SPAAMFAA Board of Trustees Meeting

REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, February 28, 2020

Crown Royal Plaza Hotel

North Charleston, SC

**Minutes**

Voting members in attendance –

Frank Tremel President

Steve Heaver Sr. Vice President

David Napier Vice President

Ron Driscoll District #1 Trustee

Jim Kurycki District #2 Trustee

Jim Derstine District #3 Trustee

Tim “Cosgrove” Jones District #4 Trustee

Bob Romig (Proxy) District #5 Trustee

Dan Lintz District #6 Trustee

Rodger Birchfield District #7 Trustee

Chuck Buschardt District #8 Trustee

Mike Turcott (Proxy) District #9 Trustee

Bill Blunden Executive Secretary

Non-voting members in attendance -

Ted Elder Immediate Past President

Katrina Nelson Silver Trumpet Editor

Candy Bennett Membership Secretary

Debbie Davis Archives Committee Chair

John Zangerle Endowment Fund/Finance Committee Chair

David Lewis Website designer

Justin Birchfield VP Elect

Brian Anderson Jr. District #1 Trustee Elect

The meeting was called to order by President Frank Tremel at 9:11 am. President Tremel laid the ground rules for the meeting asking that individuals requesting to speak raise their hand and wait to be called on.

The pledge of allegiance followed.

There were no requests from the floor for the board to discuss.

President Tremel thanks Candy Bennett for hosting the event when there were no offers from other chapters. Candy Bennett welcomed everyone to South Carolina and reported that she had chapter members helping with the convention. She reminded everyone that the hotel was at maximum capacity and that they have been good to SPAAMFAA in the past and we should reciprocate by behaving and being good to the staff.

Introductions were made of those in attendance. Minutes of the Jeffersonville meeting were emailed to all board members and on a motion by Tim Jones, seconded by Jim Derstine were approved.

1. Trustees Reports – Questions or Updates Only

* Steve Heaver reported that he had not done anything with the welcoming comm.
* The audio-visual comm has not been completed yet. They are looking for someone who is tech savvy to help with seminars.
* Ted Elder reported that Chris Wolf will take over the “On the bookshelf” column in Enjine!-Enjine! replacing Anthony Buono.

1. Executive Secretary Report – Bill Blunden
   1. Discussion of non-reporting chapters (those who have not sent in annual report and insurance money). There are 10 chapters that have not submitted their annual reports and insurance payments.
      * 1. **The Executive Secretary will remind these chapters and then revisit at the summer meeting. The Executive Secretary asked individual trustees to contact their delinquent chapters.**
   2. The Executive Secretary report was not included in the packet to board members. Bill Blunden gave a verbal report. Jim Derstine thanked Bill Blunden and Pete West for a smooth transition of the Executive Secretary position.
2. Committee Reports
   1. John Zangerle discussed the budget for 2020. Treasurer Leroy Wilder was not able to be present for the meeting. A new software program is being used and copies of the report were handed to board members.

* Membership is down approx. 650 members from this time last year. An update will be available in March from Candy Bennett. The implications of this drop were discussed. A list of delinquent members goes out to the Trustees and they are encouraged to contact these members to remind them to renew.
* There was a discussion on Life Members and the affect these memberships have on the budget. There was a discussion to end the life membership, however there have been no new memberships since the cost was raised to $1,000.
* Current dues are $30 but the cost to support members is actually $42.50.
* Len Williams had set up a “rainy day” fund years ago. $8,600 will be taken from this fund and moved into an investment fund to help make up the losses.
* The 2020 budget was approved on a motion by Jim Kurycki, seconded by Tim Jones and carried unanimously.

President Tremel recognized the board members who were departing their offices: Steve Heaver, David Napier, Kent Cullom, and Ron Driscoll and thanked them for their service to the organization. President Tremel stated that he would like to challenge board members to move the organization forward without burdening the current officers including the Treasurer and Executive Secretary.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. David Lewis made a presentation to the Board on the new website. The construction of the new site was approved in June 2019 and has yet to be completed but “is close”. Same Melton is the “brains” behind this but Mike Healy and Warren Lun were assisting but have backed out leaving only David and Sam to construct the site. Currently the site needs content. They are also working to automate things to make them more user friendly. There are two issues that are holding up development:
   1. Technical- our current database and the new are not compatible. It is difficult to re-create the old site info on the new site because of this.
   2. Content- David is trying to do this alone and will need help and input from others as to what we want to see such as forums, etc. Mike Turcott and Bill Blunden offered to assist David. More volunteers are needed.

A motion was made by David Napier, seconded by Jim Kurycki, to replicate the existing website onto the new platform and have this live by April 15, 2020 and make content such as the Peckham files available only to SPAAMFAA members. The new site will have “teaser” items that anyone can view but full content of most sections will be available to members only to prevent people from getting our information without being a SPAAMFAA member. The motion was carried unanimously.

