

Minutes of 2005 NAFTS regular Board Meeting

National Association of Fleet Tug Sailors Reunion

Tampa, Florida

Thursday, 14 October 2005

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting

Tom Thomas, Secretary

09:30 Call to Order by Chairman Ray Evans

- **Invocation** by Bob Campbell
- **Pledge of Allegiance** recited by all present
- **Roll Call** Members present were:
 - *Ray Evans* Chairman of the board, President *Rodger Dana*, Treasurer *Jack Sweet*, Secretary *Tom Thomas*, Director *Dick Alley*, Director *Neil Bjornsen*, Director *Jim Gauntlett*, Director *Harry Jaeger*, Director *Nick Radke*, Director *Hal Tenney*, Director *Jim Wassmuth*.
 - It was reported that three Directors had resigned during the past year but had not as yet sent written notice. These were Director and NAFTS Chaplain *Ken Maddox*, Director and Towline editor *Serge Obolensky* and Director *Mike DeCesare*
 - Also present for the board meeting were Members *Bob Campbell* and *Ted Hillman*

- **The Minutes** of the 2004 board meeting were summarized by Secretary *Tom Thomas*. A motion to accept them was entertained, seconded and passed.
- **Treasurer's report** was given by *Jack Sweet*.
 - Jack tendered a complete report showing a total of \$31,377.22 was collected for the year with an expenditure of \$17921.27. Net assets at this time including savings and checking are \$52,970.62 The treasurer cautioned that the increase of NAFTS funds was partly due to 212 participants in the "544" membership program and some \$16,000 must be set aside to cover their membership in the next 4 years. Another reason for the apparent increase of NAFTS net worth was that Towline had not been published 4 times a year in the past two years. Towline cost approximately \$4,000 per issue to print and mail.
 - A motion was made to accept the treasurers report, seconded and carried.
- **Secretary/Membership/Website report** was tendered by *Tom Thomas*.
 - Handout were provided of a snapshot of the Membership data page on the Website and membership history over the last 5 years as well as a sample new members packet and an overview of how the membership budget and Website budget was expended.
 - Membership is slightly declining. Top new member recruiting was from *Rodger Dana* and *Hal Tenney* this year.
 - Thomas outlined two purchases made during the past year for the benefit of the Secretary/Membership Chairman. The first was a VOIP phone

which included a toll-free number to allow members to phone in at no cost. This is extremely popular with the membership with a cost of only approximately \$20.00 per month. The second was the rental of a postage meter. This was made so that the 2-3 weekly trips to the Post Office could be circumvented saving gasoline. Tom reported that there was no real gain to NAFTS as he does not ask for reimbursement for gasoline, however it is a definite help to him. Monthly rent of the postal meter is \$20.00/month.

- Tom reminded the board that 2006 was the last year in his term for both Secretary and Web manager and that he will not seek an additional term as either Secretary or Membership Chairman due to the large number of man hours involved.
- After a short discussion on the Secretary and Membership Chairman's duties a motion was made, seconded and carried to accept the reports.

➤ **Retail Sales Report** was given by *Harry Jaeger*.

- Harry reported an average of 3.5 transactions a month were made the past year
- He cited a need to re-vamp the Storekeepers page on the Web and in Towline.
- Tom Thomas volunteered to re-do both the Web site and Towline Storekeepers page if new pictures could be obtained by Harry.
- A motion to accept the Storekeepers report was made, seconded and carried.

12:30 Break for lunch was called by *Chairman Evans*.

13:30 Meeting was resumed by *Chairman Ray Evans*

➤ **Historical Report** by *Neil Bjornsen*

- Neil reports that he is still in process of inventorying the collection.
- No items were brought for display at the reunion.
- He would like to see an article in Towline asking for donations of any items of historical interest for the NAFTS artifact collection.

➤ **2005 Reunion Report** by *Ted Hillman*

- Ted reports that problems were had finding donations for the raffle because merchants had contributed heavily to the New Orleans disaster.
- Ted also reported that there was much more to do for a successful reunion than he had envisioned and thanked Bob Campbell for his help in preparations.

➤ **2006 Reunion Report** by *Harry Jaeger*

- A contract has been signed for the Marriot Hotel in San Mateo near the San Francisco International Airport.
- A host is needed for the 2006 reunion.

