

# **AMERICAN KNIFE AND TOOL INSTITUTE**

Minutes of the Board of Regents Meeting

May 31 and June 1, 2000

Renaissance Waverly Hotel, Atlanta, GA

Wednesday, May 31, 2000 Meeting was called to order approximately 1:30 p.m. by president Les de Asis. Meeting was recessed at approximate 5:30 p.m. and reconvened Thursday morning at 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. for the Advisory Board meeting and then reconvened at 3 p.m. until 4 p.m. Present included Regents Sal Glesser, CJ Buck, Wally Gardiner and Jan Billeb, Executive Director. Thursday morning present included: the above plus A.G. Russell and Thursday afternoon D' Holder and attorney Dan Lawson.

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

## **Financial Update - Buck**

CJ Buck distributed the financial reports for the fiscal period ending May 31, 2000. Current checking account balance is \$35,778.61. The main expense increase was for legislative advocacy which is \$4,000 per month. Regent dues outstanding for 2000 include Spyderco. Gerber will be paying \$7500 for 2000, and Les Edelstein of Moteng will pay \$5000 for advisory board dues.

## **Advisory Board**

Les de Asis announced Al Pendray will sit on the advisory board meeting for the Knifemakers, and Doug Flagg of Kershaw and Les Edelstein of Moteng were expected to attend. Wally emphasized that AKTI should pursue an advisory board of about 20 people to focus on fund raising and recruitment. The following agenda was developed.

### **Agenda Board Meeting**

- I. Introduction of AKTI - history - 4 goals
- II. Committee Overview
  - Legislative
  - Education
  - Publicity
  - Membership
- III. Commitment
- IV. Q&A

## **Administration**

Wally Gardiner moved and Sal Glesser seconded to approve the minutes from the February 16 and 17 meeting and the May 12, 2000. Carried unanimously.

Jan Billeb distributed the new contact list and a letter provided to the accounting firm describing AKTI accounting procedures.

AG Russell was thanked for his offer to let AKTI use his server. Jan reported that she is working with AG's son AG IV and that the switch is almost ready.

The next board meeting will be held September 27 and 28 in Dallas, preferably at an airport hotel. Wednesday the meeting will begin at 1 p.m. and will end by 1 p.m. on Thursday.

## **Education Committee - Holder**

Gardiner reported that Schrade wrote the safety pamphlet based on their "First Knife"

pamphlet, D'Holder edited it and returned it to Gardiner at the meeting. Schrade will set up the pamphlet to look consistent with the knife law pamphlet. AKTI will print the publication. Glesser suggested the booklet should be bi-lingual and Jan will pursue this after getting a copy from Schrade.

### **Publicity Committee - Glesser**

The two applicants (Ken Delavigne and Bob Galvin) for the communications positions were discussed. It was decided to contract each to develop a plan for publicizing the California situation. Buck will develop a summary to provide them. One phase of the plan will be using the information for the lead story in the next newsletter. A possible two week deadline for developing a plan was discussed. The problem with specific titles was considered and "Communications Coordinator" was selected.

Glesser stressed that AKTI needs to develop answers to specific direct questions such as "where does AKTI stand on self defense?"

### **Membership Committee - Gardiner**

Gardiner announced that the information he had through Holder was that the Knivemakers Guild would join as they did last year. AG Russell proposed that he include an AKTI appeal in his catalog of about 700,000 to 1 million going out mid August through January that would allow members to add membership to their order. Buck moved, Gardiner seconded to accept AG's offer an discount those Ambassador memberships to \$25.00. Passed unanimously. Jan will work out the details with Goldie Russell.

Sal Glesser offered to talk to Microtech again about membership. Buck explained how the Heritage Foundation has rep organizations contribute a percentage of sales. Gardiner suggested manufacturers somehow involving custom collaborators about involvement in AKTI.

Suppliers were mentioned again as possible supporters included Siellman, Berger, and steel companies.

Gardiner asked each board member to commit to generating \$10,000 from new members.

### **Next Newsletter**

The next newsletter will be developed after an article is available about the California situation.

### **Legislative Committee - Buck**

CJ Buck reported on the California situation, the meeting attended by him, Les de Asis and Bob Miller, and the results of the Ventura survey. Gardiner moved, Glesser seconded to approve the law wording suggested as written by Lisa. Passed unanimously.

The model law statement draft by Dan Lawson was discussed. Glesser suggested it might need to address skill level required or some type of manufacturing logic. Lawson was thanked for his efforts. Each regent agreed to review it and forward comments in the next thirty days.

Les de Asis gave brief update of the presentation to Congresswoman Hooley. He showed examples of what can be found on the web for background information. He plans to make notes of things to say and not say - i.e., "stupid" laws.

Gardiner announced he has appointment with New York congressmen on June 15<sup>th</sup> and will give an AKTI presentation

Gardiner offered recommendations for presentations: (1) if HUD is involved they use a 9.2 percentage for what an employee is worth to the community; (2) if HUD wants to visit suggest you have area representative included as a buffer; (3) be sure presentation is well prepared and air tight.

It was agreed the knife law pamphlet would be sent to current members and all new ones. Les de Asis will develop a cover letter to send to organizations. It was decided to charge \$1 per pamphlet to include postage and handling. The .pdf file will be kept on the web site. It was suggested one task of the advisory board could be to discuss what we are going to do with law pamphlet.

Gardiner suggested before the next meeting that each regent check out laws in their home state including definitions and the number of actions using different types of laws to check frequency of prosecutions based on possession. Buck will add possession to the Statenet categories.

Glesser moved, Buck seconded to adjourn the meeting 4 p.m. Thursday.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Billeb, Executive Director  
American Knife and Tool Institute