

AMERICAN KNIFE AND TOOL INSTITUTE

Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting

June 7, 2001 - 8:00 a.m. Eastern
Renaissance Waverly Hotel, Atlanta, GA

Thursday, June 7, 2001, the meeting of the Board of Regents and the Advisory Members of the American Knife and Tool Institute was called to order by AKTI President Les de Asis. Regents present: Les de Asis, Bob Bascom, CJ Buck, D'Holder, Bob Miller, Walter Gardiner, Al Pendray Advisory: Les Edelstein, Doug Flagg, Jim Furgal. Others: Jan Billeb, Executive Director, Dave Kowalski, Communications Coordinator. Absent: Regent A. G. Russell. Bob Bascom left shortly after the financial report.

These minutes are formatted on a per-subject basis, not chronological discussion. Meeting facilitator: Les de Asis.

Financial

Vice President/Secretary Bob Bascom provided the current financial statement for the year through May 31st with a comparison to last year. The major area of increased expenses related to the services of Communications Coordinator Dave Kowalski. Revenue from memberships recruited has more than offset these expenses.

Administrative

Bob Miller moved to eliminate the 800 telephone number, D' Holder seconded. Passed.

Gardiner moved to approve the minutes of the February 11-12, April 5 and May 25, 2001 meetings, Al Pendray seconded. Passed unanimously.

It was decided to change the wording on the mailing list check box to read that the AKTI will not sell names.

Legislative Issues Update

CJ Buck reported on the current AKTI forum discussion. He announced that the California efforts were proceeding on target, he will attend the hearing of the Assembly Committee for Safety on June 18th, and the revised law will probably be signed into law 60 days after approval of the committee.

Gardiner reported the proposed NY knife law to make any knife with a blade longer than 4 inches, closed or open, illegal had been put back into committee which effectively kills the action.

A Florida situation in Broward County was discussed in which two individuals with switchblades were charged under a law prohibiting ballistic knives. Al Pendray reported on Judge Lowell Bray's summary of the situation in the current issue of *Blade Magazine*.

Publicity

Dave Kowalski gave a broad overview of the seminar on Saturday at 11 a.m. regarding dealing with lawmakers and encouraged everyone to attend and/or participate. He reported that the newsletter was mailed and copies would be available for distribution during the Blade Show. He and Jan Billeb would be taking care of the AKTI booth which will be in the lobby. Kowalski reported regular communication will be continued with publications and prospective members. Anyone with additional contacts should forward email addresses to Kowalski.

Additional discussion following regarding the current thread on Blade Forum and reiteration of the need to continually restate AKTI's goals and position.

Membership

Kowalski reported several companies including Cold Steel, Al Mar, Paragon, Beretta, and Frost were prime contacts to approach during Blade Show. It was reiterated that the primary focus is to target manufacturers and distributors to maximize AKTI efforts.

Kowalski explained about being contacted by Wuu Jau regarding a customs confiscation. He will copy the board his response including a referral to Dan Lawson, and whatever documents and/or information are available from him.

Gardiner made the point that there are needs in the industry that AKTI cannot address and the importance of focusing on the things that AKTI can do within the industry. A possible rewording of the FAQs or an additional document about what AKTI can do for members was discussed.

Education

D' Holder reminded everyone that the Knife Safety pamphlet is available. At the last meeting several members agreed to send him sample videos, but he has not received any. He has someone willing to work with him on videos when funds become available.

Internet

Les Edelstein noted that Kowalski, Billeb and de Asis had preliminarily reviewed the revised web site, changes were made and it is ready for input again. It was agreed only Kowalski and Billeb will have access to make revisions.

CJ Buck moved, Bob Miller seconded that there be no store of AKTI branded merchandise on the web site. Passed. It was noted that AKTI branded merchandise may be considered in the future for membership benefits.

Discussion followed on auctioning knives. It was agreed to use the services of e-Bay from a link on the AKTI web site. Kowalski has a list of custom knives donated which will be engraved/etched with AKTI and the auction month and year. The maker will determine the reserve price and/or contact bidders.

Discussion followed on donations, how to recognize donors, select knives for auction, the order

in presenting auction items, and use of photography services.

Links from the AKTI web site were discussed including lists of manufacturers, useful information in publications and links to other informational resources.

AKTI Logo

Members were reminded that the current policy regarding the AKTI logo use is that it can be used in ads but not on products.

Election Committee

The Board of Regents, acting as the Election Committee per the AKTI Bylaws, established the following policy: The term of offices will be two years. The President will be replaced by the Vice President/Secretary at the end of the President's two-year term. The new term will start the first of the month following the annual meeting. If the need arises for a replacement, the past president will fill-in the vacancy or the Board of Regents will vote a replacement.

Bob Miller nominated CJ Buck to serve a two-year term as President and Bob Bascom to remain as Vice President/Secretary. Nomination was seconded by D'Holder. CJ Buck was elected by unanimous acclamation.

Walter Gardiner moved and Bob Miller seconded to adjourn the meeting at approximately 12 p.m. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Billeb
AKTI Executive Director

American Knife & Tool Institute