

Minutes, 2003 NAFTS Board Meeting

**National Association of Fleet Tug Sailors Reunion
Seattle, Washington
Thursday, 11 September 2003
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting**

Tom Thomas, Secretary

08:25 Call to Order by Chairman Ray Evans

- **Moment of silence** in respect for anniversary of 9-11
- **Invocation** by Chaplain Ken Maddox
- **Pledge Allegiance** To The Flag
- **Roll Call** Members present were:

Chairman of the Board, Ray Evans, President Harry Jaeger, Treasurer, Jack Sweet, Vice President, Rodger Dana, Acting Secretary, Tom Thomas, Chaplain, Ken Maddox, Judge Advocate Ralph Smith, Historian Neil Bjornsen, Director Wil Swift, Director Jim Gauntlet, Director Leo Grizzaffi.

Also attending were *members*, Dick Alley, George Hinman, Hal Tenney, Ted Hillman, Clyde Longerbone and Deane Wynne.

Presentation by Mr. Ray Casey, representing **Military Reunion Planners**, a commercial reunion planner offering a “Turnkey” planning for the NAFTS reunion in San Antonio in 2004.

- Company provided planning for tours to both NAFTS 2002 reunion as well as 2003 reunion.
- Package offers complete service including handling of all money, Hotel and badges.
- Normal charge of \$10.00 per guest would be waved for trial in San Antonio.
- There was discussion of interface with NAFTS Tours and tour interface. Director Neil Bjornsen advised that he would desire to set up tours with the reunion planners.

Mr. Casey left and a discussion of the new NAFTS Tours organization followed. NAFTS Tours was set up by the Judge Advocate as a result of the 2002 Board meeting. He advised that it was needed to insulate the NAFTS Board members from legal remedies that might be sought by injuries during a NAFTS Reunion. The NAFTS Tours non-profit corporation has been legally established and now needs to be set up with bylaws, officers and members. Judge Advocate advised that No director of the NAFTS Board of Directors should serve on the Board of Directors of NAFTS Tours.

Chairman Ray Evans appointed a committee to be the founder of NAFTS Tours. They are charged with writing the bylaws, setting up and populating the offices and guiding the

new NAFTS Tours in holding the 2004 San Antonio reunion. The appointed committee is as follows:

- Ralph Smith (Chairman)
- Rodger Dana
- Jack Sweet
- Leo Grizzaffi
- Neil Bjornsen

Minutes of last board meeting in 2002 were moved, seconded and voted approved.

Treasurers Report by Jack Sweet.

Treasurer Jack Sweet presented the Treasurers Report 2003 to the board. The summary of the report is as follows:

- **Beginning Balance August 30,2002**
 - Checking account: \$13274.93
 - Savings Account \$1303.82
 - PayPal Account \$407.8
 - Total \$14886.55

- **Deposits**
 - Checking Account \$29677.15
 - Savings Account \$4008.83

- **Expenditures**
 - Checking Account \$24471.86
 - Savings Account \$0.00

- **Balances August 29, 2003**
 - Checking Account \$18180.62
 - Savings Account \$5314.66
 - PayPal Account \$315.85
 - Total \$23811.17

The budget performance presented in the report showed no overages in the individual committee and Officers budgets. The Miscellaneous budget however was \$4224.50 over the budgeted amount of \$2500.00. Jack explained that this budget bore fees for license fees, bank charges, tax preparation, CPA review, reunion advance transfer to savings and other charges that were difficult to budget.

Noteworthy Items in the report were:

- Only 2 Issues of Towline have been funded this year
- Ships Store transferred \$1000 profit to the treasurer
- Transferred \$4000 from checking to savings
- NAFTS Treasury records were reviewed by a CPA firm

Jack discussed the budget and pointed out that the financial trend reversal from last year was due mainly to low Towline preparation cost of editor Serge Obolensky and the fact that only two Towlines have been funded to date.

It was moved, seconded and voted that the Treasurers report be accepted.

Election of Board Members

Director Ray Evans presented a list of recommendations from the Election Committee to fill the expiring terms of Officers and Directors. They were as follows:

- President, Rodger Dana
- Secretary, Tom Thomas
- Judge Advocate, Ralph Smith (Re-elect)

The following director's terms were also noted as expiring:

- Neil Bjornsen
- Bill Milwee
- Wil Swift
- Craig Rothhammer

Director Evans asked for discussion and more nominations. Proposed new directors were:

- Hal Tinny
- Clyde Longebone

Secretary Tom Thomas recommended that Craig Rothhammer not be considered for re-nomination at this time because he has not attended a meeting since election nor served on a committee. This was done after discussion.

