

# **Forest Fire Lookout Association Annual Board of Directors Meeting January 14, 2012 Wiggins, Mississippi**

## **Call to Order:**

The 2012 FFLA Annual Board Meeting was called to order at 8:20 AM at the Southeastern District Office of the Mississippi Forestry Commission by Keith Argow, FFLA Chairman of the Board.

## **Attendance:**

Executive Committee:

Chairman – Keith Argow  
Treasurer – Gary Weber

Directors/Representatives:

New Jersey Co-Director (Assistant Secretary) – Ray Grimes  
Arkansas Director – Smoke Pfeiffer  
Mississippi Representative – M.T. Parker

Member:

Maria Schleidt, Arkansas

## **Agenda:**

Chairman Argow presented the agenda for the day, asked for additional items.

## **Minutes:**

The minutes of the annual board meeting on January 15, 2011 at Macon, GA were approved as distributed. The minutes of the western summer board meeting at Mt. Hood, OR, including the first reading of the bylaw revisions were approved as distributed.

## **Summary of 2011 Executive Committee Actions:**

1. Decision to proceed with the approval process for the 2011 bylaw revisions. Approved.

## **Certification of 2012 Election:**

Chairman Argow appointed Maria Schleidt as Chair of the Tellers Committee. After verifying and tallying the ballot details received from Election Chair Hoeye, plus the hand carried ballots, she reported the full slate was elected for the 2012-2013 term. Chairman: Argow, Treasurer: Weber, and Eastern Deputy Chair: Barr.

## **Final Approval and Certification of 2011 Bylaw Revisions:**

Chairman Argow presented a request by Southern New England Director Isenberg to delay final reading of the bylaw revisions until he could study them, including reasons why Isenberg had not seen the call for voting for the first reading or the article on the revisions in the Autumn 2011 issue of Lookout Network Magazine. After discussion, the Board affirmed the responsibility of Directors to exercise their duties and found the procedure and timeline for approving the 2011 revisions to be reasonable. The decision was to proceed with the second and final reading of the revised bylaws.

A total of 29 bylaw approval votes were received, representing 85% of the Board. All the votes were affirmative, well above the 75% approval rate needed for adoption.

**Action:** Moved by Weber, second by Pfeiffer, to certify the second and final reading and formally adopt the 2011 revision of the FFLA bylaws. Vote was unanimous for approval.

## **Membership Report:**

Weber reported there was a drop of 10 members in 2011. There are 871 paid members of the FFLA as of 12/31/2011.

## **Treasurers Report/Budget:**

The Treasurer's Report by Weber was accepted. Finances for 2011 came in well below budget.

Treasurer Weber proposed the following budget:

<b>2012 FFLA Budget</b>		Proposed
<i>Income</i>		
Balance Forward		\$4880.38
Dues		\$13,000.00
Donations		\$300.00
Chapter Grants/Donations (Pass-Through)		\$5,000.00
Merchandise Sales		\$1,200.00
Interest		\$50.00
	Total	\$24,430.38
<i>Expenses</i>		
LOOKOUT NETWORK		-\$10,000.00
Chapter Distributions		-\$1,800.00
Restoration Grants		-\$2,000.00
Emergency Stabilization Grants		-\$300.00
Chapter Grants/Donations (Pass-Through)		-\$5,000.00
Insurance		-\$1,000.00
Merchandise Purchase		-\$1,000.00
Operations		-\$500.00
Forest History Society Membership		-\$150.00
Website Upgrade		-\$1,500.00
	Total	-\$23,250.00
Year-end Balance		\$1180.38

**Action:** Moved by Weber, seconded by Grimes to approve the proposed 2012 budget. Vote was unanimous for approval.

### **Chapter Reports:**

Nine Annual Chapter Reports for 2011 have been received. Argow again requested the Deputy Chairs be accountable for Annual Reports from 100% of Directors for posting on the FFLA website.

### **Restoration Grant Report:**

There were four restoration grants awarded: Wilton (Cornell Hill)–New York, Stillwater Mountain–New York, Bearwallow Mountain–North Carolina, and Sugar Hill–New York.

