

May 1998

## Meeting Minutes, May 1998

National Smokejumper Association Executive Committee

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NSA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

Date: 12 May 1998

Location: NSA Office Missoula County Airport

Members Present:

Tim Aldrich

Phil Davis

Larry Anderson

Jon McBride

Bud Clarke-?

Laird Robinson

I. Treasurer's Report: Jon McBride handed out copies of the treasurers report and discussed entries. He stressed the Budget Report section and explained the negative figures. He next handed out copies of the cash flow report. Copies of the treasurers report accompany these minutes and are available at the NSA office. The figures will not be repeated in the Minutes. ~~Jon suggested that we start reducing the number of accounts, as suggested at the annual board of directors meeting.~~ He stated that when the checks from the First Bank Missoula are used up, would be a good time to close out that account and switch all banking to the Government Employees Credit Union. He explained that such a move would cut the check writing costs in half. He also recommended that the NSA eliminate the Master Action fund and the Donations fund and both be placed in the S-1 primary savings account. Laird asked for a motion for Jon's suggestions. Larry Anderson so moved and Tim Aldrich seconded and the motion passed. Jon next discussed, as recommended at the April Directors meeting, opening a Visa/Master Card account for payments. The committee discussed the costs of such a move and tried to estimate the usage. Jon volunteered to run a cost analysis and no further action was taken.

Jon had composed a letter regarding the dispersal of reunion funds and asked for discussion. The committee recommended that the letter be sent to the various smokejumper bases. Jon ended his report on the question of the possibility of combining the permanent and life membership funds. Further discussion was recommended but no action was taken at this meeting.

II. Membership: Phil Davis reported that the total data base was now 4890 with 1105 active members. He stated that as of 5/12/98, there were 40 delinquent members still being carried on the active list. Phil then displayed the list of Region 4 jumpers that Roger Savage had gotten from Leo Cromwell. He stated that he was in the process of updating the NSA data base with all the new information from the Leo Cromwell data and that many new names are being added to the data base and dozens of base and year trained blanks completed.

III. Old Business: Laird Robinson reported that there was no Ford Trimotor jump at the Lufkin memorial because of problems with clearance from the USFS. He stated that he had contacted Evergreen Aviation and that they had agreed to make the Ford Trimotor available for use in making footage for the video. He also reported that there was no further information on the renaming of the Winthrop airport to honor Francis Lufkin. Laird reported that the spring Adopt-A-Highway clean up had been canceled due to the major construction over the two mile section. Laird stated that at the annual directors meeting, the executive committee had agreed to reconsider the Hall of Fame proposal. He suggested that it be taken up at the next executive committee meeting. ~~Bud Clarke discussed back orders and handed out a sheet showing stock on order, back orders etc. Tim Aldrich made a motion to pay Bud Clarke for costs of going to the McCall reunion to offer NSA merchandise.~~ Jon McBride seconded the motion and the motion carried. Bud reported that director Chuck Sheley had asked for a digital copy of the smokejumper emblem. Laird Robinson stated that NSA owns the emblem. He asked Bud Clarke to contact Chuck Sheley and ask for a request in writing.

IV. New Business: Laird Robinson set the next executive committee meeting for Tuesday 9 Jun 1998 at 07:00 PM.

Tim Aldrich initiated discussion on the mission of the NSA. He questioned what future income should be spent for, such as historical or educational endeavors. He suggested that it be made clear why someone should become a member. There was a great deal of discussion but no formal action was taken.

V. Minutes: Phil Davis handed out copies of the minutes of the 07 Apr 98 executive committee meeting and ask for approval. Tim Aldrich moved for approval. Bud Clarke seconded and the minutes were approved as written.

There being no other business, Larry Anderson moved for adjournment. Tim Aldrich seconded and the meeting concluded at 08:55 PM.

## **Addendum**

The following addendum contains NSA correspondence after the Executive Board meeting of May 12, 1998, and before the Executive Board meeting of June 9, 1998.

- Letter, May 14, 1998: Suggestions for Membership Format

Date: May 14, 1998  
To: Laird Robinson, President, NSA  
From: Larry Lufkin, NSA Board  
Subject: Suggestions for membership format

As you requested at the April Board meeting, I have been reviewing the NSA membership structure as well as the membership formats of other organizations to determine if the NSA should consider revising its membership plan.

#### Analysis of the Current NSA Membership Structure

According to our web page, our present membership structure includes a full member, an associate member, and an affiliate member.

The full member is defined as a former smokejumper. Dues are \$20 for one year, \$40 for two years, \$85 for five years, \$160 for 10 years, and \$1,000 for lifetime membership.