2. EXISTING CHAPTERS:

* A report on the status of chapters was given by the Executive Secretary. There are approximately 10 chapters that have not submitted all reports and insurance payments. There are at least 3 that have sent reports but have not been received at this time. The Trustees of these chapters have been notified and they will communicate with the chapters to get the information submitted. There will be a final review at the summer meeting and chapters that are not in compliance will be addressed.

NEW CHAPTERS:

* A new chapter request has been submitted by a group in California. The proposed chapter, the Gold Rush Fire Brigade Chapter has submitted an application that is being reviewed. On a motion by David Napier, seconded by Chuck Buschardt, the Gold Rush Chapter is approved pending approval of the application paperwork.
* Tim Jones reported that there is a group in Frederica, DE that is interested in forming a chapter. Visits have been made to the group and they will be moving forward in the application process.

3. ARCHIVES:

* Sr. VP Steve Heaver reported that the Maxim negatives have been scanned.
* Funding challenges were discussed. Everyone was reminded to try to get more contributions to the Soderbeck fund.
* Anthony Buono is working on another book focusing on apparatus built in New York state. It is hoped the book will be available for sale prior to the summer convention with the proceeds to be given to the archives.
* Work is being done to try to secure the Seagrave records for the archives.
* Debbie Davis reported that FABB member Ron Czaplicki, who recently passed, donated $10,000 to the archives in his will.
* There will be an archives meeting tomorrow morning.

4. ENJINE!-ENJINE!:

* Scott Rollins has notified the board that he would like to step down as editor of EE due to an increased workload at his place of employment. He is willing to continue in his position until a replacement can be found, and continue to assist with the publication. President Tremel will form a search committee to vet and follow-up on potential replacements.
* Tim Jones raised the question of potentially selling advertisements in EE. There was a lot of discussion on the subject with a number of questions that need to be addressed including:
  + How would we do this?
  + What is the effect on postal rates?
  + What would be the effect on membership?

Trustee Jones will investigate the issue and report back at the summer meeting.

* The Executive Secretary asked how long ballots need to be kept after an election. A motion was made by Jim Derstine, seconded by Tim Jones to destroy ballots after the next election is held (1 year).

BREAK FOR LUNCH at 11:55am

Meeting called back to order by President Tremel at 1:10pm

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. The Executive Secretary reported on the election results. He thanked the group that assisted with the ballot counting last night. The results are as follows:

* PRESIDENT- Frank Tremel
* SR. VICE PRESIDENT- Ted Elder
* VICE PRESIDENT- Justin Birchfield
* TRUSTEE DISTRICT #1- Brian Anderson Jr.
* TRUSTEE DISTRICT #4- Tim Jones
* TRUSTEE DISTRICT #9- Mike Turcott

1. ROBINSON AWARD- The Executive Secretary reported that there were a number of nominations. He will compile the nominations and the committee will review and make a decision.
2. A proposal to re-number the districts to simplify the election process was reviewed and approved on a motion by Jim Kurycki, seconded by Ted Elder and carried (see attachment A)
3. A letter from Ed Peterson was read stating that he would like to step down from selling SPAAMFAA shirts. The PPP Chapter has been handling this and they are no longer interested in this. A request will be put out to chapters and members to see if there is anyone interested in taking this over. There was discussion on the possibility to have an existing company be contracted to provide this service.
4. On a motion by Jim Derstine, seconded by Dan Lintz, the remaining plaques for the Robinson award and Spirit of SPAAMFAA awards will be purchased from Ed Peterson and kept by the Executive Secretary was carried.
5. A motion was made by Jim Derstine, seconded by Chuck Buschhardt and carried to have the Executive Secretary draft a harassment/bullying policy. He will draft a copy and send electronically to the Board and the final draft will be approved by an electronic vote.
6. A letter from the Indiana Chapter was read proposing that new chapters with less than 10 members be offered a discount on the insurance premium for the first year. Following a great deal of discussion, it was decided to keep the insurance premium at the $300 level for all chapters on a motion by Bill Blunden, seconded by Mike Turcott and carried unanimously.
7. There was a brief discussion on the possibility of having combined chapter and national dues. There was no proposal made and the issue tabled.
8. PRESERVATION AWARD: Dan Lintz requested clarification on who is eligible for the award. He was questioning whether museums were eligible. Following a long discussion, it was decided that Dan is in charge of the program and will make recommendations and report back to the Trustees on how to handle this issue. Dan will send out his recommendations to the Board Members for approval.

BREAK from 2:25 until 2:35

FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE:

Presentations were made by the following chapters on the upcoming summer and winter meetings and approved.

