

**DRAFT MINUTES OF
SSA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
DECEMBER 20, 2014
DALLAS, TEXAS**

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m. by Chairman Maleady. Those attending were Richard Maleady, Ken Sorenson, Phil Umphres, Frank Whiteley, Geoff Weck, Rich Carlson and Denise Layton. Attending via phone was John Godfrey, Chairman of the SSA Foundation.

Chairman Maleady advised the first order of business was open action items.

Frank Whiteley advised one action item, which was his responsibility, is an ongoing item. This involves an FAA circular, which has been discussed in previous meetings. He will continue to monitor this and apprise the Board if anything changes.

The next item of business was discussion on approving Executive Committee minutes, which Chairman Maleady advised he wanted to take care of so minutes weren't pending for long periods of time. After discussion, Umphres moved to approve the last ExComm minutes of September 12, 2014, seconded by Whiteley and approved unanimously.

The next item to come before the Committee was information from Chairman Maleady that a new Badge and Record Chairman had been selected. Bob Faris of Colorado was the new Chairman and his committee had several items which needed their attention. One item concerns whether you need to have a Sporting License in order to fly a National record. This question came up at a previous SSA Board of Directors' meeting by a member, Paul Seifried. They have also received an inquiry from an SSA member, Roy Bourgeois with a question they will be working on, as well as a matter brought up from the U.S. Air Force Academy. Chairman Maleady was to contact the new Badge and Record Chairman to pass on these items which need attention.

The next item of business Chairman Maleady advised concerned the SSA's insurance coverage. He advised the Committee there had been a question concerning coverage which arose from the last World Gliding Championships which the U.S. Team participated in. He advised the European country was asking for more than the usual coverage we provide. Pat Costello, our insurance broker of record has asked for written clarification what the SSA desires him to do concerning future matters. The group decided first and foremost the coverage should not jeopardize the SSA's insurance plan. Chairman Maleady will send a letter to Pat Costello advising the coverage should be one million dollars for U.S. Teams participating in the U.S. and one million Euros for Team pilots participating in European World Gliding Championships, but no coverage should jeopardize our policy.

The next item of business was concerning the agreement SSA has with Pedja Bogdonovich (Tip Top Corporation) for use of the sailplane tracker SSA members have enjoyed using. COO Layton advised the agreement was up for renewal in March and wanted to bring it to the Committee's attention in case any changes were needed. The Committee unanimously agreed this was a valuable relationship which the SSA wanted to continue. It was asked if Layton could ask Pedja to agree to a renewal every two or three years and she will check on this.

The next item of business was a new SSA policy concerning accepting donations of sailplanes. It was agreed by the group, this would be worthwhile to pursue and members of the ExComm would try to find someone who would be willing to run the SSA glider donation program. The policy has been written, and after discussion, Layton was tasked with refining the policy and circulating it to the Executive Committee for final review.

Sorenson moved and Weck seconded to move forward with this project and accept sailplane donations. The matter was approved unanimously.

The next item of business was a status report from Sarah Arnold concerning the Pan American Contest. Sorenson advised Sarah was moving forward in planning this contest but it was not without risk. He advised there was still the possibility of a problem in holding the contest at Chilhowee but everyone was hoping the infrastructure would be in place by the time of the contest. Chairman Maleady was tasked with contacting Eric Mozer to advise him of the progress and concerns.

The next item to come before the ExComm was presented by Sorenson concerning the U.S. Team selection procedure. Sorenson advised the Team Committee recommended the Pan Am contest that scores could be used for U.S. Team selection. After discussion, Sorenson moved to approve the new U.S. Team selection process to include Pan Am Championships. Seconded by Weck and approved by the Committee.

The next item of business was discussion of the upcoming SSA Convention and offering better incentives for clubs to want to help in putting on a convention. After discussion as to what percentages the clubs should receive, Chairman Maleady advised he would discuss this with the chairman of the local committee, Scott Fletcher, and report back what agreement had been reached.

The next item was information concerning the Cloudstreet film brought up by Director Umphres. The film is almost complete and should air in the spring of next year. He advised the Growth & Development Committee was in charge of this and they should let all clubs know how to contact their local PBS stations and what to ask for. This could be a nice boost for soaring when the film airs. He advised the homepage should be changed to welcome Cloudstreet viewers and have info easily available on where they can go fly. COO Layton agreed to talk to her staff website person and have this attended to.

