

11-17-1998

Meeting Minutes, November 17th, 1998

National Smokejumper Association Executive Committee

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NSA Executive Committee Meeting

Minutes

Date: 17 Nov 98

Location: NSA/MMF Office at the Missoula County Airport.

Members Present:

Laird Robinson

Phil Davis

Jon McBride

Tim Aldrich

Jack Demmons

Wayne Williams

President Laird Robinson called the meeting to order at 07:05.

Minutes: Copies of the minutes of the 13 Oct 98 were handed out for review.

Jack Demmons moved for approval and Jon McBride seconded. Discussion generated two corrections by Jon and the addition of a name by Jack. With these corrections noted, a vote was called for and the motion was approved.

One item of Old Business: Wayne Williams, a member was present and on a tight schedule so Laird moved Waynes business ahead in the agenda. Wayne first updated the executive committee on the progress of the planned observance of the Mann Gulch 50th anniversary commemoration to be done in Helena, MT in August of 1999. He stated that he had attended a meeting with some of the people involved and asked again for the assistance of the NSA. He stated that considerable funding is coming from the USFS and that the organizers would like the NSA and the Smokejumper Welfare Fund to help fund and organize those activities which can not be financed with federal funds. Tim Aldrich explained how funds must be handled in situations like this and stated that until NSA knows what is supposed to be accomplished, there is little that can be done about making an actual commitment. Wayne stated that as the plan developes, he will keep NSA informed. Wayne next discussed the possibility of a joint effort between the Welfare Fund and NSA in producing and selling more of the Larry Janoff prints of his paintings. He explained that it costs about \$3500 to produce a set of prints, which comes down to about \$8 per print and that the sale price can run from about \$50 to several hundred dollars apiece. No formal action was taken until more details are known.

Treasurer's Report: Jon reported that the Ralph R. Mellin (RAC 66) estate had made a very generous contribution to the video fund and that another anonymous doner had made a \$25 donation in addition to about \$700 in regular donations since the issuance of the October news letter. Jon also reported that his research indicated that a formal audit each year was not necessary for a non-profit organization. He handed out copies of the Treasurer's Report and briefly went over the entries. As usual, a copy of this report accompanies these minutes. He also showed a break down of merchandise sales sent to him by Chuck Sheley indicating a steady increase of sales over the time that Chuck has been handling it.

Jack reported that there have been several more instances of people not getting their canceled checks back which is being followed up on.

Membership: Phil reported that, as of this date, the data base stands at 5206 with 1127 active members. He stated that of the active members 27 are currently delenquent. He further explained that the very large increase in data base comes from data received from Redding which contained about 90 names which were not included before and also discovery of about 7 more jumpers from Grangeville, and West Yellowstone which had previously been missed as well as several former jumpers reporting that they were not included in the web page listing. Phil stated that the search of the Missoula aerial fire depot jump records was now about complete and had resulted in the discovery of many more jumpers which had previously been missed as well as a great many duplications mainly due to former jumpers using different first names or nick names. He explained that the large increase in active members came from the complimentary memberships given to the 1998 rookies. Jack reported that there have been nine new memberships since the last meeting.

Old Business: Laird handed out copies of a letter to him from Fred Rohrbach which contained the proceedings of a meeting of the Video committee which is chaired by Fred. A copy of this letter accompanies these minutes.

Laird complimented the brochure generated by Chuck Sheley. Laird also broached the subject of possibly getting more income through estate planning and suggested that we have Lon Dale advise the NSA on how to go about tapping this income source. Laird again brought up the subject of a request by Bruce Kinney's brother regarding a memorial from the association for Bruce. Some discussion was held on donating a life membership for Bruce. Laird volunteered to follow through and find out if the family thought that this might be appropriate.

Jack reported that he had received five returns from smokejumpers for the adopt a trail program.

New Business: Jack handed out a listing of the expiration dates for various board of director positions. A copy of that sheet accompanies these minutes. The committee agreed that, since the annual meeting is less than six months away, nominations need to be made and ballots distributed. Since a legal percent return of ballots was not achieved on last year's election, Laird volunteered to contact Lon Dale on further reducing the percent needed for a legal election.

Laird handed out copies of a letter from Larry Lufkin. A short discussion resulted in informal agreement that the minutes of executive committee meetings should be distributed after each meeting and not wait until such minutes have been reviewed by the committee at the next meeting even though those minutes would not be official and would mean very little until they are reviewed by the committee at the next monthly meeting. Phil stated that this will necessitate mailing essentially the same minutes two times each month, once before they have been approved and once again when they become official. Laird suggested that the same thing be done with the minutes of the annual directors meeting even though it has never been done before. Phil stated that he would prepare these things for mailing in the coming week. Laird stated that he would bring a draft response to Lufkins complaints to the next meeting for review by the executive committee.

Laird stated that he had finally located the preliminary work done on the Hall of Fame suggestion. He asked Phil to make copies for each of the executive committee so that it can be discussed in detail at the next meeting.

Jack stated his appreciation for the removal of Membership and Product shipping from his duties allowing him more time for historical research and production of the News Letter.

Laird scheduled the next meeting for 8 Dec 98.

There being no further business Jon moved that the meeting be adjourned. Tim seconded and the meeting concluded at 09:05 PM.