

# **American Knife & Tool Institute**

## **Board of Directors Meeting**

August 31, 2005 - Teleconference Call 1 p.m. EDT

The Board of Directors teleconference meeting of the American Knife and Tool Institute on Wednesday, August 31, 2005, was called to order at 1:40 p.m. EDT by AKTI Executive Director Jan Billeb. Regents present: Les de Asis (Benchmade), Jeff Goddard (Kershaw), by Proxy: Tom Arrowsmith (W.R. Case), AKTI President Mike Jones (Gerber). Others present: David Kowalski, Communications Coordinator; Dan Lawson, Attorney. Regents absent: A. G. Russell and Goldie Russell (A.G. Russell Knives), CJ Buck (Buck Knives), Eugene Shadley (Knifemakers Guild).

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

Jan Billeb extended Mike Jones' apologies for not attending due to an emergency trip. She noted for the record that she held a proxy to vote for Regents Mike Jones and Tom Arrowsmith.

Jan Billeb reported that on review of the bylaws a vote to waive written 30-day notice of meeting was required only on Annual Meetings, not Board of Regents' meetings, and that the purpose of the teleconference was to appoint a Vice President/Secretary by the Board of Regents per AKTI Bylaw 6 for the remainder of the term.

### **Vice President/Secretary**

After the nomination for the position of Vice President/ Secretary was respectfully declined by Tom Arrowsmith, David Kowalski conducted an inquiry to find a member of either the Board of Regents or Executive Committee, per Executive Committee policy, willing to accept the nomination. Kowalski reported that David Hall of United Cutlery agreed to accept the position, if nominated. Kowalski noted that while David Hall had not personally attended Executive Committee Meetings, United has been a strong AKTI supporter and his representatives R. C. Crisp and Deb Garvick and email communications had kept him apprised of all AKTI business on a regular basis. Les de Asis moved, Jeff Goddard seconded to nominate David Hall as AKTI's Vice President/ Secretary. Carried unanimously.

### **Blade Show West**

Discussion followed on AKTI representation at the Blade Show West in Portland on August 30-September 2nd. Kowalski noted that Krause was willing to provide a table inside the show for AKTI at no cost, that this would provide an opportunity to distribute the new knife definitions and of meeting additional industry people. It was agreed that Jan Billeb would attend Blade Show West on AKTI's behalf.

### **Vote on "Suggested Standard Definitions - Knives"**

Jan Billeb reported on the outcome of the vote on approval of the definitions as revised since the Blade Show meeting, noting one negative vote from NICA accompanied by a letter of concern. David Kowalski reviewed his conversation with NICA president Carl George and NICA executive director Brian Swanson, noting that they had no objection to the definitions, but concern over planned distribution.

Further, Jan Billeb reviewed Tom Arrowsmith's reserved yes vote contingent on the removal of the following paragraph ... "Those teenagers of the 'switchblade generation' are people now moving into the roles of social security recipients. The unnecessary and ill-conceived switchblade "Disarming Acts"

including the federal legislation, should be repealed.” She explained that Arrowsmith’s objection to that paragraph was very legitimate as no separate discussion or voting had occurred to discuss or change AKTI’s policy or position regarding the repeal of switchblade laws. Discussion followed that this was such an important issue for AKTI that it should require a separate discussion. Dan Lawson as author agreed that the paragraph should be withdrawn. It was agreed to remove the paragraph and that the definitions were officially approved.

### **AKTI Proposed TSA Letter**

David Kowalski reported he has received quite a bit of feedback via email on the proposed letter. Discussion followed on the advisability or political merits of referring to a knife size. Dan Lawson noted that whatever the TSA did would certainly include a defined size and that it would be better if AKTI made the size suggestion and encouraged using the measuring protocol. After discussion it was agreed that experience has shown a size of 4" blade acceptable to the public for most uses. Dan Lawson and David Kowalski will finalize the content of the letter to be mailed out over signatures of Mike Jones as AKTI President and Jan Billeb as Executive Director.

### **Other**

Jeff Goddard offered (for AKTI’s use and distribution) information he was forwarding about positive rulings in Texas about assisted-opening knives not being switchblades.

Les de Asis moved, Jeff Goddard seconded to adjourn at 2:00 p.m. EDT

Respectfully submitted,  
Jan Billeb, AKTI Executive Director