- *Tom Thomas* reminded Harry that the NAFTOURS bylaws require that all contracts be entered into by NAFTOURS shall be subject to approval by the officers of NAFTS and that he has yet to see the contract. Harry responded that he was unaware of the provision but would send the officers of NAFTS copies of the contract.
- Secretary *Tom Thomas* pointed out that Military Reunion Planners web site advertises that they do not charge for planning reunions that they make their money from the hotels and tours involved. In spite of this they charged \$5.00 per person for the Tampa reunion. That resulted is a cost of \$40.00 per person that each member was charged. A discussion followed with some wanting to cap the registration fee per person. It was generally decided that no more then \$35.00 per person would be charged for the 2006 reunion but was not voted on. A committee consisting of *Harry Jaeger, Rodger Dana and Jack Sweet* was appointed by the chairman to consult with Military Reunion Planners representative to inquire about the disparity of the \$5.00 fee and the advertising on their web site.
- NAFTS Treasurer, *Jack Sweet* reported that he had opened an account for NAFTOURS using a \$1000 loan from NAFTS. Jack has control of the account and had sent a book of checks to the Tampa reunion host, *Ted Hillman*. There was discussion on the NAFTS Treasurer maintaining the account for NAFTOURS. All favorable. A motion was made and seconded to maintain the NAFTOURS account under control of the NAFTS Treasurer and continue the account by having the NAFTS Treasurer simply issue a check book to subsequent host so as to end the old practice of opening and closing accounts. The motion further left it to the discretion of the NAFTS Treasurer as to what level to maintain the account. The motion was carried with no dissenting votes.

➤ **Old Business**

- President *Rodger Dana* brought it to the attention of the board that an administrative change to the NAFTS bylaws was needed to make them compatible with the newly formed NAFTOURS. After discussion Secretary *Tom Thomas* was tasked with implementing the changes by writing them in a proposed change and sending them out to all board members for comment or approval, the proposed changes to deal only with conflicts with the present bylaws with the NAFTOURS organization.
- It was brought to the attention of the board that the Vice President's office was vacated when NAFTOURS was formed because *Ted Hillman* had moved to Vice President of NAFTOURS. A motion was made that *Dick Alley* be appointed as NAFTS Vice President to serve through 2006. The motion was seconded and carried.
- NAFTS ring progress report by *Neil Bjornson* Neil reported that he had made no further progress in selecting a manufacture, designing a NAFTS ring or negotiating a cost for the ring. (This was a follow up on a proposal

in 2002 that Neil made to design a NAFTS ring and sell them through the Ships store.)

- Site selection committee. *Jack Sweet* recommended three possible sites for the 2007 NAFTS reunion. Those being St. Louis, Missouri, Minneapolis Minnesota, and Louisville, Kentucky. *Jim Wassmuth* volunteered himself to lead the Nipmuc crew and host if St Louis was selected. A discussion followed touting the merits of each site. No host was known for the other two sites. President *Rodger Dana* stated he would not allow the general meeting to vote on any site that did not have a qualified host volunteer to organize the reunion citing past problems. A motion was made and seconded to recommend St. Louis for the 2007 reunion with Minneapolis and Louisville as secondary choices if a host volunteered prior to voting. The motion was carried

➤ **New Business**

- *Rodger Dana* reported that *Serge Obolensky* had resigned after publishing the September Towline due to his increased job requirements. *Tom Thomas* and *Rich Tetrault* have volunteered to publish the December/January Towline. The pair have also volunteered to publish Towline through 2006 or until a suitable editor can be found. *Tom Thomas* will be responsible for the production of the magazine. Other interested parties have been found and Thomas and Tetrault will utilize their talents in the production of Towline articles. Tom points out that *Serge* is a professional editor and a hard act to follow. *Serge* is directly responsible for the tremendous in quality that Towline has made.
- After discussion a motion was made and seconded to appoint *Bob Yates* and *Ned Lunquist* as “founders” with lifetime voice and vote on the board. The motion was carried.
- Chartable contributions. *Jack Sweet* noted that he would prepare a check to the Navy and Marine Corps relief in the amount of \$500 in accordance with article 13 of the bylaws. A discussion of charities followed with several board members noting the amount of money in reserve and wanting to donate some of it to their pet charities. A motion was made to donate \$500 to the Navy Memorial. The motion was seconded and passed. Chairman *Ray Evans* then appointed a committee consisting of *Jack Sweet, Harry Jaeger, Jim Gauntlett and Hall Tenney* to research a list of recommended charities to contribute to.
- Director *Neil Bjornson* advanced an idea to establish a raffle to finance the complete reunion trip, (airfare, hotel& tours) for the winner. After some discussion Chairman *Ray Evans* appointed a committee consisting of *Rodger Dana and Neil* to study and a proposal if it was deemed practical.
- *Rodger Dana* announced that Chaplain *Ken Maddox* had resigned because of health and other personal issues. Member *Bob Campbell* had shown an interest in becoming the new Chaplain. A motion was made seconded and carried to appoint Bob as a member of the board and the NAFTS Chaplain.

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- Rodger asked if NAFTS would approve a paid ad for NAFTS membership. He reported that he believed an advertisement in the American Legion magazine would result in many new memberships. He quoted a 3 line ad at approximately \$1600 for one issue. The general discussion following seemed to believe this was a very expensive experiment but that selective advertisement might be worthwhile. A motion was made approve the idea of paid advertising in general but not Rodgers proposal specifically. The motion was seconded and received a majority vote.

15:15 Meeting Adjourned Chairman *Ray Evans* thanked all members for their attendance and input for the annual NAFTS board meeting. He then announced that he would entertain a motion to close the meeting. A motion was presented, seconded and carried. Chairman *Ray Evans* announced the NAFTS board meeting adjourned.