

AMERICAN KNIFE AND TOOL INSTITUTE
Minutes of Conference Call
Board of Regents and Executive Committee Meeting
April 5, 2001 - 2:00 p.m. EST

On Thursday, April 5, 2001 the Board of Regents Meeting was called to order at 2:06 p.m. EDT. Meeting facilitator Les de Asis. Present included: Regents Les de Asis, Al Pendray, CJ Buck, D' Holder, A. G. Russell. Regents absent: Wally Gardiner, Bob Bascom, Bob Miller. Advisory members: Jerry Rinder, Les Edelstein, Spencer Frazer. Others: Jan Billeb, Executive Director, Dave Kowalski, Communications Director.

California Legislative Issue

CJ Buck reported that his presentation before the Senate Policy Committee was Tuesday, April 3 and the proposed bill SB274 passed unanimously. The expectation now is that it will pass the Senate Appropriations Committee, then move through the Assembly and the Governor will sign it in mid-August to September. The proposed strategy of launching the bill in the tougher Senate appears to have been correct. The suggested section that had been added by a Senate consultant for additional clarification that was questioned by AKTI members was removed.

Here is the current bill with the original amended language as AKTI proposed it:

Proposed Amendments to Penal Code Section 653k

Every person who possesses in the passenger's or driver's area of any motor vehicle in any public place or place open to the public, carries upon his or her person, and every person who sells, offers for sale, exposes for sale, loans, transfers, or gives to any other person a switchblade knife having a blade two or more inches in length is guilty of a misdemeanor.

For the purposes of this section, "switchblade knife" means a knife having the appearance of a pocketknife and includes a spring-blade knife, snap-blade knife, gravity knife or any other similar type knife, the blade or blades of which are two or more inches ~~long~~ *in length* and which can be released automatically by a flick of a button, pressure on the handle, flip of the wrist or other mechanical device, or is released by the weight of the blade or by any type of mechanism whatsoever. "Switchblade knife" does not include a knife that ~~is designed to~~ opens with one hand utilizing thumb pressure applied solely to the blade of the knife or a thumb stud attached to the blade, *provided that the knife utilizes a detent or other mechanism that (a) provides resistance that must be overcome in opening the blade, or (b) biases the blade back toward its closed position.*

For purposes of this section, "passenger's or driver's area" means that part of a motor vehicle which is designed to carry the driver and passengers, including any interior compartment or space therein.

Recap of A. G. Russell's Experience with Legislators

A. G. Russell pointed out that, based on his recent successful experience initiating a meeting with Arkansas U.S. Representative Asa Hutchinson, everyone should know who their Senators and Congressmen are at both the state and federal levels, have contact with them and be prepared to discuss issues with them as soon as a problem arises. Dave Kowalski pointed out he will be meeting with Colorado members and others on Monday, April 9 to discuss the first step in putting together a Colorado presentation to lawmakers as the start of the AKTI Legislative Action Plan for that state.

Discussion of Internet Proposal

Les Edelstein reviewed his operational website proposal dated April 4. He agreed to provide a more detailed

proposal of content prior to any implementation. Once approved, the anticipated availability of the new site will be about one month. The decision about which server to use (Moteng or A. G. Russell) will be determined later and Edelstein suggested both could be used so there was a back-up system. D'Holder moved, CJ Buck seconded to accept the proposal in concept. Holder offered to donate the first knife for the custom knife auctions to be held on the site. It was generally agreed that the auctions would be available to everyone, not just AKTI members. Some discussion followed on the pros and cons of the member's-only section.

Blade Show

Dave Kowalski reported that AKTI will have a booth in the lobby courtesy of Blade Magazine. He requested authorization of \$250 to create a new banner and \$800 to produce 4,000 newsletters as part of AKTI's presence at Blade. Al Pendray, Chris Reeve and D'Holder have offered knives to raffle at the show to new members. Saturday morning Dave will be doing a seminar on the proposed topic of "working with your lawmakers." Either Kowalski and/or Jan Billeb will be in the booth for the duration of the show. Edelstein suggested providing a mini-server to present the web site, possibly projected to the back of the display. Kowalski will follow up on possible visuals and also request a few minutes of time at the banquet to talk about AKTI. D'Holder moved, to authorize \$1500 for a banner, the newsletter and other incidentals, Buck seconded, carried unanimously.

Les de Asis moved to adjourn, seconded by CJ Buck. Carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Billeb, Executive Director
American Knife and Tool Institute