

FFLA Western Conference

Board Meeting

September 14, 2018

The Board Meeting was held on Friday evening at the Community Center in Packwood, WA

The Board meeting was called to order at 1934

Present: Directors EWA-Rod Fosback, WWA-Forrest Clark, NID/MT-Gary Weber, OR-Howard Verschoor, CA/North-Kyle Stetler, CA/Pacific-Bill Ulmer, CA/South-Scott McClintock, Secretary/NJ Co-Ray Grimes Jr., Election Chair-Rob Hoeye, Guests Chad Kinzel and Michael Guerin.

On speaker phone: Chairman- Keith Argow

The meeting began with Keith presenting his 10 points, listed below

1. We MUST get results from our new Task Force. This will require the input of many. Please respond to Kyle Stetler when he makes a request or calls for volunteers. A goal is to empower more volunteers to get involved in assigned tasks. (i.e. Posting pictures of lookouts on NHLR.org and FFLOS.org)
2. EARLY DETECTION is our most visible benefit to agencies owning a managing lookouts. My inquiry to all Directors this spring about www.firstreport.com drew very little response. I suspect that it is seen as more work for Directors with vague results. You are probably right, but something must be done to show value from FFLA besides restorations and lookout history. I renewed it as my expense just in case we do want to follow this track. If we have a documented record of first reports as filed by the observer at the time of calling the fire in, we will be in a stronger position to confirm the value staffed lookouts.
3. CAMERAS. As they get better we are going to see more to see more of them. Right now they are still largely in trial with the lookouts maintained FOR THE TIME BEING. We need to study this carefully. There is opportunity here. Reports for ODF staff in Oregon in 2018 are quite favorable for cameras.
4. HISTORY. There are new publications about lookouts by authors that take took pictures, tell good stories, but who obviously have not be able to find good history, and they just wing it. This does FFLA no good. I suggest we find a competent Internet researched in EVERY CHAPTER.
5. SOCIAL MEDIA. We have several chapters with active social media sites. If they are anything like Howard Verschoor's Oregon site, they are a rich source of interest, potential volunteers, pictures, and historical information.
6. INTERNET. We have an fine Internet presence: ffla.org; nhlr.org; fflos.com; rentallookout.com (currently parked) and more. We truly need more assistant webmasters to keep this site alive, relevant, and known to at least a million people.
7. ANSWERMAN. The FFLA Answerman is working, but not working as efficiently, and accurately, as it must. Too many calls are answered by me (which is fine, because I enjoy it) BUT I am too

busy to deliver the immediate responses often demanded by the media, AND these immediate responses are essential in my opinion.

8. MOUs. As FFLA becomes more assertive, and we must, signed Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) will greatly improve the chances of success with our offers and requests. An MOU with the U.S. Forest Service has been more time consuming than I imagined, but should occur in 2019. Once this is done we can proceed with the State Foresters and USDI.
9. GRANT WRITER. We need to locate an experienced Grant Writer for chapters and local chapters with program and restoration plans. Ideally this will be no cost, but we may have to pay for it.
10. LOOKOUT HOSTS/OBSERVERS. Our best continuing and visible service of FFLA/Promote Lookout Host programs with local chapters AND with conservation organizations similar to Southern California Mountains Foundation and the Everett Mountaineers.

After discussion of retiring Historian Bob Spear and Chad Kinzel's interest in the position, Keith asked if a nomination had been made. Bill Ulmer moved, seconded by Rob Hoeye to nominate Chad for the Historian position.

Kyle Stetler reported on his FFLA Leadership and Growth Task Force working paper. His report was in the Lookout Network Vol.29 No.1 Spring 2018 issue.

The last thing for the evening was the question of where the 2019 western conference should be held. There was a discussion among the directors on locations and Gary Weber advised he would talk to Western Deputy Sam Duffey to try to come up with a location.

Gary advised that he would talk to Keith to determine a physical location for the 2019 Board meeting conference call.

Forrest Clark made the motion, seconded by Kyle Stetler, to adjourn the 2018 western board meeting. The meeting adjourned at 2038.