



## **2020 FFLA Board Meeting**

### **Conference Call**

**January 18, 2020**

The 2020 conference call board meeting began at 1105 EST on Saturday, January 18.

Present on the call: Chairman Keith Argow, Eastern Deputy Mark Haughwout, Treasurer/MT-N ID Gary Weber, Secretary/NJ-co Ray Grimes Jr., Historian Chad Kinzel, Webmaster/ME Bill Cobb, SHPO Liaison/N CA Kyle Stetler, CA-Pacific Bill Ulmer, CA-Sierra/Nevada Bill Luedeke, CO/UT Kent Argow, IN Teena Ligman, NH Chris Haartz, NY Laurie Rankin, OR Howard Verschoor, AL Rep Andrew Zerbe, Election Officer Rob Hoeye.

The minutes from the 2019 board meeting and the western conference were approved as distributed.

Election Officer Rob Hoeye reported on the results of the 2020 election; incumbents Chairman Keith Argow, Treasurer Gary Weber, and Eastern Deputy Chair Mark Haughwout were all reelected.

In the review of agenda items and call for additional topics, Historian Chad Kinzel asked about the disposition of former Historian Bob Spear's FFLA material. New Jersey member Ed Seifert will be looking into this while he is in Florida this winter.

Chairman Argow presented the chairman's report and spoke about chapter structure, more public involvement, and more members.

The review of the Executive Committee activity for 2019 brought out two items, obtaining challenge coins as an FFLA Store item and the appointment of Brad Eells

as the National Research Coordinator. It was moved by Laurie Rankin and seconded by Chad Kinzel, with all in favor, to confirm these actions.

Gary Weber gave the membership report advising that we are well over 1200 members with an increase of 85 during 2019.

In the treasurer's report, also presented by Gary, it was noted that we have about \$60,000 in the bank (including chapter accounts) with another separate investment account currently up over \$20,000.

Bill Cobb reported that the web page is on life support with the site in serious need of an update. Bill advised that most of the hits to the FFLA web site came from social media or people googling fire lookouts. The pages most viewed are the rental page, job page, and lookout sales page. Bill also mentioned that he is still waiting for several chapter reports for 2019.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

SHPO - Kyle Stetler advised that he has sent out letters to state SHPO offices and has received some response. Kyle noted that he has been working with the WY SHPO on Mt Washburn Lookout in Yellowstone National Park. Chad asked Kyle about Priscilla Peak Lookout on the Lolo NF and having the FFLA help move it; Kyle advised that he has been contact with the Lolo about that.

Facebook - Sam Duffey had advised earlier that the FFLA Facebook page has 3850 "likes". A photo contest was held last year with the top 12 photos used to make a calendar that can be ordered from Zazzle. If done through the FFLA website, the FFLA receives a percentage of the sale. Kyle also mentioned that the Yahoo group site that Rex Kamstra previously moderated has been taken over by the FFLA and moved to groups.io.

NHLR - Keith has asked Brad Eells as national research coordinator to post on the NHLR with updates on lookouts. Keith also mentioned that Tammy Mcleod has been posting a bit on the NHLR and the FFLOS (former fire lookout site).

Answerman - Howard advised that questions were up 90% from the previous year, with the most about how to rent a lookout.

## OLD BUSINESS

Recruiting committee chairs, duties of committee chairs and chapter directors - Howard gave a brief overview of what he received from Ron Johnson before he took over as OR director. Gary advised that chapter director responsibilities are on the webpage and were just updated about four years ago

Insurance - Gary advised that the FFLA has liability insurance but we do not have workers comp. He also mentioned that after the policy has been issued at renewal time, there is an additional charge each time the FFLA requests an additional insurance certificate for a venue.

## NEW BUSINESS

During the western conference board meeting San Diego-Riverside Chair Shane Harris proposed changing the name of the chapters to Division or Region and call sub-chapters regular chapters. For example, it would be the San Diego-Riverside Chapter of the California South Division or Region. After discussion it was decided to use the Division title for those former chapters that have sub-organizations. Kyle moved, seconded by Howard, with all in favor, to accept this proposal.

Howard gave a short overview of celebrating the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the FFLA with 2020 western conference. It will be held in Klamath Falls, Oregon, the end of September; the exact date and site to be announced a little later. The conference will be co-hosted by the Oregon Department of Forestry, Howard is working with them to get in to a few lookouts that are normally inaccessible to the public.

Directors on the call gave brief overviews of their chapter activity for the 2019 year; full reports are posted at [www.firelookout.org/chapter-reports.html](http://www.firelookout.org/chapter-reports.html) on the FFLA web site

The last item of business during the conference call was to approve the 2020 budget. Gary went over the tentative budget proposal that had previously been sent out to all board members. Chris Haartz moved, seconded by Mark Haughwout and approved by all in attendance, to accept the proposal as presented (below).

<b>2020 FFLA Budget</b>			
	Proposed	Approved 1/18/2020	
<i>Income</i>			
Balance Forward	\$9,171.01	\$9,171.01	
Dues	\$16,000.00	\$16,000.00	
Donations	\$500.00	\$500.00	
Chapter Grants/Donations (Pass-Through)	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	
Merchandise Sales	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	
Interest	\$15.00	\$15.00	
Total	\$37,686.01		\$37,686.01
<i>Expenses</i>			
	-	-	
Publication	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	
Chapter Distributions	-\$2,100.00	-\$2,100.00	
Brochure Cost	-\$100.00	-\$100.00	
Restoration Grants	-\$2,500.00	-\$2,500.00	
Emergency Stabilization Grants	-\$300.00	-\$300.00	
	-	-	
Chapter Grants/Donations (Pass-Through)	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	
Insurance	-\$2,000.00	-\$2,000.00	
Merchandise Cost	-\$2,000.00	-\$2,000.00	
Operations	-\$1,000.00	-\$1,000.00	
History/Archive/Preservation Fund	-\$1,000.00	-\$1,000.00	
Website Upgrade	-\$1,000.00	-\$1,000.00	
	-	-	
Total	\$37,000.00		-\$37,000.00
Year-end Balance	\$686.01		\$686.01

Chairman Argow announced that the 2021 Board Meeting will be January 16, again in conference call format. It was suggested that the possibility of a video conference or other upgraded format be considered.

The conference call adjourned at 1233 EST.