

AMERICAN KNIFE AND TOOL INSTITUTE
Minutes of Conference Call
Board of Regents and Advisory Board Meeting
December 8, 2000 - 2:00 p.m. EST

On Friday, December 8, 2000 the Board of Regents Meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. EST. Meeting facilitator Les de Asis. Present included: Regents Les de Asis, Al Pendray, CJ Buck, Wally Gardiner, A. G. Russell, Bob Bascom, (and Doug Hutchens) Advisory Board: Doug Flagg, Jim Furgal, Jan Billeb, Executive Director, Dave Kowalski, Communications Director, and Dan Lawson, Attorney.

These minutes are presented on a per subject basis, not chronologically.

Welcome Advisory Board

Les de Asis welcomed the advisory board, commenting that the Regents are eager to have Advisory Board members involved.

Communications Update - Kowalski

Dave Kowalski summarized communications he has developed for publications including the story about Columbia River, and a story of success in California, which will be in Blade Trade at Shot Show. He responded to concerns expressed on bladeforum.com regarding Steve Shackelford's comments on the customs seizure. It was agreed that Dave will monitor both bladeforum.com and knifeforum.com.

The second issue of the AKTI newsletter has been sent to Jan Billeb and it is expected that the mailing will be done by the end of December. Copies will be available to distribute at the Shot Show. Dave reported he has focused on knife magazines, but will be adding gun publications, organizations and clubs to mailings, including his monthly articles.

A. G. Russell indicated he would like to submit a message from Dave for his spring catalog. CJ Buck reported that Buck Knives will devote the back page of their dealer's magazine to AKTI information. Dave said he is available to write for any publication necessary.

Bob Bascom announced that Gerber intends to involve Doug Hutchens in Gerber's role in AKTI and would like him to receive any AKTI communication.

Les de Asis announced that on November 11th a Congressional representative would be visiting Benchmade. He invited all Oregon AKTI members to attend.

Membership Update- Kowalski

Dave Kowalski reported that he is focusing membership recruiting on a state basis and has targeted Tennessee, New York, Pennsylvania, Washington, Florida, California, and Colorado. The strategy he has developed is to involve people in doing a presentation to lawmakers, using the model de Asis developed in Oregon. He is making plans to attend the Shot Show and talk to contacted people personally. It was suggested that Dave involve the regents or advisory members, when appropriate, with specific prospects.

CA Situation Update

CJ Buck reported there is no additional progress to report. He completed paperwork registration for lobbying for AKTI. Chris Micheli anticipates some action in January or February.

Switchblade Law

Discussion of switchblade law change proposed as written by attorney Dan Lawson. A. G. Russell stated that including a spring in the definition of switchblade was important. Lawson suggested that the proposed wording could supply a definition for the word “automatically” that would require a spring. He will revise the wording and submit another draft.

Lawson discussed the need of getting the proposed wording in a congressperson’s hand willing to sponsor the revision of the switchblade act. Congresswoman Hooley of Oregon has been suggested. Lawson’s colleague explained that a report accompanying the proposed rewording would be necessary to provide background and explanation of the basis for the need for changes.

Financial

It was agreed to print a quantity of “My First Knife” safety pamphlets to include shipments to Buck Knives of 1,000, Russell Knives 500, Gerber 1,000, Benchmade 1,000, Schrade 1,000 and Kershaw 1,000 with an additional supply for AKTI distribution. Each company will be invoiced for the cost to print and ship.

CJ Buck moved to print 5,000 of the second issue of the newsletter for an expenditure of approximately \$1,000, seconded by Wally Gardiner. Passed.

Buck moved to adjourn, seconded by Bob Bascom. Carried unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Billeb, Executive Director
American Knife and Tool Institute