1. Summer 2020- Presentation made by Jim Kurycki and Jerry Clement on the meeting to be held August 11-15, 2020 in Rochester, NY. This will be a joint convention with the Genesee, Thousand Islands, and Central NY Chapters.
2. Winter 2021- Presentation by Bob Straw from the White Rose Chapter. The convention will be held March 10-13, 2021 in York, PA.
3. Summer 2021- Mike Turcott from the PNW Chapter reported that the convention will be held July 14-17, 2021 in Washington State. Matt Simek is the Chairman.
4. Winter 2022- Bob Romig reported that the FABB Chapter will hold the winter convention February 23-26, 2022 in Florida at the same hotel as was held 2 years ago.
5. Summer 2022- Brian Anderson Jr. reported that the MAFA Chapter and the IFBA will be holding a joint convention in Woburn, MA. The dates are TBD at this time
6. Summer 2023- Richard Quetta reported that the Rhode Island Chapter will hold the summer convention. Details are in the preliminary phase and more information will be coming.

**Silver Trumpet**- Editor Katrina Nelson reported on the new schedule for ST publication. She also requested that chapters send their newsletters and information to her to be included in the ST.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:56 pm

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

An executive session was called at 4:00pm

* There was a discussion on the replacement of District #5 TRUSTEE Mike Healy who resigned due to personal reasons and time constraints with his new job. Howard Peiffer was appointed to complete the last year of the term on a motion made by Jim Derstine, seconded by Chuck Buschardt and carried.
* Ted Elder and Justin Birchfield were appointed to be the search committee for a new ENJINE! -ENJINE! Editor.

Meeting adjourned at 4:20pm

Respectfully Submitted,

William Blunden, Executive Secretary

**SPAAMFAA**

**CHAPTER PRESIDENTS MEETING**

Friday, February 29, 2020

Crown Royal Plaza Hotel

North Charleston, SC

Meeting called to order at 7:35pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Tremel Introduced the Officers and Trustee of the Board. President Tremel then asked the Chapter Presidents if they had any concerns or questions that they would like the board to address. The following topics were raised:

* Bob Straw asked about the possibility of combined chapter and national dues. It was explained that this topic was discussed by the board but tabled indefinitely due to many factors including the fact that chapters do not have a standard membership fee.
* Katrina Nelson discussed the need for more chapters to submit stories and photos to her for inclusion in the Silver Trumpet.
* President Tremel gave an update on the $5,000 that was withdrawn by former President and member Bill Dundas. Due to the fact that the Charleston Police did not feel this was a theft and that it was an internal matter, along with the fact that they were able to provide minimal evidence of an investigation, the matter will be dropped with no legal action to be taken against the former president and we will not pay any money to the attorney hired by him.
* There was a long discussion on the SPAAMFAA Facebook site. Candy Bennett reported that she and Jeff Jones have been very active policing the site and removing posts that are not appropriate. The issue of non-members being on the site was discussed but no action can be taken at this time. The new website should help in some ways.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm

Respectfully Submitted,

William Blunden, Executive Secretary

**SPAAMFAA**

**MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

Friday, February 29, 2020

Crown Royal Plaza Hotel

North Charleston, SC

Meeting called to order at 8:33 pm

President Tremel welcomed everyone to the meeting. And introduced members of the Board of Trustees.

Rick Short President of the IFBA gave a short presentation on their convention in Tennessee this summer. SPAAMFAA members will get a 10% discount if they sign up right away. He also stated that they are looking forward to the joint convention with SPAAMFAA in two years.

Executive Secretary presented the list of deceased members to the group at this meeting rather than at the banquet due to low attendance at that event. A moment of silence was observed for those members who have passed in the last year.

Rodger Birchfield reported that SPAAMFAA member John Russel Lambert celebrated his 103rd birthday.

The Executive Secretary gave an overview of the Board of Trustees meeting the previous day.

Presentations were made by Jim Kurycki and Jerry Clement of the Genesee Chapter regarding the summer convention and muster to be held in Rochester August 11-15, 2020, and by Bob Straw from the White Rose Chapter outlining the winter 2021 meeting in York, PA.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:27pm

Respectfully Submitted,

William Blunden, Executive Secretary

**(Attachment A)**

**RE-NUMBERING OF DISTRICTS**

|  |
| --- |
| Trustee - District 1 (1) |
|  |
| Trustee - District 2 (4) |
|  |
| Trustee - District 3 (7) |
|  |
| Trustee - District 4 (2) |
|  |
| Trustee - District 5 (5) |
|  |
| Trustee - District 6 (8) |
|  |
| Trustee - District 7 (9) |
|  |
| Trustee - District 8 (6) |
|  |
| Trustee - District 9 (3) |

The districts were re-numbered based on the election cycle. The districts for 2020 were the first 3 numbered. The 2021 election determined districts 4-6, and 2022 election determined districts 7-9. The intent is to make is easier to determine which districts are due for elections each year.