

Summer 2016

Western Conference

Board Meeting

The 2016 Western Conference was held at the Grant County Fairgrounds in John Day, Oregon June 10-12. A board meeting with those directors and officers present at the conference was held on Friday evening, June 10, at 1930 hours.

Officers/Directors present: Chairman-Keith Argow, Western Deputy/Oregon-Howard Verschoor, Treasurer/North Idaho-Montana-Gary Weber, Secretary/New Jersey-Ray Grimes, Northern California-Vicki Lamoureux, California Pacific-Bill Ulmer, California Sierra/Nevada-Bill Luedeke, California South Coast-Scott McClintock, Eastern Washington-Rod Fosback, and Western Washington-Forrest Clark.

The first order of business was Chairman Argow asking for a motion to approve the board minutes from the January meeting in Talladega, Alabama. The motion was approved

Treasurer Gary Weber went over the current budget status; all budget items and accounts on track.

Insurance: We finally have it; there will be a yearly budget line item for the premium.

Restoration Grants: We budgeted for five \$500 grants per year; currently we have only issued one grant this year.

Merchandise Sales are looking pretty good at this time.

On-line Membership: This has done very well, far exceeding all expectations, once we got it up and running.

Weber brought up sub chapters and their web sites and what they are posting. The one thing that had been brought to his attention was one sub chapter posting the current pdf version of *Lookout Network* on their site where it is available not only to their members, but also to the public. After discussion, the decision was made to ask the sub-chapter to refrain from posting the current issue on a public site. An older issue will be posted on the FFLA web site to draw people's attention; they can then join the FFLA and receive current issues. It was also suggested to occasionally change the posted issue so there will be different things on the site.

Howard Verschoor requested to be replaced as Western Deputy, due to the time commitment of Answerman duties as well as continuing as Oregon Director. He suggested Western Washington member Rick Eades as a replacement; Chairman Argow appointed Eades to the position; the board members present approved.

Chairman Argow advised that Colorado-Utah Director Kent Argow suggested having Assistant Directors for each chapter. Should something happen to a director, the assistant can step up and continue with activities for that chapter. It will be left up to directors to decide who should be their assistants for their chapter.

Western Washington Director Forrest Clark asked what we can do to get younger blood involved with the FFLA. There was discussion among the directors to try to increase our use of social media. Another idea was to get a group of young together to work on or help restore a lookout; that may help get young people interested in fire lookouts.

Clark asked what our membership was right now. Weber advised that we are currently between 1050-1100 members.

There was a discussion about the current FFLA brochure that we hand out. Gary advised that we are running very low will need to reorder soon. It was decided to change from a 6-panel tri-fold style to a double sided card. The new brochure will include a QR code that can be scanned with smart phones to access additional info about the FFLA. This led to additional discussion about social media, including the FFLA Facebook page and those of chapters and sub-chapters.

Verschoor advised that as his last action as Western Deputy Chair, he was announcing that Northern California Director Vickie Lamoureux had agreed to host the 2017 Western Conference, possibly in the Susanville area next June. The exact date and location will be determined later.

Rob Hoeye asked who was up for election in 2017; a check of the current by laws showed that the Southern Deputy Chair, Western Deputy Chair, Historian and Secretary positions will be up for election.

The meeting adjourned at 2100