

## NAR Trustee Working Session

June 5, 2024

Session started at 8:03 PM.

Present: John Hochheimer, President; Steve Kristal, Vice President; Mark Wise, Secretary; Kevin Johnson, Treasurer; Andrew Bean; Don Carson; Becky Green; Emi Sears; Lynn Thomas; Jim Wilkerson.

Absent: Jasper Barnett.

Others present: John Thompson, Jerry Kraus.

Todd Schweim, NAR Communications Director, managed the technical aspects of the meeting and provided input as appropriate.

### President's Notes

*American Rocketry Challenge Finals:* Several Board members supported the event on May 19. John said that everything went well, and that the weather cooperated after the rain day. (2024 was the first year in the history of ARC/TARC that the finals had to be delayed until Sunday due to weather.) Planning for the international contest is going well.

*National Sport Launch – West:* John reported that Saturday was a bust due to weather, but that Sunday and Monday were “awesome.” The host Section (San Luis Valley Rocketeers) was very good at assessing last year’s mishaps and reducing risk this year. Event Director Matt Abbey paired younger (age 18-20) members with more experienced people on range duty assignments in order to train them for key positions in the future.

*Insurance:* John is working on an article for the *Electronic Rocketeer* to explain how our insurance works. He noted that the NAR’s insurance protects our members and Sections from liability related to activities by *NAR members only*. Damage caused by a rocket flown by a non-member is that rocketeer’s responsibility, not that of the NAR or our insurer. Steve asked if wider knowledge of this might discourage Sections from allowing non-members to fly at their launches. John acknowledged the possibility but said there was nothing we could do about it.

*Contracts:* Currently, all contracts that the NAR enters into must be signed by the NAR President. John would like to add authorized signers. **Steve moved to add NAR Treasurer Kevin Johnson as an authorized signer for NAR contracts. Lynn seconded. Motion carried 8-0, with Kevin abstaining.**

*NAR Teacher Certification (NarTcert):* Kevin has received two questions from teachers, one regarding the certification process and one regarding the free copy of the *Handbook of Model Rocketry* that is mentioned on the website. Todd thought that he had already removed the reference to the *Handbook* but will check to see if it is still on any other pages on the website.

*NARAM:* A memorial service for Gleda Estes will be held at 7:00 PM on Sunday, August 4 at Estes headquarters in Penrose, Colorado.

*Online Election and Exam Administration:* John noted that Tripoli uses voting software to administer elections and polls and suggested that it might be worth buying for NAR. The cost would be about \$1,500 per year. He also noted that Tripoli is paying Club Express to develop online testing for their

written exams. He thinks that we might be able to get a lower price if NAR and TRA purchase the software jointly.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Kevin reported that the NAR has \$74,358.28 in the Chase general account and \$13,501.41 in the committee checking account.

NAR currently has \$206,388.59 in endowments and \$95,322.30 cash on hand.

NASA has paid us for our support of NASA Student Launch for 2024.

Steve mentioned that he had been talking with Peter Alway regarding NAR selling his publications through NARTS. Peter told Steve that he had never agreed to allow us to sell his books on thumb drive. Steve said that Peter did not seem particularly upset about this issue, but we should make sure he receives the appropriate royalty payments. We need to try to figure out how many copies were sold via thumb drive and compensate Peter appropriately.

### **Miscellaneous**

Don said that Section Activities Chair Chuck Neff expressed his thanks to the NAR for the Galloway Award he received in May.

Mark provided an update on grants and scholarships. Twenty-six members applied for NAR scholarships by the June 1 deadline, the most that Mark had seen in a decade of judging applications. He reported that Claude Maina is stepping down as the chair of the Cannon and Extracurricular Activity Grant committees, and that Katrina Moses will assume those duties. John asked Jim and Mark about an appropriate award for Claude.

Steve is working on a youth protection policy for the NAR. Our organization is fundamentally different in how we relate to youth from 4-H, Civil Air Patrol, Scouting, and other organizations that have detailed youth protection policies. Our consensus is that we do not need insurance (which would be prohibitively expensive), and Steve did not favor requiring background checks. A rule was proposed that rocketeers under 18 must attend NAR events with a guardian or cleared youth group leader. Steve would be happy to draft such a policy for Sections to follow. Don suggested that the policy should be sent to mentors. Jim suggested that we have an attorney and our insurance agent review any draft policy before we publish it.

Steve reported that things are going well with FAI Junior competition. He expects a huge group to attend the flyoffs at NARAM. He added that 16 Juniors have signed up for Scale Altitude and 12 have signed up for Scale.

Emi said that she is working with Andrew and Becky to draft standards for student groups attending launches, to mitigate tension between those groups and Sections when, for example, NASA Student Launch teams show up at launches and put unexpected demands on Section resources.

Todd encouraged everyone to look at the top-level pages of the new website. Board members should be able to log in to start reviewing pages.

Jim said that he has sent proposed policy revisions to John. He added that SLI went well, and that the Spaceport America Cup will take place in a few weeks. He met with Ed LaCroix regarding NSL East and

NARAM-66 and said that planning for those events is off to a good start. NSL East will take place the weekend before Thanksgiving.

Andrew said that he is working on revising the Section Guide. The last revision was released in 2018, and an update is overdue.

Don brought up an ad on the NAR Facebook page for an extremely simple Level 1 kit. Jim expressed concern about the kit because it has aluminum centering rings. John asked Jim and John Thompson to work on a policy regarding the use of metal parts in certification attempts.

The next planning session will take place on July 10, 2024, at 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

Meeting adjourned at 9:42 PM.