The associate member is defined on the Home page as a person who worked in an associate position such as a pilot, hot shot crew member, etc. The Join page indicates that the current membership dues are the same as for full members.

The affiliate membership was defined on the Home and Join pages as all non-smokejumpers who support the smokejumper cause. Dues for affiliates are \$25 per year.

The web site has some conflicting information in it. The Home page describes associates and affiliates in detail. The Join page, however, states that all non-smokejumpers are affiliates, indicating that all non-jumpers, including pilots, etc., are affiliates. This difference could lead to confusion for someone who wants to join as an associate or affiliate.

Review of other non-profit organizations showed that each had two of the same membership levels that are used by the NSA. Each included full members who were the founders of the organization and who were considered to be the core group of the organization. Next, each included an associate membership that included non-core group individuals who were connected to the core group. For example, the Association of Government Accountants (AGA) includes an associate group for university professors who do not work in the field of governmental accounting.

Beyond these two groups, the other organizations included a variety of other sub-groups depending on the type of organization. The AGA includes a special status for college accounting students. Also, a local rifle and pistol club has a special status for junior members who are high school students who participate in high school shooting events. Both of these roughly equate to the NSA affiliate group.

Most other organizations included a corporate membership status that the NSA structure does not include. This status confers special recognition to corporations that support the association. The corporations pay higher dues than full members and are afforded special status as a result of these donations. An example is the Washington State Game Warden's Association which charges corporate members \$100 per year and full members \$60 per year.

#### Suggestions for Revising Membership Structure

I suggest that the NSA consider the following membership structure. This structure includes a new category for corporations and discusses our need for a mission statement and objectives.

*Chuel,*  
*Here's a copy for your information! Well see what Laird does with it. Had a long chat with Jack Demmons & he is still hot about being left out of the meeting. I think the officers in Wisconsin have become so accustomed to never getting any input from the E-board they just tend to over look us now.*

*Larry*

1. **Full Member:** All individuals who completed at least one year as a smokejumper. (No change from the current structure). I recommend that the dues structure be retained except that the two-year membership be discontinued (1-year \$20; 5-year \$85; 10-year \$160; Life \$1,000). However, the issue of dues may need to be revisited upon completion of the final budget.
2. **Associate Member:** All individuals who worked closely with smokejumpers in an approved capacity and who support the objectives and ideals of the NSA. This category would include pilots, rescue, military, hotshot crews, retardant crews, etc. (No change from current structure). As with full members, I recommend that the dues structure be retained except that the two-year membership be discontinued. Also, the issue of dues may need to be revisited upon completion of the final budget.
3. **Affiliate Member:** All other individuals who were not smokejumpers or associates and who support the objectives and ideals of the NSA. (No change from current structure). I recommend that the dues for an affiliate membership be reduced to \$10 or \$15 per year. At \$25, it currently costs more to be an affiliate than to be a full member. I also suggest that we make this area a target of opportunity. This area could include those younger individuals who contact us about being smokejumpers or firefighters, or other individuals who support NSA. If there is sufficient interest, the Board could consider establishing a special membership category for these young folks.
4. **Corporate Member:** (New category) Corporations and other business organizations that support the objectives and ideals of the NSA. Dues should be set at \$50 per year. A multi-year dues schedule could also be considered if there was sufficient interest.

#### Other Issues

In evaluating the membership structure, I concluded that I was not clear as to the ideals and objectives of the NSA. This issue was discussed briefly at our annual meeting, but was not resolved. The Board should write a short mission statement and set of objectives that can be sent to each member and posted on our website so that everyone can see clearly our mission and purpose. As we discussed in the annual meeting, we need to be able to show potential members why they need to become a part of the NSA and show current members why they should renew their memberships. It's nice to be a member, but folks like to know what they are getting for their money. We need more than a five-year reunion and a newsletter.

My local credit union went through this same discussion about 5 years ago. We used that mission and purpose to define who we were and the direction we wanted to go. I would hope the NSA could do the same thing.

Finally, I suggest that the Board consider giving 5 and 10-year members the option of converting their memberships to life memberships. This option would bring in additional funding while helping to relieve some of the annual recording keeping. For example, I am currently a 10-year member. If I live 30 more years and renew each 10 years, I would pay in a total of \$480 (\$160x3 10-year memberships). If I converted my current 10-year membership to a life membership, I would pay in an additional \$840 (\$1,000 - \$160 already paid for one 10-year membership), or \$400 extra dollars that could be used by the NSA for its needs. I'm not sure how many 10-year members we have, but if 50 of those converted to life memberships, this would bring in an additional \$20,000.

If you have any questions or comments please call me.

Larry Lufkin