

FFLA Board Meeting
FFLA Western Conference
Chester CA
September 8, 2017

The board meeting started at 8 PM on Friday evening at the Chester Memorial Hall.

Board Members present: Keith Argow (Chair), Gary Weber (Treasurer/N.ID-MT), Forest Clark (W-WA), Rod Fosback (E-WA), Howard Verschoor (OR), Vickie Lamoureux (N-CA), Bill Ulmer (CA-Pacific), Bill Luedeke (CA-Sierra Nevada), Scott McClintock (S-CA), Mark Gutzman (NM), Kent Argow (CO-UT), Ray Grimes Jr. (Secretary/Co-NJ).

The first order of business was the approval of the minutes of the January Board Meeting conference call. Approved as distributed.

Treasurer Gary Weber gave a rundown of the finances and membership since the January meeting.

Membership - Since January membership is up from 1095 to now 1129 members
Merchandise - We are currently above the budgeted amount, but sales are also above the forecasted amount. Gary advised that after 19 years with the same prices, we are going to have to raise some of the prices as most of the merchandise costs have gone up.

Grants - Currently four grants have been awarded this year.

Magazine - Gary advised that currently he is a bit behind but is working to get back on track. Keith advised if anyone has any material or news articles that can go in to the magazine to please send it to Gary.

Gary gave a brief over view of state chapter finances

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Argow proposed creating a new "FFLA Affiliate" classification. The reason is that there are a number of lookouts in California and other states that already have a group of volunteers doing full time or relief staffing under programs such as the CalFire PIP program (Partners in Prevention). We are reaching out to these local groups and offering to work cooperatively with them. However, the only classification we have to implement that is for them to become a local chapter of FFLA. Why would they do that? It gives the appearance of a successful local program subordinating themselves to FFLA.

Although FFLA has much to offer, a less dominant structure needs to be found within which to offer cooperation. Argow's proposal is to create a new "FFLA Affiliate" title to encourage their participation. An example could be "Friends of Pine Mountain Lookout (an Affiliate of the

Forest Fire Lookout Association).” The “friends groups” could participate in FFLA’s excellent wildfire observer classes, and take advantage of FFLA greater media power for recruiting volunteers, without losing their local identity.

Moved by Bill Ulmer and seconded by Scott McClintock, the motion passed unanimously.

There was a discussion among the directors present about the FFLA website. Our excellent webmaster, Bill Cobb has asked for assistance or a replacement as he had done it a long time. Kent Argow mentioned about redesigning the website or if we have some money have a company look at the site and redesign one for us. The final suggestion was ask Bill Cobb to pass the info for the server on to Kent to look at or see if we need to redesign the website and the Chairman asked the directors who were at the summer board meeting to look at other websites and give their input about our website to the chairman.

Chairman Argow gave a brief rundown of events that have happen since the Jan board meeting

- 1) Wisconsin has done away with fire tower staffing but FFLA has enough members to be a chapter and a new director.
- 2) We have a new TN director.
- 3) NY chapter is very busy with restoration projects going on and also keeping chapter members informed with monthly newsletters sent by email.
- 4) Lost the rep for KS but already have a replacement.
- 5) Will be looking for the replacement for N-CA director as Vickie will be stepping down on Oct. 15.

OLD BUSINESS

There was a discussion about grants and groups that get a grant from the FFLA that the money is used for what they asked for.

Forrest Clark asked about the new FFLA brochure, Keith advised that the new one has been designed and should be going to the printer shortly. The old tri-fold design will be replaced by a similar looking two-sided card.

There was a discussion about next year’s western conference; a few suggestions were made, Southern Idaho or a joint Eastern and Western Washington were among those mentioned. Stay tuned to the FFLA website for details.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 PM.

/s/ Ray Grimes Jr. FFLA Secretary