

**AMERICAN KNIFE AND TOOL INSTITUTE**  
Minutes of Conference Call  
Board of Regents and Executive Committee Meeting  
December 7, 2001 - 2:00 p.m. EST

On Thursday, December 7, 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, A. G. Russell, Wally Gardiner, Al Pendray. Regents Absent: Chad Vincent, Bob Miller. Advisory members present: Les Edelstein, Jim Furgal. Others: Jan Billeb, Executive Director, David Kowalski, Communications Coordinator, Doug Hutchens for Gerber.

**Boston Update**

Wally Gardiner and Jerry Rinder represented AKTI at the public hearing in Boston on the proposed Ordinance 16-45 (#1145) to prohibit the carrying of any knife with a blade longer than 2-1/2 inches. Gardiner reported that the revised wording agreed upon was as reasonable as possible and would allow a broad definition of carrying knives for recreational or work-related purposes as long as the person was not being threatening. Kowalski announced that Mel Herman of Chesapeake Knife & Tool Co. joined as a premier member. Kowalski reported that both Mel Herman and David Marks of Stoddard's were very pleased to have had AKTI Regents at the hearing.

The problem of posting information about the hearing on the forums and other future issues was discussed. It was noted that AKTI should be cautious about what is posted, especially prior to a sensitive hearing and perhaps also offer suggested wording for any letters or emails to be sent to lawmakers.

Dave Kowalski will address thank you letters to the Boston councilmen and Stoddard's.

**Legislative Tracking**

CJ Buck reported on the research he and Jan Billeb did on alternative legislative tracking services. Les de Asis moved, Wally Gardiner seconded, to accept the recommendation to use StateNet for 2002 at the cost of \$900 per month with the services to include Legislative Alerts, Regulatory Alerts and a Government Affairs web site page. Carried unanimously.

**Status of Florida Issue**

Dave Kowalski reported that attorney Brad Winston has re-written a definition of the ballistic knife statute that lobbyist Rick Watson suggests be attached to a bill during the final filing date in Florida in January. The definition will state that for a knife to be a ballistic knife the blade must physically separate from the handle.

Kowalski noted that all donations for the Florida effort are kept separate and to date have been sufficient to cover one quarter of the lobbyist's fees. He is encouraging Florida companies to be responsible for fundraising.

**Next Meeting**

The next scheduled Board of Regents/Executive Committee meeting will be Wednesday, February 6th from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Las Vegas, immediately following the Shot Show.

A. G. Russell moved to adjourn at 3:45 p.m. EDT, seconded by Les de Asis. Carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Billeb, Executive Director  
American Knife and Tool Institute