

# **Forest Fire Lookout Association Board of Directors Meeting January 15, 2011 Macon, Georgia**

## **Call to Order**

The 2011 FFLA Board Meeting was called to order at 8:30 AM at the Georgia Forestry Commission Headquarters by Keith Argow, FFLA Chairman of the Board.

## **Attendance**

Executive Committee:

Chairman, Keith Argow  
Secretary, Brad Eells  
Treasurer, Gary Weber

Directors/Representatives:

New Jersey Co-Director – Ray Grimes  
Alabama Representative – Tom Kaufmann

Guests/Hosts/Presenters:

Jim Sorenson – Forestry Consultant, Viking Global Enterprises  
Alan Dozier – Georgia Forestry Commission – Forest Protection Chief  
Will Wagner – Clayton County Park Department – Reynolds Nature Preserve

## **Agenda**

Chairman Argow presented the agenda for the day, asked for additional items and appointed Gary Weber as Parliamentarian for the meeting.

## **Presentations:**

GFC Fire Chief Alan Dozier gave an illustrated history on the history and use of fire towers in Georgia. He gave a second presentation on the disastrous 2007 wildfires in the Southeastern Georgia/Northeastern Florida area.

Retired U.S. Forest Service forester Jim Sorenson, who served in Syria as an advisor, gave an illustrated presentation on international fire detection and protection in the country of Syria. He also recounted his experience with fire towers in Missouri.

### **2010 Executive Committee Actions Approved:**

1. Appointment of Ray Grimes, Assistant Secretary
2. Formation of the California-Pacific Chapter

**Motion:** Weber moved to approve the Executive Committee 2010 actions, seconded by Grimes and passed unanimously.

### **Elections Results:**

Elections for Secretary (Brad Eells), Western Deputy Chair (Dave Bula) and Historian (Bob Spear) certified with a total of 19 votes (10 Western and 9 Eastern votes). No votes were withheld.

**Motion:** Grimes moved to accept the election results, seconded by Eells and passed unanimously.

### **Treasurers Report:**

Treasurer Weber presented the FFLA financial performance for 2010. Although income was below projections, so were expenditures, and FFLA completed the year with a \$2000 gain.

**Motion:** Weber moved acceptance of the report, seconded by Grimes and passed unanimously.

Chairman Argow announced the Endowment Fund had increased in value by \$2743.08.

### **Membership report:**

Membership Chair Weber reported a net loss of 19 members. Weber expressed concern regarding the first known loss of net membership in FFLA history.

### **Chapter Reports:**

Chairman Argow announced that 8 Annual Chapter Reports for 2010 have been received. The Chairman directed the Deputy Chairs be accountable for Annual Reports from 100% of State and Local Chapters to be posted at [www.ffla.org](http://www.ffla.org).

## **Restoration Grant Report:**

There were three restoration grants in 2010: Grouse Ridge–California, Red Hill–New Hampshire, and Dickinson Hill–New York

## **Lookout Network Magazine:**

Editor Weber reports a backlog of feature material. Distribution numbers are down due to lesser number of members and Chapter Directors using the digital edition for comp copies.

Printed copies are currently run at 1100 issues per quarter.

Chapter Directors are reminded that either a *pdf file* or printed copies are available for complimentary distribution to their agency partners.

Chapter Directors are encouraged to provide the *pdf* to their agency partners when forwarded from the editor.

## **NHLR – FFLOS Report**

Chairman Argow reported the National Historic Lookout Register added its 900<sup>th</sup> Fire Lookout in 2010. Alabama led the nation in additions with 21.

Lookout Stewards are now being listed on the NHLR Site page with Email contact information. All Directors are encouraged to recruit individuals to adopt individual lookouts/fire towers for maintenance and educational purposes and submit their name to Argow for posting.

The Former Fire Lookout Sites Register ([www.fflos.com](http://www.fflos.com)) has added its 800<sup>th</sup> site. Although only two years old, postings on this new website are coming in at an encouraging rate. There is a potential for 6,000 plus listings as FFLA members and partners continue to list the results of their on-going research. These site surveys are discovering some standing lookouts that were presumed to be gone.

## **2010 Western & Eastern Conferences:**

The Eastern Conference was held at Geneva Point, New Hampshire, June 12-13, 2010 with 16 members in attendance. The Western Conference was held at Grangeville, Idaho, June 25-27, 2010 with 55 in attendance. Summaries for both conferences are available and posted on the website.