The next item was discussion of the Perlan Project. Several years ago, the SSA Board approved giving them up to \$11,000 for data loggers, once they had received the financial backing they needed. At the time the Board voted to do this, a December 31, 2014 deadline was placed on the contribution. It was discussed the end of the year was rapidly approaching and the group needed to be contacted and asked about this contribution. The group informally agreed (no motion made) that, since primary sponsorship for the project had indeed been secured and the Perlan group had indeed requested the funds, SSA would extend the date for actual payment into 2015. The SSA is supposed to receive promotional space on the glider in return for the money. Umphres moved the newer red SSA logo be used, seconded by Whiteley, passed with Chairman Maleady abstaining. COO Layton was tasked with contacting them and getting this matter taken care of.

The next item of business, raised by Director Umphres, concerned whether SSA had any obligation to provide stipends to the winners of certain SSA awards, notwithstanding the decision of the SSA Board to suspend payment of stipends in 1991 and the passing of an amendment to the SSA Bylaws in 2008 that did away with them entirely. Umphres advised the group that he had searched diligently to see if there was any language in the original gift documents stating that stipends were mandatory, rather than discretionary. Unfortunately, most of the original endowment documents are missing. Whiteley speculated that some of these archival documents may have been lost in a fire that the NSM sustained in about 1977. The group agreed that, in the absence of the original gift/endowment documents, it would be assumed that the action of past boards was correct and that the stipends would not be awarded. It was also discussed the Board had decided to house all trophies at the National Soaring Museum and not ship them around the country. After discussion, it was advised several pilots had complained about not having the trophy to hold and it was decided this needed to be revisited. Umphres moved that Chairman Maleady appoint an ad hoc committee (which Karl Striedieck should be asked to be on) to analyze the practices for handling all SSA trophies to make a recommendation to the Board whether actual trophies be:

- A. Sent to award venues
- B. Taken home by the winners

Sorenson seconded and this action passed unanimously.

Umphres advised there were some descriptions of trophies on the SSA website which were outdated and SSA staff needed to work on getting this up to date. They should ask Karl Striedieck to assist if needed. This would include deleting the now outdated references to stipends.

Chairman Maleady advised SSA had approved to give the National Soaring Museum \$10,000 to purchase a trophy case and he thought this should be put on hold until a final decision had been made. He advised he would contact the Museum and advise them not to do anything at this time.

The next item of business was the 2015 budget. Umphres complimented the SSA staff on their work in holding down costs. He advised, though, that there was not likely to be enough income to meet all the requested needs and that some expenditures (either administrative expenditures or in the program area) would need to be reduced. He said that this was a decision for the entire Excom and not his alone. Several programming expenses were discussed. At the end of the discussion, it was decided funds for SSA attending Air Venture in Oshkosh would be cut from \$15,000 to \$12,000. The airshow glider program was cut from \$9,000 to \$6,000. Umphres advised any excess which could be cut out would save in what the SSA would have to draw from the general endowment fund to balance the budget.

The ExComm also discussed the money SSA received for their work on contests. Sorenson advised in 2007 he and Umphres had worked out an agreement on this, but it had not changed since that time. The Committee felt it was time this was looked at again as expenses had continued to increase. Layton was asked to look at how much money the SSA was given now and propose any increase to the ExComm.

After discussion of cutting the above-referenced changes, Umphres moved the budget for 2015, as amended by the discussion, be approved. The motion was seconded by Chairman Maleady and passed unanimously.

Next was discussion on the declining membership of SSA. It was decided more information was needed as to whether we were losing long-term members or members who had joined for only one year. John Godfrey advised if information was sent to him he would see what he could put together as far as a profile on lapsed members.

The next item of business was brought before the Committee by Rich Carlson. He advised the Soaring Safety Foundation would put on another "Safety Stand Down" at the next SSA Convention and he was bringing this up now so planning could take place. He asked that the exhibit hall be closed during the time of the stand down. After discussion on this, Chairman Maleady agreed the exhibit hall could be closed during the time of the safety stand down. The date and time of this will be determined at a later date. It was also discussed to keep the hall open later, but that will be brought up to the local committee to look into.

Chairman Maleady moved to close the exhibit hall for one hour for the safety stand down, with the day and time to be determined at a later date. The motion passed with one opposed.

There being no further business to come before the Executive Committee, Chairman Maleady thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and asked for a motion to adjourn. Umphres moved to adjourn, seconded by Weck and passed unanimously.