

AMERICAN KNIFE AND TOOL INSTITUTE
Minutes of Conference Call
Board of Regents and Executive Committee Meeting
August 24, 2001 - 2:00 p.m. EST

On Friday, August 24, 2001 the Executive Committee meeting was called to order at 2:03 p.m. EDT. Wally Gardiner served as meeting facilitator in the absence of AKTI President CJ Buck. Present included: Regents Wally Gardiner, Bob Bascom, Bob Miller, Al Pendray, A. G. Russell. Regents absent: CJ Buck, Les de Asis. Advisory member present: Jerry Rinder, Others: Jan Billeb, Executive Director, David Kowalski, Communications Director, Doug Hutchens for Gerber, and Denise Sneag, for Les Edelstein.

California Law Passed

It was noted that everyone should be aware that California SB 274 was signed into law.

Membership Solicitation

Dave Kowalski reported that Valor Corp. of Florida has agreed to join at \$1,000 and that Blue Ridge would be renewing its premier membership at \$2,000 and also donate \$100 for the Florida cause.

Update AKTI Auction Knives

Dave Kowalski announced AKTI has four donated knives for the monthly auction. Chris Reeves' knife will be for September 2001 as it is already so engraved, D' Holder's for October, then A. G. Russell's knife in November and Al Pendray's to close the year. The knives will be displayed on the AKTI website and auctioned on eBay beginning the 20th of its respective month.

Website Status

Denise Sneag of Moteng reported on the status of the proposed new website. They would like everyone's input and any additional content to finish the project. From then on, they would prefer that any changes be forwarded only once a month. Dave Kowalski reviewed his recent conversation with Michael Brawner and Dave's intention to develop an action plan with a targeted completion date.

Florida Solicitations

Dave Kowalski summarized the Florida situation where a decision by the 4th District Court made switchblades illegal by considering them ballistic knives. Since the Blade Show, Kowalski has been working with a group of people organized as the Florida Committee, including attorney and collector Brad Winston. The consensus of the group's strategy is to create clarifying language, that in order to be a ballistic knife, the blade has to actually separate from the knife, and to attach this change to an obscure bill at the end of the session. Rick Watson, lobbyist, was interviewed during a conference call that included CJ Buck, and the committee agreed that he should be retained for \$10,000 for one year. They further have agreed that necessary steps include Dave Kowalski formulating a white paper on the economic impact of the Court ruling and related

issues. Kowalski has been contacting Florida manufacturers and other parties to solicit monetary support. Paragon has committed to joining the effort and Timberline is being actively pursued. It was agreed that the entire Florida issue will be discussed by the Board at the September meeting. Kowalski will contact Rick Watson to inform him that final approval of any contract or agreement will require full Board of Regent approval. Wally Gardiner will prepare a report on the current climate regarding knife issues. Kowalski will move forward on the White Paper so it can be part of the discussions on the issue at the September meeting in Chicago.

Board of Regents

Bob Bascom announced that he is no longer employed by Gerber Legendary Blades and that he would like to remain involved with AKTI, and possibly could devote even more time to AKTI projects. The terms of his board position will be discussed at the next meeting. Doug Hutchens reported that Chad Vincent, the new General Manager at Gerber, has been updated on AKTI and while he will not be able to attend the September meeting, Vincent intends to be active.

Jan Billeb noted that everyone should have received the note of D'Alton Holder's resignation from the Board of Regents. She forwarded him a thank you note of appreciation for his contributions and efforts.

Next Meeting

The next Board of Regents/Executive Committee meeting will be September 24, 2001 at 9 a.m. The following potential agenda items were proposed: (1) Florida situation; (2) Bob Bascom's board position; (3) website review and/or approval. Everyone was reminded that hotel reservations must be made by Aug. 31st.

Gardiner moved to adjourn at 3 p.m., seconded by Bob Miller. Carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Billeb, Executive Director
American Knife and Tool Institute