

2016 FFLA Board Meeting  
Talladega Ranger District  
Talladega, AL  
January 16, 2016

The 2016 FFLA Board Meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. CST and included a conference call.

**Director Present:** Chairman- Keith Argow, Treasurer -Gary Weber, Secretary-Ray Grimes Jr  
**Directors on the Conference Call:** Deputy Chair E-Mark Haughwout, Deputy Chair S-Mike Finch Jr., Deputy Chair W-Howard Verschoor, Historian-Ron Stafford, Webmaster-Bill Cobb, AZ-Dave Lorenz, AR/OK-Smoke Pfeiffer, CA(Pacific)-Bill Ulmer, CA (South Coast)-Scott McClintock, FL-Bob Spear, NH-Chris Haartz, NJ-Bob Wolff, NM-Mark Gutzman, NY-Laurie Rankin, VT-Peter Hayes, WA (E)-Rod Fosback

**FFLA members and guests present:** Talladega District Ranger Gloria Nielsen, Talladega NF Assistant Archeologist Marcus Ridley, Retired AL Forestry Commission employee Willey McCollum, AL FFLA member Andrew Zerbe, and Cherokee Ridge Alpine Trails Association members Jimmy Lanier and Mike Wilson.

#### **2015 Minutes Approval**

The minutes from the 2015 Board meeting were approved as distributed and posted on the FFLA website.

#### **2016 Election Results**

Elections Officer Rob Hoeye forwarded the election results; Hoeye advised that 28 ballots were received of the 35 ballots sent out for an 80% return. The results were as follows:

**Chair:** Keith Argow 25, Ray Kresek 1

**Eastern Deputy Chair** Mark Haughwout 8

**Treasurer** Gary Weber 26

#### **Review of Executive Board Actions since the last Board Meeting**

- 1-Approved the new California South Coast Chapter
  - 2-PLUS membership rate increased from \$20 to \$25 to cover the NWOA magazine costs
  - 3-Offer NWOA members a non-member subscription to LOOKOUT NETWORK for \$10 per year
  - 4-Appointment of Mike Finch, Jr. as Southern Deputy Chair
  - 5-Eliminate the Life Membership category
  - 6-Discontinue membership to the Forest History Society
- Pfeiffer moved, seconded by Finch, to accept the Executive Board actions for 2015; all were in favor.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Gary Weber summarized the Treasurer's Report that had been emailed to all directors. Weber moved, seconded by Finch, to accept the report; all were in favor.

## 2016 Budget

Treasurer Weber went through the proposed 2016 Budget that had been sent out. With one adjustment to publication costs, Weber moved, seconded by Pfeiffer, to accept the proposed budget; all were in favor.

2016 FFLA Budget		2015	2016
		Actual	Approved
<i>Income</i>			
Balance Forward			\$10,723.60
Dues		\$13,029.60	\$14,000.00
Donations		\$2,040.33	\$500.00
Chapter Grants/Donations (Pass-Through)		\$10,166.95	\$10,000.00
Merchandise Sales		\$2,358.89	\$1,800.00
Interest		\$16.26	\$15.00
	Total		\$37,038.60
<i>Expenses</i>			
Publication		-\$7,622.40	-\$12,500.00
Chapter Distributions		-\$1,699.00	-\$2,000.00
Brochures		\$0.00	-\$3,000.00
Restoration Grants		-\$1,500.00	-\$2,500.00
Emergency Stabilization Grants		\$0.00	-\$300.00
Chapter Grants/Donations (Pass-Through)		-\$10,166.95	-\$10,000.00
Insurance		-\$1,687.63	-\$2,000.00
Merchandise Purchase		-\$2,195.72	-\$1,500.00
Operations		-\$357.04	-\$1,000.00
History/Archive		\$0.00	-\$1,000.00
Website Upgrade		\$0.00	-\$500.00
	Total		-\$33,800.00
Year-end Balance			\$ 738.60

## Membership

Treasurer Weber read the membership report; there was a net gain of 52 members in 2015.

## Historian Report

Historian Ron Stafford advised that after getting all the files from past Historian Bob Spear and having a small problem with computer programs, he now has everything on his computer with two external hard drives, too.

## Webmaster Report

Bill Cobb updated on what was happening on the website. On-line membership registration is now up and running. Website traffic was up 13% over the previous year. Lookout rentals and lookout jobs are the big ticket items on the site. Backpacker magazine and outdoor sites have linked the FFLA site to their sites; the FFLA site is receiving a lot of hits from those sites.

### **Deputy Chair Reports**

The Eastern Deputy report was read by Mark Haughwout; he mentioned that the NY chapter will be hosting a conference September 17-18.

Southern Deputy Chair Mike Finch thanked Ron Stafford for all the work he did in the position before moving over as Historian

Western Deputy Chair Howard Verschoor advised that the Oregon Chapter would be hosting the western conference June 10-12 in John Day, OR.

### **Old Business**

Chairman Argow advised after several years of trying, the FFLA finally obtained liability insurance which will provide coverage for conferences and events.

### **New Business**

Chairman Argow spoke about the idea of starting a pilot program in Alabama for lookout enthusiasts to receive something like a patch or coin saying that they visited a certain number of lookouts in that state. Right now this is a work in progress on what to give and to figure how many they would need to go to before receiving the token.

Chairman Argow also brought up lookout restoration and the idea of developing a pamphlet or procedure booklet on how to get started - the do's and don'ts so others who would like to work on a lookout or fire tower will have some guidance on getting started and some of the things they might encounter during a project.

### **Chapter Activities**

Each director gave a brief report on the activities in their area for 2015. Full chapter reports can be found on the FFLA website.

### **2017 Board Meeting**

Chairman Argow advised that the 2017 Board Meeting is planned for January 14, 2017 (MLK weekend), tentatively in the Savannah, GA area, again with the conference call format for those unable to attend. Lorenz moved, seconded by Haughwout, to accept the proposal; it passed unanimously.

Chairman Argow asked for a motion to adjourn the 2016 board meeting. Pfeiffer moved, seconded by Gutzman, to adjourn; all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 11:18 a.m. CST.