

American Knife & Tool Institute, Inc.
Board of Regents Meeting
Tuesday, March 30, 2021

The Board of Regents (BOR) meeting of the American Knife & Tool Institute on Tuesday, March 30, 2021, was called to order at 11:33 am Eastern time via Zoom by AKTI President John Sullivan (W. R. Case). Regents present: Jon deAsis (Benchmade)-got disconnected, Kurt Ronacher (Boker) AKTI Vice President, CJ Buck (Buck Knives), Eric Moore (Gerber), Mark Schreiber (CRKT) and Doug Lauer (SOG)-left at 12:15 pm. Regents absent: Curtis Smith (AOB) and Ken Trbovich (Ontario). There was a quorum present. Others present: Jan Billeb, AKTI Executive Director

Administrative – Jan Billeb, Executive Director

CJ Buck moved, Kurt Ronacher seconded, to approve the minutes of the meetings on January 22, 2021, and March 1, 2021. The motion was adopted.

Jan Billeb reported that the new membership online database system is installed, working well, and offers recurring payments. She still needs to set up part of the renewal notices system. Jan will send the board members information on logging into the website's board section where she has uploaded the most recent board information, including minutes and key documents.

Finance Committee – Kurt Ronacher, Chair

Kurt Ronacher noted that the third-quarter financial report would be emailed in April.

After discussion, Kurt Ronacher moved to approve continuation of the Directors and Officers Liability Insurance policy with Affinity Nonprofits, seconded by CJ Buck. The motion was adopted.

Membership Committee - John Sullivan, Kurt Ronacher, Co-Chairs

Jan Billeb reported that Al Mar Knives had joined at the \$600 level and Cobratec Knives at \$2500 (on monthly payments).

John Sullivan moved to reduce the Life Membership dues to \$750 from \$1000 with the option to make payments. The motion was seconded by Eric Moore and adopted.

Blade Show Plans

After discussion of the uncertainty of attendance by exhibitors and attendees at the Blade Show in June and reviewing the Renaissance Waverly's policies regarding events, as well as all related costs, it was decided:

- No special AKTI event will be held.
- Jan Billeb will not attend.
- CRKT will send the AKTI booth, and board members will set it up and plan to staff it as available.
- The annual membership meeting will be canceled.
- The Board Regents and Advisory Members meeting will be scheduled by Zoom sometime June 22-24.
- A tribute to Les de Asis will be discussed later.

Fundraising Committee – Mark Schreiber & Curtis Smith, Co-Chairs

Mark Schreiber reported that this year's Free to Carry online auction will be scheduled again sometime in August, but it will go over fewer days. He already has three knifemakers committed and believes that the August timing works better for the makers.

Industry Support Committee – Mark Schreiber, Chair

Mark Schreiber noted that the Industry Support Committee continues to share information about counterfeiters. AKTI submitted a request on behalf of the industry to withdraw proposed changes to California's Proposition 65, although not with much optimism that it would happen.

Marketing Committee – Curtis Smith, Chair

There was no additional marketing report to share since the March 1, 2021, board meeting.

Legislative Committee – CJ Buck, Chair

CJ Buck had no additional update on legislative initiatives since the recap that was emailed to the board of the committee's meeting on March 16.

John Sullivan noted he was planning a meeting with Rep. Marty Causer to discuss Pennsylvania knife law changes.

Other Business

Election of Officers - Mark Schreiber agreed to accept nomination for vice president, provided someone will step up to co-chair the Free to Carry event next year.

The meeting adjourned at 12:20 pm Eastern time.

Respectfully submitted,



Jan Billeb
AKTI Executive Director