

2014

FFLA Western Regional Conference

Board Meeting

The 2014 FFLA Western Conference was held in Darby, Montana at the Darby Community Clubhouse. The board meeting was held on Friday evening, June 27, beginning at 2011.

Board members present

Keith Argow (Chairman/SE U.S.), Howard Verschoor (Western Deputy Chair/Oregon), Gary Weber (Treasurer/North Idaho-Montana), Rod Fosback (Eastern Washington), Buddy Washington (Wyoming), Kent Argow (Colorado-Utah), Mark Gutzman (New Mexico), Ray Grimes (Secretary/co-New Jersey), guest Martin Hochman (California).

The chair asked for any additions or corrections for the January Board Meeting minutes which were posted on the FFLA web site; there were no additions or corrections. A motion was made by Gary Weber and seconded by Buddy Washington to accept the minutes as they were posted on the web site; all were in favor.

An informal report was given by Treasurer Weber. The treasury is at \$39,000+; the National account is at \$19,000+ with the rest of the money residing in the chapter accounts. Gary noted that membership is up since the January board meeting; we were below 900, but are now up around 950 members.

Old Business

Chairman Argow advised that Bill Cobb has finished updating the FFLA web site. Kent Argow noted that we still need an online form for potential members to sign and pay their membership and for members to renew their membership when due. Chairman Argow will talk to Bill Cobb to see if he can put together an online membership page.

Insurance was again a discussion topic with no concrete developments, but Martin Hochman gave Chairman Argow information on the insurance his ham radio club has gotten from the American Radio Relay League. This insurance is used for ham radio clubs all over the country that maintain repeater tower systems; maybe that insurer will be willing to cover FFLA members working on lookouts

New Business

There was a discussion about sub-chapters and that there are groups that are not interested in being a part of the FFLA, but are "friends" of a certain lookout that they help restore or maintain. It was decided that in addition to the list of sub-chapters in LOOKOUT NETWORK, we should move forward with recognizing and listing these other groups and individual lookout stewards.

Chairman Argow would like to put together a framed letter to display in a lookout stating that the FFLA help restore it. It was noted that some USFS ranger districts will allow that. After discussion, it was

decided to see what districts will allow letters to be displayed. The motion was made by Buddy Washington and seconded by Kent Argow to draft a letter that can be displayed in lookouts that the FFLA helped to restore or maintain and leave it up to individual directors to determine where the framed letters can be displayed. All directors present were in favor.

Three locations were proposed for the 2015 Western Conference: Wyoming/Colorado, Oregon – John Day, and Central California – Sierras. After discussion, Howard Verschoor moved, seconded by Buddy Washington, to hold the 2015 Western Conference in California in late September with California-Sierra Nevada Director Chris Fabbro taking the lead, assisted by Northern California Director Vickie Lamoureux and Western Deputy Howard Verschoor. Chairman Argow advised that the 2015 annual board meeting will be another conference call on January 17 (MLK weekend) with the physical location to be hosted by the San Diego-Riverside Chapter in Southern California.

There was discussion about having a bone yard or a list of lookout or fire tower parts where someone could go if looking for a specific part. Rather than trying to collect parts in a single location, it was decided to attempt to develop a list of available parts with locations.

After Howard Verschoor made the motion, seconded by Rod Fosback, with all in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 2147.