

AMERICAN KNIFE AND TOOL INSTITUTE

Board of Regents and Advisory Meeting

May 30, 2002

Renaissance Waverly Hotel, Atlanta, GA

The Executive Committee meeting of the American Knife and Tool Institute on Thursday, May 30, 2002 was called to order at 8:20 a.m. EDT by AKTI president CJ Buck. Other regents present: Les de Asis, Walter Gardiner, Bob Miller, Al Pendray, Mike Jones (for Chad Vincent); Advisory members present: Les Edelstein (Moteng), Doug Flagg (Kershaw), Jim Furgal (Camillus), Debra Garvick (United), Spencer Frazer (SOG - arrived at 9:50 a.m.). Others present: Jan Billeb, Executive Director and David Kowalski, Communications Coordinator. Regent absent: A. G. Russell.

These minutes are formatted on a per-subject basis, not the chronological discussion.

Administrative

Minutes: De Asis moved and Gardiner seconded to approve the following meeting minutes: March 26, 2002 and April 23, 2002. Unanimous.

Web site Update: Jan Billeb reported that the online membership form is working well and she added Discover and American Express to the credit cards accepted. It was agreed that email addresses for the Executive Committee would be removed from the web site listing. Dave Kowalski and CJ Buck will review and clean out the StateNet files AKTI is tracking.

Administrative Report: Billeb reported that the agreement with CT Corporation was renewed, distributed an updated contact list, and showed the new membership card form designed to allow the letter content to be laser printed as information changes. She suggested in order to better management email contacts that each organization limit AKTI communication to two contacts and that they be responsible for forwarding AKTI communications as needed. It was agreed Deb Garvick would be the principal Advisory Board member from United and Mike Jones would be the Regent representative for Gerber.

Billeb communicated Dan Lawson's apologies for not being able to attend the meeting and his intention to continue to work on two documents: (1) manufacturer liability issues regarding criminal use of knives and (2) sensible model knife laws. It was generally agreed that the model law effort is the most proactive effort AKTI could presently undertake. Gardiner suggested when Lawson's draft is received that a couple additional attorneys review it for input.

Billeb announced the Officers and Director's Liability policy was renewed. It was agreed all committee members would receive a copy for their review and files.

Future Meetings: Everyone was reminded the next scheduled meetings are September 23, 2002 in Chicago and the day after SHOT Show in Orlando with conference calls to be announced.

Financial

Current Reports: De Asis reviewed the profit and loss comparison financial statement for 2001 and 2002, noting revenues are down due to outstanding dues. The checking account balance on May 21st was \$61,600.

Fund raising: Kowalski reminded everyone that consultant William Stockwell would be giving a session on membership recruiting starting at 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. He noted that the AKTI knife auction for May was an

Allen Eischewitz folder and that more knives are needed. Rhett Stidham with KnifeAuctions.net has been extremely helpful.

Committees

Legislative - Buck, Chair

Florida: Kowalski reviewed the Florida situation and the need for Rick Watson to find an appropriate bill in each house to introduce the revised wording. It was noted that additional fund raising is needed to cover the lobbyist's fees. Buck and Kowalski will confer with Watson regarding additional fund raising.

Membership - Gardiner, Chair

Gardiner discussed the need to expand membership areas. Doug Flagg, Mike Jones and Dave Kowalski agreed to assist with contacting potential foreign premier members.

Publicity - Kowalski, Chair

Kowalski reported the pre-Blade newsletter was done and copies available for distribution. He will be distributing stand-up display signs to corporate members exhibiting at Blade. Kowalski has continued with monthly email announcements to publications and the new ads were developed and sent to the major knife publications. On Saturday at the Blade Show, Kowalski will present a seminar on FAA Knife Regulations at 11:30 a.m. It was suggested he have a sign-in sheet at the presentation to know who attended. He distributed copies of an update on laws introduced involving knife definitions since the newsletter was published.

Kowalski reported on the status of legislative efforts in Florida and that Rick Watson, lobbyist, will be at the Blade Show. Sunday at 2 p.m. a drawing will be held for knives donated to raffle for the Florida Fund. After discussion, Gardiner moved, de Asis seconded that CJ Buck and Dave Kowalski, with other possible board members, would meet with the Florida constituents to discuss the need to re-clarify AKTI's role in the Florida issue. AKTI's position at this time will be to request a written description of the organization's role as only a collecting point for funds, not responsible for signing an additional contract with Watson, and an agreed plan for disbursement if any excess funds were collected. If the Florida group does not have enough interest to form a committee responsible for the obligations of any additional lobbyist contract, AKTI will not independently pursue the issue. Motion carried.

Committee Composition: Participants on each committee were reviewed prior to breaking into committee sessions to develop and prioritize action plans for the coming year.

Pendray moved, Gardiner seconded to adjourn at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Billeb
AKTI Executive Director