Treasurer, Jack Sweet noted that a few ships with large membership numbers were not represented by a director on the board. Quapaw and Pakana were mentioned. It was decided to ask for additional Board Directors at the General Membership meeting.

President Harry Jaeger moved that the list as amended be presented to the Membership meeting for approval. Director Neil Bjornsen seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion was passed unanimously.

Reports:

- Publicist, Tom Thomas
 - Web Site Growing

- Board Members in part are not visiting membership statistical page nor Board only Forum
- Adequately Funded
 - Towline, Tom Thomas for Serge Obolensky
 - Some problems getting Towline out on schedule in past due to computer problems and work schedule
 - Content and editing of Towline is well received by members.
 - Website, Tom Thomas
 - The site is maturing but steadily growing, mostly with new pictures.
 - Database readout pages are increased as is the addition of a “Members Only” area that is password protected.
 - Site is averaging in excess of 150 hits per day.
 - Membership Report by Tom Thomas
 - Monthly New Members is somewhat declining
 - Membership statistics are available to all NAFTS members on the Web site. These statistics are automatically updated on a daily basis with upload of current Access database.
 - A one time budget increase is being requested from the Treasurer for the purchase of membership cards. (No Board action is required).
 - Proposal was given to initiate a new membership plan. Five years dues for \$100. The plan would satisfy those members that would like to pay up 5 years dues with a 20% discount. A motion was made to accept the plan. It was seconded and voted yes unanimously.
 - Historical Artifacts by Neil Bjornsen
 - Neil reports he has received 2 boxes of artifacts from past Historian, Rich Tetrault and is awaiting shipment of 2 additional boxes.
 - The artifacts that were displayed at the Arlington 2002 reunion are in the custody of Harry Jaeger.
 - An inventory of artifacts has not yet been done.
 - No historical artifacts were shipped to the Seattle reunion.
 - Ships Store by Harry Jaeger
 - Harry reports that \$1000 from Ships Store profits were transferred to the NAFTS treasurer in 2003.
 - 2003 Reunion Report by Rodger Dana
 - Rodger reported that the reunion was successful from a financial point.

- Several board members complimented Rodger on the choice of Hotel and tours.
- Chaplain's Report by Ken Maddox
 - Ken noted that quite frequently death were not reported nor found out about until dues time. Deane Wynn suggested a "Mayday Card" that is used by the DSRTA. The suggestion was made that such a card be inserted into Towline.

Site Selection Committee

- The Site Selection Committee headed by Jack Sweet noted that it would be appropriate to hold the 2005 reunion on the East coast.
 - DSRTA member Deane Wynne proposed that consideration be given to hosting the NAFTS and DSRTA reunion together in England be considered. Deane proclaimed that the reduced cost of the Hotel and food would make up the difference in the cost of airfare. After some discussion it was decided that while England would not be proposed as a 2005 site, it would be brought up for discussion at the regular meeting.
 - The following sites were suggested by various board members:
 - Florida, Tampa/Orlando area.
 - Michigan, (Area not specified)
 - South Carolina, Charleston area
 - Mississippi, Biloxi area
 - After some discussion it was moved, seconded, and voted that the above four sites be presented to the general meeting for vote.

New Business

Under New business the following was brought forward:

- Bylaws. Nothing to discuss
- NAFTS Ring
 - Neil Bjornsen discussed the possibility of having a custom NAFTS ring designed. He proposed that once the initial cost of incurred in designing the ring was over that cost could be reclaimed by selling the ring to members.
 - After some discussion the proposal was tabled and Neil was asked to provide detailed cost of designing and purchasing the ring.
- Navy Memorial Plaque
 - Jack Sweet reported that he was in contact with the Naval Historical society and was proceeding with the design of the plaque. The Board would be kept apprised of the development throughout the year by letter and e-mail.

Conclusion

- A motion was made by Jim Gauntlett to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Wil Swift. The motion was carried unanimously by vote. After a short prayer from Chaplain Maddox, Director Ray Evans declared the meeting over.

As recorded by NAFTS Secretary,

Tom Thomas