

American Knife & Tool Institute

Special Board of Regents Meeting

Thursday September 10, 2009

General Teleconference

An AKTI Executive Committee conference call was called at 1 p.m. CDT by AKTI President Goldie Russell prior to a special Board of Regents meeting.

AKTI Board of Regents: AKTI President Goldie Russell (A.G. Russell Knives), CJ Buck (Buck Knives), Craig Green (Kershaw Knives) and AKTI Vice President Bill Raczkowski and Tom Genereaux (Gerber), Rod and Peggy Bremer (Columbia River Knife & Tool). Regents absent: Les de Asis proxy to Goldie Russell (Benchmade), Gil Hibben (Knifemakers Guild)

AKTI Advisory Members: Bob Breton (Ontario/Queen), Morgan Taylor (Taylor Brands), Howard Fox, Clint Kadel (United Brands), John Belniak (SOG)

Others Present: David Kowalski, AKTI Communications Coordinator, and Jan Billeb, AKTI Executive Director.

1) **Update on D.C. Fly-in Wednesday September 16th.** Jan Billeb listed those planning to attend: Goldie Russell, David Kowalski, John Belniak, Mike Manrose, Rod and Peggy Bremer and Jan Billeb. The group held a conference call on Wednesday September 9th with Nicole Bivens Collinson. The plan for the fly-in day will be that as a group with the other organizations (NRA, Congressional Sportsman's Foundation, Knife Rights) to meet with House staff and/or congressmen to encourage inclusion of the amendment. If the conference has already completed work, the opportunity will be used to thank individual congressional offices for their support. This could be crucial should the bill not pass and another vehicle have to be found to introduce the amendment wording.

2) **Approval of payment of ST&R Billing.** Jan Billeb reported that legal expenses to date including Dan Lawson's firm and an outstanding invoice from ST&R waiting on adjustments are just under \$50,000. The addition of \$5,362.50 (which was billed to Columbia River Knife & Tool for 6/3 and 6/4 related to ATKI but prior to the official retaining of ST&R) would bring the total U.S. Customs legal expense to approximately \$54,644. Bill Raczkowski moved to authorize payment of the \$5,362.50 charges, seconded by CJ Buck. Rod Bremer abstained. Motion carried unanimously.

3) **Continuation of legislative contract with ST&R.** Jan Billeb summarized that the initial proposal from ST&R for legislative services was for 6 months at \$25,000 per month. She negotiated a contract for 2 months at \$20,000 per month and that contract expired August 15th. The total paid ST&R including expenses so far is \$41,276.51. Since we are already going on the second month (August 15-October 15th), that brings legislative fees to about \$82,000. Nicole Bivens Collinson has presented a proposal of \$20,000 per month from August 15 – March 15 (7 months) after being told that AKTI would not consider any form of "success fee." After discussion it was agreed that Goldie Russell and Jan Billeb would meet in D.C. with Nicole Bivens Collinson and work to negotiate an agreement for two months with a renewal every 30 days.

Meeting adjourned approximately 1:25 p.m.

AKTI Board of Regents Meeting

AKTI President Goldie Russell (A.G. Russell Knives) called to order the Board of Regents meeting of the American Knife & Tool Institute at 1:40 p.m. CDT, Thursday, September 10, 2009. Other Regents present: CJ Buck (Buck Knives), Craig Green (Kershaw Knives) and Bill Raczkowski (Gerber). Regent absent: Gil Hibben (Knifemakers Guild), Les de Asis (Benchmade)(proxy to Goldie Russell). Others present: David Kowalski, AKTI Communications Coordinator, and Jan Billeb, AKTI Executive Director.

Purpose of Meeting: To discuss expansion of the Board of Regents from seven members and vote regarding United Brands as a Regent.

Goldie Russell reviewed that the Bylaws currently are flexible and do not limit the number of Board of Regents beyond the original seven. She expressed concern that the current Board of Regents needs to seriously review the Bylaws for possible revisions. Wording has been developed to change the Bylaw to allow nine Regents, but with the time needed on the U.S. Customs' issue it has not been finalized to present to the Board for consideration.

Discussion followed on having an even number of board members, how large the board could be and continue to function effectively, possible companies to invite to increase their responsibility to the industry by being on the board, and the need for a board policy manual.

Goldie Russell moved to increase the Board of Regents to 9 members and accept United Brands as a Regent. Motion seconded by CJ Buck and carried unanimously. Goldie Russell will call and welcome United as a Regent.

CJ Buck moved to adjourn, seconded by Rod Bremer. President Goldie Russell called the meeting adjourned approximately 2:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Billeb
AKTI Executive Director