## **Liability Insurance:**

Secretary Eells reports an application will be made to Alliant Insurance Company for General Liability and other insurance types. The application and cost will be approved by the Executive Committee before a commitment is made.

## **New Business:**

Chairman Argow reported that Joe Higgins has stepped down as FFLA Legal Counsel. Joe had deep roots with FFLA and was part of the New Jersey delegation for the founding meeting at Hopewell Tower, Pennsylvania in 1990. He co-edited and produced the early newsletters and was host of the 1991 FFLA meeting at Saddle River N.J. He was also instrumental in getting the 501c3 designation for FFLA from the IRS.

**Resolution:** The Forest Fire Lookout Association recognizes Joe Higgins for his long and dedicated service to our organization. Motion to accept the resolution by Weber, seconded by Grimes, passed unanimously.

**Motion:** Weber moved 1) reaffirmation of Section 19 of the by-laws (documentation of final vote of approval of this revision has been lost), and 2) Voting by Email be approved as recognized by Roberts Rules of Order. FFLA will use this procedure until the by-laws are further reviewed and amended. Seconded by Grimes and passed unanimously.

**Motion:** Weber moved the formation of a bylaws review committee, seconded by Eells and passed unanimously.

Chairman Argow appointed the following as members of the Bylaws Committee: Gary Weber, Treasurer (Chair); Dave Lorenz, Arizona Chapter Director; Teena Ligman, Indiana Chapter Director.

**Item:** Chairman Argow announced the outstanding work of the New York Chapter in working with the New York state government. Outgoing New York State Governor Patterson signed off on classifying two fire towers as historic heritage sites within state Wilderness areas.

**Resolution:** Weber moved the FFLA adopt a resolution in support of the defense of Green Mountain Lookout on the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. The completed resolution will be forwarded to Western Washington Forest Clark for media use. Seconded by Secretary Eells and passed unanimously.

**Motion:** Weber moved the FFLA accept the offer from member Joe Chessie to perform a review and analysis of the national website. The review will be done at no cost to the organization. A committee will be appointed to follow up and provide recommendations for action on Mr. Chessie's review. Seconded by Grimes and passed unanimously.

Chairman Argow appointed Webmaster Bill Cobb, Western Washington Director Forest Clark, Secretary Brad Eells (Chair), and Eastern Deputy Chair Peter Barr to the Website Review Committee.

**Item:** Chairman Argow announced a preliminary agreement with the National Forests in Mississippi to preserve five fire towers. The towers were already listed on a GSA auction, but were removed through this agreement.

The proposal under discussion involved transfer of title of the five fire towers to an LLC, with maintenance provided by a local chapter of FFLA. The towers would remain on site under a special use permit from the Forest Service. This partnership concept could become a model to preserve state and federal structures throughout the country.

**Budget:** Treasurer Weber proposed the following budget:

2011 FFLA Budget		Proposed
<i>Income</i>		
Balance Forward		\$5,037.59
Dues		\$12,000.00
Donations		\$300.00
Chapter Grants/Donations (Pass-Through)		\$5,000.00
Merchandise Sales		\$1,500.00
Endowment Yield		\$500.00
Interest		\$100.00
	Total	\$24,437.59
<i>Expenses</i>		
Publication		-\$10,000.00
Chapter Distributions		-\$1,600.00
Brochures		\$0.00
Restoration Grants		-\$2,000.00
Emergency Stabilization Grants		-\$300.00
Chapter Grants/Donations (Pass-Through)		-\$5,000.00
Insurance		-\$1,000.00
Merchandise Purchase		-\$800.00
Operations		-\$500.00
Forest History Society/Archive		-\$150.00
Website Upgrade		-\$2,000.00
Endowment Contribution		-\$97.08
	Total	-\$23,447.08
Year-end Balance		\$990.51

Weber moved approval of the budget, seconded by Eells and passed unanimously.

**Motion:** Grimes moved that Chairman Argow and Treasurer Weber be designated as the Endowment Investment Committee. Seconded by Eells and passed unanimously.

### **2011 Western & Eastern Conferences:**

The Western Conference will be held at Zig Zag, Oregon (Mt Hood area), September 16-18, 2011.

The 2011 Eastern Conference site and date to be determined.

### **2011 Board of Directors Annual Meeting:**

The Annual Board of Directors Meeting will be held in January 12-14, 2012 near New Orleans, LA (possibly the De Soto National Forest in Mississippi).

### **Adjournment:**

Chairman Argow declared the 2011 FFLA Annual Board of Directors Meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM.