

AMERICAN KNIFE AND TOOL INSTITUTE
Minutes of Conference Call
Board of Regents and Executive Committee Meeting
May 25, 2001 - 2:00 p.m. EST

On Friday, May 25, 2001 the Executive Committee meeting was called to order at 2:03 p.m. EDT by AKTI President Les de Asis. Present included: Regents Les de Asis, Wally Gardiner, Al Pendray, D' Holder, A. G. Russell, Doug Hutchens (for Bob Bascom). Regents absent:, Bob Bascom. Advisory members: Jerry Rinder, Jim Furgal. Others: Jan Billeb, Executive Director, Dave Kowalski, Communications Director. Regent Bob Miller and Advisory member Dan Delavan joined the meeting at 2:20 p.m.

Blade Show Booth and Seminar

Kowalski reported that the AKTI booth at Blade will be in the lobby area, closest space to the door. A 8'x2' banner has been ordered. The slogan - "Keeping knives in American lives" will be printed on the sign along with the AKTI logo. Counter-top signs have not been ordered, instead it was decided to get 25-30 easels for displaying inside the showroom. These will be re-usable and the information can be updated.

Kowalski will present a seminar "Working with Your Lawmakers" on Saturday at 11 a.m. De Asis and A. G. Russell will also participate.

AKTI Auction

It was noted that the purpose of an AKTI auction will be to raise interest and then hopefully funds. It was agreed there would be one knife auctioned per month and all knives must be donated. Kowalski reported that he has three knives donated: D' Holder (June), A. G. Russell (July) and Al Pendray (August). A minimum bid or reserve was discussed. Kowalski plans that each knife be etched on the blade of the knife with "AKTI" and the month and year. Discussion followed on manufacturers offering a series of knives and donating the proceeds to AKTI. Concern was expressed about AKTI being any way competitive with dealers by offering knives for sale and the need to be cognizant of members' perceived conflicts or alienating potential memberships.

AKTI Merchandising

Discussion of AKTI merchandise and branded items included concerns/objections to AKTI selling products and issues regarding inventory and control. It was noted again that this is not expected to be a large fund raiser, but an effort to increase awareness about AKTI and reach other people. Gardiner moved that all merchandise sold must be donated items, de Asis seconded. Passed. Kowalski reported a suggestion from Les Edelstein that for items to be sold orders could be taken first and then the merchandise ordered. It was agreed for now any non-knife merchandise should only have the AKTI logo on it, not logos or names of the company/person making the donation.

Concern was expressed about the potential gathering of information from the internet. Billeb reported that the current policy is to not use or sell the AKTI lists in any format. General consensus was that anyone in a position to acquire names or possible marketing prospects should expect to sign an agreement with AKTI regarding the non-use and confidentiality of the information. Billeb and Kowalski will draft a confidentiality agreement for review at the next

meeting.

AKTI Project Proposal Form

Agreement that the proposed form was needed, workable, and will be posted on the web site and be available whenever suggestions were received.

Next Meeting

The next Board of Regents/Executive Committee meeting will be held June 7th at 8 a.m. in the Hallmark Room at the Renaissance Waverly Hotel, Atlanta, GA. The annual meeting will follow at 4 p.m. in the Chancellor Room.

The following potential agenda items were proposed: additional issues regarding merchandising and auction knives, use of AKTI membership or contact lists, rules for who can use AKTI logo on merchandise, the need for prior approval of use of AKTI's logo or printed information about the organization, additional web site ideas or concerns.

Jerry Rinder moved to adjourn at 3 p.m., seconded by D' Holder . Carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Billeb, Executive Director
American Knife and Tool Institute