

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

On Monday, September 24, 2001 the Executive Committee meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. EDT by AKTI President CJ Buck. Present included: Regents Les de Asis, Bob Miller, A. G. Russell. Regents absent: Wally Gardiner, Al Pendray, Chad Vincent. Advisory members present: Les Edelstein, Jim Furgal, Jerry Rinder. Others: Jan Billeb, Executive Director, David Kowalski, Communications Coordinator, Doug Hutchens for Gerber.

Board of Regents

CJ Buck noted that with the resignation of D'Alton Holder a new chairperson is needed for the Education Committee. That vacancy will be discussed at the next meeting. Buck reported on his recent conversation with Bob Bascom who is willing to stay involved with AKTI in any way possible. There was general agreement that Board of Regent members should be actively employed / involved in the knife industry. CJ Buck will contact Bob Bascom and invite him to participate on an AKTI committee or project. The Vice President/Treasurer position will be filled at the next meeting. In the meantime, Les de Asis agreed to serve in that position.

Jan Billeb noted that the correct title for Chad T. Vincent is President of Gerber, not General Manager, and he is the Regent for Gerber Legendary Blades on AKTI's Board.

Next Meeting

The next scheduled Board of Regents/Executive Committee meeting will be Wednesday, February 13th from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Las Vegas, immediately following the Shot Show.

Florida Switchblade Situation

Buck reviewed the History of the Switchblade Situation (copy attached) regarding the current switchblade definition problem in the state of Florida. He noted that the lobbyist does not expect that active involvement of the Regents will be required. Discussion followed regarding switchblades, AKTI's position on switchblades in the Frequently Asked Questions on the website, and concern that the definition of switchblade not be expanded upon. It was noted that AKTI would provide the national face, but not the financial requirements for the lobby effort in Florida. Jerry Rinder suggested a letter be sent to the Florida group requesting full financial support for the lobbying effort or that AKTI would not continue with this effort.

A.G. Russell offered \$1,000 for the cause, if other Floridians come forward as promised. A. G. Russell moved that AKTI continue with the Florida effort, provided it is financed by Florida contributions, and CJ Buck can make that agreement with Rick Watson, the lobbyist. Bob Miller seconded. Motion carried.

Jerry Rinder of Swiss Army expressed concern that AKTI is facing greater issues since the terrorist attack of September 11th. He reported their products have been pulled out of all airport

shops and they have received several cancellations on corporate imprints. He suggested more time and effort be spent to formulate a plan of AKTI's position and positive offensive actions in light of backlash from the terrorist attacks. It was generally agreed that this was important and better accomplished in a physical meeting instead of a teleconference call.

National Terrorist Situation

Jerry Rinder explained that Swiss Army is considering efforts to let consumers and others know they are sensitive to the situation, but emphasize the history and importance of their products as tools. Swiss Army donated utility knives for Ground Zero rescue operations in New York and he encouraged others to consider this as a positive effort. A. G. Russell announced he plans to send an email to a major mailing list about FAA regulations regarding knives, including plastic eating knives. He will share the contents with all the regents prior to sending it. CJ Buck suggested now was an important time for each member to contact their federal legislators and encourage reasonable and responsible reactions. It was generally agreed that a positive move would be to set up an AKTI relief fund, possibly through some other group, and also to check out collecting funds at the retail level by N.I.C.A. members. Dave Kowalski and Jan Billeb will check out details and possible arrangements.

AKTI's Message to National Media

Dave Kowalski reported he now has the procedure set up to send messages to the major wire services and television networks. He continues with a monthly report to all gun and knife publications, as well as his corporate prospect lists. AKTI's statement of sympathy and response to the terrorist situation was posted on the forums and the AKTI website.

Update AKTI Auction Knives

Kowalski reported that Jan Billeb had posted the Chris Reeve auction knife on E-bay and also AKTI's website. The auction will continue until the last day of September. The next auction knife will be D'Holder's, then A.G. Russell's for November, and Al Pendray's for December.

Website Update

Kowalski noted that he and Jan Billeb had forwarded Michael Brawner instructions and several file attachments for the revised website. Edelstein reported that most of the work is done, some of the links are not working and they are **not** able to do an online membership form. The current version prepared by Michael Brawner can be reviewed at <http://64.213.197.140>

Newsletter

Kowalski reported the timetable to mail the next newsletter will be just before the Shot Show.

Russell moved to adjourn at 3:55 p.m. EDT, seconded by Bob Miller. Carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Billeb, Executive Director
American Knife and Tool Institute