laws home for storage in their barn.)

Jerry H made a motion to pay the expenses of Dan D to transport equipment to and from events. Seconded by Jean H. Motion passed 6-0 with Dan D abstaining.

Rodd P made a motion to not allow smoking at face-to-face board meetings if any person objects. Seconded by Vicki J. Motion passed 6-1 with Eric D voting no.

Beverly H reminded delegates to have staff members use tax-exemption forms when buying supplies and equipment.

Jim P invited any board members to call him as needed.

Eric D notes Dirk & Thistle Pewter works is going out of business and other sources for medallions will be needed. He said Sheldon Pewter Works would be interested in bidding.

Eric D was reappointed as the Midwest delegate in lieu of a Midwest event taking place where regular voting can occur.

Beverly H reminded members there's a charitable contribution form in the book, and it should be provided to anyone who makes a donation to NRLHF.

Other brief discussions took place regarding grant availability, why the NMLRA board representatives were not at the meeting and ice and hooter contracts.

Greg B made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Rodd P. Motion passed 7-0.