

# AMERICAN KNIFE AND TOOL INSTITUTE

## Board of Regents and Advisory Meeting

February 17, 2003

Ramada Inn, Orlando, FL

The Executive Committee meeting of the American Knife and Tool Institute on Monday, February 17, 2003 was called to order at 9:00 a.m. EST by AKTI president CJ Buck. Other regents present: Les de Asis, Al Pendray, Bob Miller, Mike Jones (for Chad Vincent); Advisory members present: Doug Flagg and Jack Igarashi (Kershaw), Jim Furgal (Camillus), R. C. Crisp (United), Thomas Arrowsmith, (WR Case). Others present: Jan Billeb, Executive Director; David Kowalski, Communications Coordinator; (Dan Lawson by telephone during model law discussion); Regents absent: Walter Gardiner, A. G. Russell.

These minutes are formatted on a per-subject basis, not the chronological discussion.

### Administrative

**Minutes:** Les de Asis moved, Bob Miller seconded to approve the minutes of the September 22, 2002 Executive Committee meeting. Passed unanimously.

**Future Meetings:** Physical meeting dates for the year were announced as Thursday, June 12, 2003 at the Renaissance Waverly Hotel in Atlanta, prior to the Blade Show, and Tuesday, September 16, 2003 in Chicago. Conference call meetings will be announced as needed.

**Election:** Bob Miller and Doug Flagg agree to serve as a nominating committee for the June election. Positions open will be President and Vice President/Treasurer. It was noted that the policy is for the vice president to replace the president (who serves a two-year term), however, Les de Asis is filling in as Vice President after Bob Bascom vacated that position.

### Financial

**Current Reports:** The profit and loss comparative statement for 2001 and 2002 through year-end was distributed by email. Jan Billeb reviewed the major items noting; consulting was a new category and the \$2,302.80 included all expenses for the William Stockwell presentation; membership revenue is down slightly (a factor of timing on invoices and payments); she will be making an adjustment from administration for website related expenses.

**Auction Knives:** Dave Kowalski reviewed the mixed success of the auction knives hosted by knifeauctions.net, noting that he is looking for more donations. It was suggested that all buyers be given an AKTI ambassador membership.

### Legislative

**Florida:** Kowalski reported introducing Rick Watson to several AKTI members and other industry people during the SHOT Show. Watson indicates the bill number and bill language is currently being drafted and will be introduced in March or April. Among other support materials, he has obtained a letter of support from the legislator who initially introduced the ballistic knife law with an explanation of original intent. Watson is very optimistic about passage this session. Al Pendray mentioned a website by John Gutmacher who provides current update on Florida law and will forward the website address.

**Model Law Legislation:** Attorney Dan Lawson was included in the meeting by conference call. He explained that he and CJ Buck had reviewed the steps to make law changes and determined that the path of least resistance was to introduce amendments to state laws that define knives. Lawson felt the ideal would be definitions that are so extreme that they have no significant application or impact. It was mentioned that modifications by amendment should include minimum blade length definitions as well as maximum. Once some states are using the definitions, the American Law Institute would be more inclined to endorse it. The possibility of amendments in the states of Idaho, due to Buck's upcoming

move, and Pennsylvania were discussed. It was noted that Vermont has no prohibitions regarding guns and knives.

Lawson has been in contact with Chris Conte of the NRA-ILA who believes the NRA should not limit itself to firearms based on its mission. Conte is interested in AKTI's efforts (and is on Kowalski's email contact list). Discussion followed on possible ramifications of involvement with the NRA.

Lawson is looking for any additional feedback to the current draft of the "Statement of Policy as to the Legislation Regarding Knives." Jan Billeb will redistribute it.

**FAA Update:** Dave Kowalski stated there was nothing new to report since the update emailed prior to the SHOT Show. He will include an update in the pre-Blade Show newsletter. Discussion followed on including this information on AKTI's website with links to the FAA and TSA sites. It was suggested that the information should be more condensed. Discussion followed on the question of AKTI proposing to the FAA that knives under a certain length be allowed back in carry-on luggage. No action taken.

**Kershaw Michigan Issue:** Doug Flagg reported on the problem of Kershaw spring-assisted opening knives being taken from Walmart store shelves and the successful resolution of the case.

**StateNet Report:** Kowalski indicated there were no new state laws of consequence introduced to bring to the attention of the Executive Committee.

#### **Membership - Gardiner, Chair**

**Memberships:** Dave Kowalski reported on the contacts he made at SHOT Show, distributing a summary of his conversations with prospective members. He expects 3-4 new premier members as a result of these contacts. Bob Miller requested a list of current members and asked about a regular updating of who is an AKTI member to aid in recruiting.

**Dealer Recruitment Plan:** Bob Miller explained the dealer recruitment plan that he and Les Edelstein are developing. They will do a personal letter to their dealers and retail stores on AKTI letterhead as an appeal to join at the \$50 level. The letter will be followed up with a phone call. Those joining from this offer will receive a "member/supporter" window decal and a coupon of \$25 in AKTI "\$\$" to be used at Procut or Moteng. Kershaw and Buck offered to honor the AKTI \$\$ as well. Jan Billeb will email the Executive Committee to see who else may be interested in being listed on the coupon and will coordinate the logistics of the plan with Miller and Edelstein.

#### **White Papers – Kowalski**

**Knife Naming:** Kowalski reviewed the white paper he prepared on knife naming and that it stresses names should reinforce knives as tools and enhance the image of the industry. It was suggested AKTI provide a source list of trademarks. CJ Buck noted that AEPMA is currently doing that, but that it might only include members.

**Measuring knives:** Discussion followed on the white paper on measuring knives and differences with fixed and folding knives. It was suggested that opinions be obtained from state attorneys general and Judge Lowell Bray. Kowalski will collect attorney's general opinions and forward to board for further action prior to or at 2003 Blade Show. Jack Igarashi volunteered to obtain the Japanese standard. Once approved, these papers would go on website and could be provided to knife clubs from AKTI for use in their newsletters.

#### **Publicity - Kowalski, Chair**

Kowalski detailed the newsletter schedule: a March newsletter, pre-Blade show to include FAA update, fall newsletter and another pre-SHOT Show newsletter.

Members were reminded to link from their websites to AKTI's website and to include the AKTI member logo on their catalogs and other promotional publications or ads.

CJ Buck asked for a volunteer to take over moderating the AKTI bladeforum and knifeforum discussions. With no one interested in this responsibility, Dave Kowalski agreed to follow it more

closely. It was suggested that the how to measure a knife blade might be a topic for additional discussion on the forums.

**Education** – de Asis, Jones

Jan Billeb and Les de Asis reported on the Education Committee meeting with Deb Garvick. The committee has mailed letters to a list of 58 knife clubs soliciting information or resources for AKTI's website. The committee will be following up with telephone calls and offers to send the safety pamphlet. The safety pamphlet will be mailed free of charge. Mike Jones is working on a workplace safety pamphlet and will be getting diagrams done.

Mike Jones moved, Al Pendray seconded to adjourn at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Billeb  
AKTI Executive Director