

AMERICAN KNIFE AND TOOL INSTITUTE
Executive Committee Meeting (Board of Regents & Advisory Members)
September 16, 2003
Teleconference Call

The Executive Committee meeting of the American Knife and Tool Institute scheduled for Tuesday, September 16, 2003 was called to order promptly at 1:00 p.m. Eastern by AKTI president Jim Furgal (Camillus).

Regents present: Al Pendray, Bob Miller, Mike Jones

Regents absent: Walter Gardiner, Les de Asis, CJ Buck, A. G. Russell

Advisory members present: R. C. Crisp (United), Thomas Arrowsmith, (WR Case), Spencer Frazer (SOG).

Others present: Jan Billeb, Executive Director; David Kowalski, Communications Coordinator

Since internal board rules require four regents present to conduct business, it was agreed to consider this an informal meeting.

Blade Length Measuring Protocol

Twelve state Attorney's General responded to David Kowalski's letter asking for copies of their protocols for measuring knife blades. None of the respondents have a protocol. Vice president Mike Jones indicated that AKTI making a positive pro-active effort on this issue would be the responsible thing to do. The discussion of a measuring protocol came down to two views: (1) measure from tip of blade to center of where blade meets the handle; (2) measure the cutting or sharpened edge. It was noted that AKTI's main focus should be to develop a protocol that was acceptable to law enforcement and that was easily understood and could be implemented in the field. That perspective would favor (1). However, manufacturers might also choose to use (2) for various marketing reasons. Since states and cities use various length standards, it was agreed that AKTI should not currently make any recommendations on actual length of blades.

David Kowalski will summarize the positive and negative aspects of each method of measuring blades, then ask for input from AKTI companies for review of the issue at the post-SHOT Show meeting.

Membership

David Kowalski reviewed the dues status of corporate members. He noted that Microtech indicated they will join by the end of the year. Meyerco continues to be a strong prospect.

Tom Arrowsmith reported that the AKTI brochure is almost done. The retailer mailing by Bob Miller and Les Edelstein will be completed when brochures are printed.

David Kowalski and Jan Billeb are working on a test mailing of a letter in the Fall 2003 newsletter to expired Ambassador members. They will follow up with two more mailings to the test group of 200 expired members by the end of the year. Results will be reported at the post-SHOT show meeting.

Next Meeting

The next AKTI Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for February 16, the day after the SHOT Show at 9:00 a.m. Bob Miller is making arrangements with the Tropicana Hotel.

Notes by Jan Billeb
Executive Director