



OLD ANTARCTIC EXPLORERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

6 November 2016

To: OAEA Membership

Subj: Minutes of the General Membership Meeting at the 2016 OAEA Reunion in Norwich, CT, 12 October 2016

1. Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 9:02am by President Laura Snow.
2. Address of the President: Laura Snow welcomed everyone and introduced the newly elected officers on the OAEA Board of Directors: President-Elect Ed Hamblin, Vice President John Lamont West, Director Rob Buettner (absent), Director Allen Cox (absent), and Director Dave Bresnahan (absent), who was elected to a second term. She reminded everyone that the newly-elected officers will begin their terms of office upon adjournment of this membership meeting.
3. Reading of the minutes. In lieu of reading the Minutes of the previous General Membership meeting, held on November 13, 2014 at the Norfolk Reunion, a motion by Dave Hazard to accept those minutes as distributed to the attendees was seconded and carried by the members.
4. Reports of Officers:
 - A. Treasurer. An estimated FY-2016 Financial Report of the OAEA was presented to the membership by Treasurer Bill Rouzer. The OAEA's projected ending balance is \$63,867 and the overall gain in net worth since last year will be approximately \$1,390. The major sources of income were earnings on the scholarship investment fund, donations, and dues. The major expenses included scholarship awards (\$2,000) and the 2016 election of officers. A motion by Marty Diller to accept the report was carried.
5. Reports of Committees:
 - A. Chairman Dave Hazard presented the Merchandise Committee report:
 - The OAEA provided \$2,000 to start up the Ship's Store in 2010, and he returned \$1,000 of that amount to the General Fund in 2013.
 - As of 10 October 2016, the net value of the Store was approximately \$5,800, including about \$3,800 in inventory and \$2,000 in the checking account. Merchandise sales have been good at this reunion and Dave expects to reimburse the OAEA's General Fund the remaining \$1,000 start-up amount after this reunion.
 - Future purchases of inventory will be funded with profits from merchandise sales. In addition, he hopes to soon donate \$500 to the OAEA Scholarship Program out of Ship's Store profits.
 - A motion by Ed Hamblin to accept this report was seconded and carried by the members.
 - B. Chairman Ed Hamblin presented the Scholarship Committee Report.
 - More than \$16,000 in awards has been disbursed since 2006, and the investment fund now totals over \$34,400.
 - He explained the source of the funds for the annual award, the Committee's procedure for setting the annual award value, and that members should watch the Explorer's Gazette for announcements on when the application period is open for the 2017-18 school year.

Reports of Committees (continued):

- Ed announced that with his new title of OAEA President, he will shortly be turning over the Committee to someone new. But first, he asked for a volunteer from the membership to be on the Committee. Both Judy Boss (2012 tourist cruise; Exeter, RI) and Lisle Rose (DF-II and Dept. of State 1978 visit; Edmonds, WA) stood up and were accepted into the Committee.
- A motion by Dave Hazard to accept this report was seconded and carried by the members.

6. Reports of Special Subjects: none.

7. Unfinished Business: (from 2014 Norfolk General Membership meeting)

A. Schedule OAEA national reunions during (boreal) summer months (during seasons other than the austral summer). Secretary Marty Diller presented the decision by the Board of Directors, which acted on this subject at the First Officers meeting on 11 October.

- The Secretary explained that the 2016 Reunion Committee chose October for the reunion in order to take advantage of lower hotel rates while New England weather is still pleasant, and that the 2018 reunion is planned for May – outside of the austral summer.
- Vice President-Elect John West, who is heading the 2018 reunion, explained that he had coordinated with both the featured guest speaker and the favored hotel to arrive at a date in May for that reunion in San Antonio, TX.
- The Secretary then noted that in accordance with the OAEA By-Laws:
 - (a) The expenses of conducting a reunion are the responsibility of the committee that is hosting the reunion, and
 - (b) Any and all excess reunion funds shall be returned/forwarded to the OAEA.
- Therefore, by financially distancing themselves from the reunion committee, the Association essentially forfeits any say on where or when a reunion may be held. The OAEA is not financially liable for overall reunion expenses, and therefore has no credible input on when or where the reunion will be scheduled to occur.
- The Board voted to defer to the reunion committee's decision on when and where to schedule OAEA national reunions, realizing that the success or failure of the reunion – and whether a reunion committee will have financial success in that venture – may depend on when and where they schedule that reunion.
- A Motion by Johnnie Draughon to approve the Board's decision on this subject was carried by the membership. Item closed.

8. New Business: Laura Snow

A. Location of the 2020 OAEA Reunion. Laura asked if there was anyone present who would volunteer to host the 2020 reunion, but no suggestions or proposals were forthcoming from the members.

- President Snow elected to move on with new business and return to this item following business from the floor.
- Following item #3 in business from the floor (paragraph C, below), member Dewey Painter moved to hold the 2020 OAEA National Reunion in the Jacksonville, FL, area, with the assistance of other members from Jacksonville. The motion was carried unanimously. No other individual or group representative stood up to volunteer to host the 2020 reunion. Item closed.

