

**American Knife & Tool Institute**  
**Recap of Conference Call – Board of Regents**  
Tuesday, December 21, 2010 at 3:00 p.m. CST

Present on the conference call: AKTI President Goldie Russell (A.G. Russell Knives), CJ Buck (Buck Knives), AKTI Vice President Bill Raczkowski (Gerber), Rod Bremer (CRKT), Mike Manrose (Meyerco), Chris Keller for Clint Kadel (United) and Craig Green (Kershaw). Others: Dan Lawson, AKTI Executive Director Jan Billeb. Regents Absent: Gil Hibben (Knifemakers Guild), Les de Asis (Benchmade)-proxy to Goldie Russell.

Membership Rep Recruitment

Bill Raczkowski praised those that had signed up rep groups so far including Buck and Gerber. Rod Bremer reported CRKT would launch a formal program at the SHOT Show requiring a \$1,000 membership with incentives to solicit distributors and dealers as AKTI members. Mike Manrose said Meyerco has a program in place to start January 1<sup>st</sup>, and Craig Green agreed Kershaw would commit to a SHOT Show plan. The concept continues to be to encourage rep organizations to be \$1,000/yr platinum associates. It was agreed Bill and Jan Billeb would work on a revised form that provides a payment plan option monthly and quarterly and allow everyone to get commitments while meeting with representatives in person.

Legislative Update

(1) New York City situation - CJ Buck summarized the Legislative Committee's recent conference call. Based on the recent election and confusion in New York legislature, lobbyist contacts and the NY Legal Aid Society it was recommended that the New York initiative become a two-year process, using 2011 to lay additional groundwork to get legislative and other organizations' support, raise funds to pay lobbying expenses, and introduce legislation in 2012. CJ agreed to work on a draft of the public relations response for not taking immediate action so a press release can be available for members in their booths at SHOT.

(2) Other state options – Dan Lawson reviewed possible other states to tackle concurrently while working on New York including:

WA – continue monitoring and being reactive to recently introduced restrictive WA bill with possible AKTI letter and grassroots notice.

MI – (which over the years has had several inquiries regarding issues) – possible change to (a) MI's folding knife law and add bias toward closure language and (b) revision to fixed blade law.

PA – possibly introduce law to repeal switchblade restrictions similar to 2009 NH change initiated by Rep. Jenn Coffey. CJ met PA State Rep. Marc Gergley who is enthusiastic to support an AKTI initiative and hopefully no lobbyist would be necessary.

The Legislative Committee will provide more information so the BOR can make a decision at the SHOT Show meeting.

(3) CJ reported he has an advocacy proposal from John Larkin, CT-DC lobbyist, who could be instrumental in getting legislative supporters and save lobbying expenses. Initial proposal is \$1,250/month. The Legislative Committee will review the proposal with the Executive Committee to make a recommendation.

(4) CJ strongly recommends that AKTI become a member of NASC (National Assembly of Sportsmen's Caucuses) at the \$5,000 level and the Governors Sportmen's Caucus Council at the \$1,000 level. Buck is a member of the Congressional Sportmen's Foundation and will represent AKTI there. Gerber is considering a NASC membership. This topic will be added to the SHOT Show meeting agenda.

SHOT Show Meeting

The SHOT Show meeting will be a combination Board of Regents and Advisory Members meeting on Monday, January 17<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. at Bally's in Palace 1.

It was agreed to not consider an industry meeting inviting other members at this time.