### **Lookout Network Magazine:**

Editor Weber reported that printing costs have held steady and does not anticipate significant increases in mailing costs with the new postal rates.

A notice will be posted in the upcoming issue of the option of an electronic copy, either in place of, or in addition to, the printed copy.

## **NHLR – FFLOS Report:**

Chairman Argow reported the National Historic Lookout Register now has 920 listings. Only two new Lookout Stewards were appointed in 2011. It has been determined that Lookout Stewards are not needed for lookouts on the rental program because the agencies have the funding and staff to maintain the sites. Stewards are currently being sought for lookouts in deteriorating condition before they are too far gone to restore.

There are now 1,220 sites on the Former Fire Lookout Sites Register ([www.fflos.com](http://www.fflos.com)), a remarkable increase of 420 sites in one year. Now in its third year, many nominations to FFLOS.com are coming in directly from individuals posting to the website.

## **Old Business:**

**Website Redesign and Update:** Progress was made, but not enough. Weber and Argow were added to the Website Committee to work with Chairman Cobb. Building on recommendations made in 2011, Cobb will proceed with the needed improvements with the goal of completion by April 1.

**Green Mountain Lookout:** Chairman Argow gave an update on Green Mountain Lookout, located on the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. Last year at the annual board meeting in Georgia, the board approved a resolution in support of the U.S. Forest Service's defense against a lawsuit by Wilderness Watch seeking the removal of this historic lookout from designated wilderness. The FFLA then joined with the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Darrington Historical Society in their "friend of the court" petition in support of dismissal. A decision from the Federal District Court is expected in the first quarter of 2012.

**National Forests in Mississippi Fire Towers:** Chairman Argow reported on the meeting he and Weber had with key staff personnel at the F.S. Supervisor's Office on January 13 to continue to the on-going search to preserve all the remaining USFS fire towers in Mississippi. After additional review of the earlier proposal to place them in an LLC with light maintenance provided by FFLA members, this option was determined to not be the best choice. Current attention is to remove the structures from the building working capital fund to a heritage classification, followed by a well-designed mothballing program to maintain them as what they are: Historic Fire Lookout Landmarks. If this approach proves to be feasible, it could become a model to preserve state and federal structures throughout the country.

**Insurance:** Although several serious efforts to locate affordable insurance for FFLA activities were conducted in 2011, none of them were successful. The board will continue this high priority search in 2012.

## **New Business:**

**Appointment of Eastern Deputy Chair:** With the final approval of the 2011 bylaw revision, the Eastern Region is split into a Southern Region and a residual Eastern Region. Peter Barr, re-elected as Eastern Deputy Chairman in the 2012 election, was appointed to lead the southern portion as the newly authorized Southern Deputy Chair. Former Officer Mark Haughwout of Vermont was appointed to serve as the Eastern Deputy Chair for the new Eastern Region.

**NHLR Certificates:** Argow again gave thanks for the excellent support from the FFLA Directors who also serve as State Registrars for the National Historic Lookout Register. Their name and signature also appears on each of the site certificates. Effective now, there is an option for them to provide an electronic signature, which will be included when the certificates are printed. This will also provide the additional option of mailing the certificates to the owners/managers of the lookout at the time they are approved for listing, which will reduce the time it takes to either present or personally deliver the certificates. Now that the program is well known, the significance of the presentation ceremonies is less necessary. However, it is still an option to consider, especially with well-known historic sites that have undergone extensive restoration. The re-dedication of Kelly Butte Lookout in August 2011 by the Western Washington Chapter and their partners is an example of a successful lookout restoration program and ceremony.

**2012 Regional Conferences:** Western Conference: Boyds, WA (northeastern Washington near Kettle Falls) September 21-23. No dates for Eastern or Southern conferences have been set.

**2013 Annual Board Meeting:** Set for January 19, 2013 at a location in a western state where there is a minimal risk of winter weather travel delays.

## **Adjournment:**

There being no further business, Chairman Argow adjourned the 2012 FFLA Annual Board of Directors Meeting at 11:50 AM.

/s/ Ray Grimes, Assistant Secretary