B. Ratification of Business Conducted at the Officers-Elect meeting. Secretary Diller noted that ratification of business conducted by the newly-elected Board was necessary because that "new body" met yesterday for the convenience of the reunion. Since the officers of the new body have not yet officially begun their terms of office, business conducted by that Board cannot be considered official until it is approved/ratified by the membership.

1. Establishing a subscription payment system for the Explorer's Gazette for members without internet access.

- To reduce OAEA expenses, mailing of the Gazette was terminated in November 2014. However, many members without internet access are willing to pay for the mailing of paper issues of the Gazette.
- Director (and Gazette Editor) Billy-Ace Baker, proposed the establishment of a Gazette subscription service for members willing to pay for it. After discussion, the Board asked Billy-Ace to investigate and report on the costs of printing and mailing a 24-page Gazette, and to report on those cost to the Board within 60 days.
- A Motion by Marty Diller, to approve/ratify the Officers-Elect decision to take further action on approving a subscription service pending the results of B-A's investigation, was carried by the members. Item open; Board of Directors for action.

2. Chapter Coordinator Duties. The recently-appointed Chapter Coordinator, Director Dick Spaulding, asked for clarification on the duties and purpose of the Committee on Chapter Coordination – a Standing Committee defined in the OAEA By-Laws.

Reports of Committees (continued):

- Details on the Board's discussion on this question are found in the minutes of that meeting. A Motion by Dewey Painter, to approve/ratify the Officers-Elect decision to identify regional volunteers to assist the Coordinator in his duties, and to task the By-Laws Committee to amend the By-Laws to clarify and expand on the duties of the Committee on Chapter Coordination, was carried by the members. Item open; Board of Directors for action.

3. Annual Scholarship Awards. In his report, Scholarship Committee Chair Ed Hamblin described his process to determine the annual award amount, which under procedures established in San Diego Resolution 03 uses annual program donations and investment funds in excess of \$25,000 working principal as the source for the annual awards.

- Vice President-Elect John West asked that the cost basis of the Scholarship Fund investment account be protected to maximize future returns on investment of the account. After discussion, VP West proposed to submit a revision to San Diego 03 to protect the cost basis of the investment. The Board agreed to that proposal.
- A Motion by Ed Hamblin, to approve/ratify the Officers-Elect decision to consider a revision to San Diego 03 that will protect the cost basis of the scholarship fund investment, was carried by the members. Item open; Board of Directors for action.

4. OAEA Membership Database files. Membership Database Manager Ed Hamblin described his growing number of plastic bins filled with membership forms that he manages in order to maintain the OAEA membership rolls. To facilitate his duties, he asked that he be allowed to purchase, for the approximate cost of \$500, a suitable file cabinet to hold those forms.

- That request was approved by the Board, and the members voted to approve the purchase of a file cabinet for a cost of approximately \$500. Item closed.

C. Open floor to membership.

1. Reduce cost of OAEA elections. Member Dave Hazard proposed that to save money on the cost of bi-annual elections, the OAEA revise the By-Laws to conduct elections every four years.

- During discussion, it was noted that the 6-year terms of the Treasurer and Directors would need to be extended to reflect the change in term length of the President and Vice President, who are elected every two years.
- By show of hands, the members approved the proposal and the Board is directed to revise the By-Laws to conduct elections every four years if the proposal is found to be feasible and cost effective. Item open; Board of Directors for action.

2. McMurdo Station PM-3A nuclear power plant. Member Jim Kelly addressed the attendees about the Veterans Administration's stance on OAE's medical claims related to possible exposure to radiation due to leaks and malfunctions of the PM-3A nuclear power plant in the 1960s and '70s.

- The VA has now granted service-connected disability to veterans who served in McMurdo, but additional cases will need to be approved by the VA before a precedent is set regarding McMurdo claims. The DAV has advised veterans with similar claims to consult with medical experts in low-level radiation and provide thorough documentation when seeking a service-related medical claim.
- Jim also expressed his disappointment in the lack of OAEA interest in this issue on behalf of its members. He contends that OAEA support of McMurdo veterans at public hearings held by the Veterans' Advisory Board on Dose Reconstruction in 2012-13 would have helped bring more media attention to this issue, and thereby better spread the word to OAEs who may have frequented McMurdo during that period.
- President-Elect Ed Hamblin then urged the attendees to contact him if they have an issue or cause that could be supported by OAEA involvement in the future.

3. Antarctic Biography Form. Member Fred Santino is collecting written histories of OAEA members to compile an "Antarctic history" booklet. He asked attendees to see him after the meeting for more information and to get a form. He intends that the unique experiences of OAEs would be recorded and saved for posterity.

9. Adjourn: There being no further new business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:35am.

SUBMITTED:

Marty Diller

Marty Diller
Secretary

APPROVED:

Ed Hamblin

Ed Hamblin
President