

6-10-1997

## Meeting Minutes, June 10th, 1997

National Smokejumper Association Executive Committee

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## NSA Executive Committee Meeting

### Minutes

Date: 10 Jun 1997

Location: NSA Office, Minuteman Hanger #14, Missoula Airport

Members Present:

Ed Courtney

Laird Robinson

Lowell Hanson

Phil Davis

Jack Demmons

Lon Dale

Roger Savage

Barry Reed

Niki Llewellyn

Agenda Item I. Approval of Minutes: Ed Courtney called the meeting to order at 06:40 PM. Copies of the minutes from the NSA executive committee meeting held 13 May 1997 were distributed and read by those present. Ed Courtney corrected the statement that "Two recent retirees etc" was incorrect in that Barry Hicks was not a retiree, but was moving to Missoula. Laird Robinson moved that the minutes be accepted as written with the one correction. Barry Reed seconded and the motion carried.

Agenda Item II. Finance Report: Treasurer, Lowell Hanson distributed copies of the treasurers report, This report stated that the total general operational balance of funds was \$18962.32 as of 10 Jun 1997. The break down of how these funds are invested is available at the NSA office and will not be repeated in the minutes.

Lowell Hanson requested that the board allow him to hold back the interest from the Reunion Account for the use of the NSA, since the reunion account is now above the \$10,000 obligation for the next reunion. The board agreed to this request. Lowell also requested permission to take \$750 from two life memberships to complete the amount promised to the National Forest Service Museum. The committee also agreed to this request. Lowell asked for direction from the executive committee on the renewal of CD #1, which is nearing maturity. The committee agreed that the CD should be renewed.

Agenda Item III. Phil Davis reported that we now have 1090 members listed, however that number includes 56 that are delenquent for up to 5 months that have not been removed from the active list. He gave a breakdown of these 56 people by month and stated that 25 of the delenquent members only became delenquent in May and past experience. indicates that many pay during the month following their delinquency. Some discussion followed regarding when names should be removed from the active file. No specific guidelines were set. However, Jack Demmons suggested that only those delenquent before April be removed from the active file.

Laird Robinson reported on action taken by the Membership Committee and restated his hope that the people suggested at the Last committee meeting could be recruited to help in this effort. Niki Lewellyn reported on the computer search for former jumpers for whom we have no current address. She stated that letters are sent only to those names who generate five names or less on the computer search, stating that contacting greater numbers is not cost effective. She also reported that she is doing about 20 names per week and that she uses about 50 percent of her non-newsletter time on membership search. Several executive committee members questioned how cost

effective the member search is. Lon dale questioned how effective the search is and suggested that probably as many missing addresses will be found through the web page as through the relatively costly search by the NSA. Jack Demmons stated that the correspondence generated though the computer search also has a value to the organization. Lowell Hanson suggested that an effort be made to call former jumpers who still live in the local area and are not members, in an effort to recruit more members.

Agenda Item VI. Since Lon Dale was going to have to leave the meeting early, he suggested that we skip ahead to those agenda topics which required his presence. The committee agreed. Board of Directors election: Jack Demmons reported that 291 ballots had been returned for the Board of Directors election. This was not enough to fulfill the 33% requirement for a quorum. Lon Dale advised that the board be elected by the present directors which would be OK legally. He also suggested that there be a special meeting of the .board to do this, as well as to change the By-laws to lower the quorum requirements from 33% to 10%.

Agenda Item IX. Ed Courtney stated his concern about liability insurance coverage for people visiting the museum. Lon Dale suggested contacting an insurance person to find the cost of liability insurance. Lon also recommended looking into a CGL policy. Lowell Hanson volunteered to research the cost.

Agenda Item IV. Jack Demmons reported that the July newsletter is on schedule. Ed Courtney discussed the proposed cost savings of folding vs. flat mailing, and decreasing number of pages to 16. Lowell stated that we could save about \$300 by decreasing to 16 pages and about \$70 by folding. Jack stated that the difference would actually be about \$209 total. Ed Courtney suggested the search for missing jumpers be dropped temporarily as, a cost saving measure. He also suggested that a committee be organized to look into the cost effectiveness of the computer search. Jack Demmons stated that he would refuse to accept a stipend for his expenses, as a cost saving measure. Lowell Hanson stated that, if the search for missing addresses were stopped, there would be funds enough to retain the present 20 page news letter.

Niki Llewellyn asked for reconsideration of hiring her as an independent contractor, as a cost saving measure. Lowell Hanson pointed out that Lon Dale had already advised against such action and that the board continue as it is now doing.

Lowell Hanson discussed the use of advertisements in the newsletter. He stated that many similar organizations use inserts and cautioned that very often readers just pull the inserts and discard them without reading them. He stated that the NSA news letter has, a circulation of only about 300 in the local area, so advertising by local merchants is not practical. He also stated that he felt that the current prices for advertising are too high. Lowell recommended that a price of \$30.00 be charged for large ads and \$15 be charged for smaller ads. Jack moved that these prices be adopted, Ed Courtney seconded and the motion carried.

Agenda Item V. Allocation of time for the Secretary/Clerk (Niki). Niki stated that she puts in about 50% of her time on the newsletter. Laird Robinson stated that the development of a NSA brochure is of such importance that time should be removed from membership and added to the development of a brochure. The executive committee informally agreed.

Agenda Item VIII. Ed Courtney stated that he had met with Ed Heilman and stated that the NFSM group meets the second Thursday of each month. He reported that the NFSM would like to have a member of the NSA attend each monthly meeting and have another member in reserve in order to make sure that we always have someone in attendance at their meetings. Ed Courtney stated that, with ground breaking about ready to start on a National Forest Service Museum, it is very important that the NSA keep abreast of actions being taken.

Agenda Item IX. Ed Courtney stated that he had received a letter from Dave Nelson regarding the next reunion requesting some preliminary (information regarding the organization of a reunion. Roger Savage volunteered to get the information requested.

Roger Savage took this time to bring up the subject of cost savings regarding computer costs. He stated that the current provider, (MARS) was not doing a very good job. He stated that the installation of a Web Page had changed the charges from MARS so much that now it would be considerably cheaper to switch to the Interconnect Co. He cited several problems with the present contractor and recommended that we go to the Interconnect provider. Jack Demmons moved that this change be made. Laird Robinson seconded and the motion carried. Roger also suggested that we update some of the programs, and consider moving to the later edition of the "Windows" program. Niki suggested that we are nearing the point when more RAM will be needed.

Lowell Hanson reported on the sales and orders for shirts and caps. Ed Courtney moved that NSA caps and shirts be sold only, to members. Laird seconded the motion and it was approved.

Lowell Hanson showed samples of Life Member plaques etc. He asked for opinions regarding which size picture to use and which color scheme to use, The members present opted for black with. gold etching and the use of the medium size.

Lowell suggested that we acknowledge Rohrbach's \$5000 contribution by an ad in the next news letter.

Ed Courtney handed out certificates of appreciation to several individuals who have contributed to the organization.

The meeting was adjourned at 09:30 PM.