

FFLA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
FFLA WESTERN CONFERENCE, BOYDS, WA

September 21, 2012

The Summer Meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order at 7:45 PM September 21 by Chairman Keith Argow at the KP Cabin. Officers and Directors present were Chairman: Keith Argow; Western Deputy Chair: Dave Bula; Treasurer/Editor/N.ID-MT: Gary Weber; E-WA: Rod Fosback; W-WA: Forrest Clark; OR: Howard Verschoor; S-CA: Pam & George Morey; NM: Mark Gutzman; CO/UT: Kent Argow; WY Big Horn Chapter: Buddy Washington; and Co-NJ: Ray Grimes.

Actions:

Approval of Minutes of 2012 Winter Board Meeting:

Chairman Argow requested review and approval of the minutes from the Jan 2012 Board meeting in Mississippi as previously distributed. Gary Weber moved and Pam Morey seconded; approved by a unanimous vote.

Reports:

Membership and Treasurer:

Weber reported that cash flow is steady and within budget. The membership is static in the 900-area, with losses offset by new memberships. Gary reported that several members had passed away.

Old Business:

Insurance:

We still have not been able to find a policy although it has been shopped by brokers in several states. There was discussion about the amount of money now being spent on event insurance for recent conferences (between \$100 to \$500). There was nothing settled but more research is needed to find an insurance company that will insure the FFLA for the year with a premium that is not an outrageous amount. Buddy Washington stated that the Big Horn chapter did get insurance for their chapter's activities (chapter only) in the continental U.S. for about \$500/yr. Several directors said they would continue the search of a nationwide insurance plan.

New Business:

Winter 2013 Board Meeting:

Weber expressed the concern that very few directors are attending our winter meeting that is required to be held by the Bylaws. After discussion the Board decided to try a meeting with group telephone hookup. Action: Moved by Gutzman, seconded by Bula to hold a "virtual" meeting on January 19, 2013; approved unanimously. (It was later determined that for several purposes, a physical meeting location was still needed, it will be at the Florida Division of Forestry Withlacoochee Forest Center at Brooksville, FL with a telephone hookup for those not able to attend in person. The phone number is (530) 881-1200, when prompted enter: 938814#).

Discussion on recruitment of members, retention, and getting them involved in FFLA:

- 1-Not all new members have similar interests. Some are happy to only receive the magazine, while others are willing, and wanting, to get involved and help on lookout restoration projects.
- 2-Age Class Distribution: The median age of our members is above 50. We do not have many members that are 25 and younger.
- 3- Welcome of New Members: There is no good procedure by most directors to welcome new members and attempt to find out who they are and what their interests are. There is a concern that some new members don't get any encouragement except the magazine. One suggestion for consideration was to appoint a Welcome Committee to develop procedures for each director to get involved with new members

in their chapter. (Currently a generic "welcome" letter is sent by Treasurer Weber when new memberships are received).

4- Redesign of Website: It was noted that the website need to be made more user-friendly, so people who want to join have the option of doing everything online. Webmaster Cobb is working on updating the site; when completed, it will have an entirely different look. (Note: the newly formatted website design went "live" on January 8, 2013).

Distribution of FFLA and other important records:

Verschuur asked about records from lookouts that he had acquired from a few national forests. Argow advised that FFLA records should be forwarded to the Forest History Society in North Carolina, the official archive of FFLA. Forest Service records (which those in question are) could go to the National Museum of Forest Service History in Missoula, MT.

Adjournment:

Moved by Clark, seconded by Bula; Adjourned at 9:30 PM.

/s/ Ray Grimes
Assistant Secretary