

2017 SSA Fall Board of Directors' Meeting  
Dallas, Texas  
September 9, 2017

Call to Order at 9:11 am

Attending:

Directors: Pete Alexander, Michael Solley, Phil Umphres, Cindy Brickner, Jay McDaniel, Jim Garrison, Geoff Weck, Stephen Northcraft, Art Griffiths (NAA), Ann Lafford, Bruno Vassel, Ken Sorenson, Frank Whiteley

SSA Chief Operations Officer Denise Layton  
SSA Foundation Chair John Godfrey  
Honorary Vice Chair Bernald Smith  
Soaring Safety Foundation Chair Rich Carlson

- 1.0 Welcome and Opening Remarks
- 1.1 Welcome and remarks from SSA Chairman Ken Sorenson
- 1.2 Introduction of guests

Chairman Sorenson opened the meeting welcoming Directors and guests. He introduced guests Pat Costello, Steve Purduski, treasurer-elect Richard Maleady and Rick Lafford.

Chairman Sorenson advised some agenda items would be moved around to accommodate the meeting. Director Brickner moved to adopt the agenda, seconded by Director Garrison and passed.

- 1.3 Request for confirmation of accuracy of email addresses and other contact information for the current list of Officers and Directors (as shown on the roster)

- 2.0 Consent Agenda -- Action Item

[The Consent Agenda is to be considered as a “block” of items submitted to the board for approval or disapproval as a group. A simple majority is required to pass Consent Agenda. Prior to the vote any Director may request that a specific item be removed from the Consent Agenda, in which case that item will be considered separately during the Board meeting. The purpose of the Consent Agenda is to deal with as many non-contentious items as possible in an expeditious manner, thus allowing more time for discussion and decision making on policy issues that require more deliberation.]

- 2.1 Approval of Past Minutes (February 25, 2017 Spring Board of Directors' Meeting)
- 2.2 Approval of Burt Compton for another three-year term on SSF.
- 2.3 Approval of Pat Costello as Broker of Record (letter attached)

- 2.4 Approval of Bylaws change increasing age for Cadet Membership and number of days between Board meetings (Cadet resolution attached) (Change of Article IV Section 2) referenced in Denise Layton's report
- 2.5 Approval of SSA Service Nominations (report from Jay McDaniel)

Chairman Sorenson asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. It was noted a Bylaws change required 2/3 majority vote by the Board so a show of hands was required. Vice Chair Umphres moved to adopt, seconded by Vice Chair Weck and no objections were made. Twelve in favor, one against and the motion passed.

- 3.0 Chairman's Report (see report from Ken Sorenson)

Chairman Sorenson advised his report was in the book but did want to add that the cash flow was good. The membership decline has slowed, but it is still declining and growth needed to be worked on. He advised two major contributions to SSA's youth scholarship funds had been made. Pat Costello is now funding an annual scholarship and Dennis Purduski bequeathed funding for scholarships. His cousin, Steve Purduski is now a member of the youth committee. On behalf of the SSA, Chairman Sorenson thanked these people for creating the scholarships. Chairman Sorenson listed his priorities for the coming year. He also advised a club advisor program has been started. This will be discussed later in the meeting. He advised keeping the relationship going with EAA was also a priority. Retention continues to be a key priority and engaging pilots in cross-country helps with this. The Cross-Country Training and Development Committee is now being chaired by Mitch Hudson, with Garret Willlat and Andy Brayer as helpers. There is a new on-line CFG training course available from Russell Holtz. Thanks to the Regional Directors who contributed by writing Director's Thoughts columns for the magazine.

- 4.0 Chief Operating Officer's Report (see report from Denise Layton)

Layton advised the Board she would like to start an off-year event again to recognize award recipients. She was thinking of Florida in 2019 in conjunction with the awards banquet for the Seniors contest, and perhaps expand this to include speaker sessions in the future. Vice Chair Weck advised Chicagoland Glider Council had a big seminar during the off year, with speakers. That might be a good venue. Director Brickner advised PASCO also had an off-year event so this may be able to be rotated around the country. Layton will work on this for 2019 to present at the next Board meeting. Director Alexander advised the U.S. Team would like to participate if there were speaker sessions, as they wanted to give back to the soaring community.

- 5.0 Treasurer's Report (see reports)

- Main Report

- Ex A - 2016 Audit Report

- Ex B - Audit Letter to Board of Directors

- Ex C - 2017 Nonprofit Accounting changes

- Ex D - July 2017 corrected Income Statement

- Ex E - July 2017 Balance Sheet

- Ex F - Proposed 2018 Budget (v.4) for SSA Operations

Vice Chair Umphres added to his reports stating we had received the auditor's report and once again we received a "clean opinion," and the auditors found no problems or discrepancies. There are new non profit accounting changes coming, but we don't anticipate it will impact our future financial statements. To date, the SSA is doing better financially than expected.

Vice Chair Umphres reviewed the 2018 budget. The need for additional attention to monitor the website and feed it fresh content was discussed. \$88,000 General E Available Fis undesignated

Vice Chair Umphres moved to approve the tentative budget, subject to modification by the ExComm by the end of the year. Director Brickner seconded and after discussion, the motion was approved.

## 6.0 Committee Reports

### 6.1 Chairman Ken Sorenson (SSF, Administration)

#### 6.1.2 SSA Foundation, discussed later.

#### 6.1.3 Editorial Advisory Committee (see report from Eric Bick)

SSA Foundation Chairman advised the upcoming November issue would have several articles on juniors, scholarships and the two new donors.

#### 6.1.4 Naming and Memorials. No report

#### 6.1.5 SSF (see report from Rich Carlson)

SSF Chairman Carlson reported the SSF had been doing more advertising for the FIRC's and safety seminars and site surveys. He advised the FIRC program was up for review and had been sent to FAA. They were working on new videos. He advised the SSF had done three seminars for Steve Brown, FAA in Boston. He advised they do send post-cards to people within 100-150 miles of upcoming FIRC's.

#### 6.1.6 Administrative. Nothing to report

#### 6.1.7 FAI-IGC representative report (see report from Rick Sheppe)

Chairman Sorenson noted that a Juniors and Women's WGC could be in the U.S. in 2021 if someone was interested in placing a bid.

### 6.2 First Vice-Chair and Treasurer Phil Umphres (Financial, Awards)

#### 6.2.1 Budget and Finance Committee (incorporated into 5.0 above)

#### 6.2.2 Nominating Committee (see report from Nominating Committee)

The nominating Committee presented their slate of candidates to serve on the SSA next year. Their nominations for the Executive Committee include Ken Sorenson as Chairman, Geoff Weck, Frank Whiteley and Ann Lafford and the new treasurer, Richard Maleady. The Nominating Committee reviewed Richard Maleady's background and credentials for being the treasurer. Director Garrison then reviewed the proposed Directors at Large for the coming year. He asked if there were any further nominations. Voting was deferred on this until after a short break.

After a break, and other reports, this subject was addressed again. No additional nominations were made. Vice Chair Umphres moved nominations be closed, seconded by Director Brickner. Hearing no nominations or objections to closing, Director Brickner moved to adopt the slate as proposed, seconded by Vice Chair Umphres and the slate was approved for 2018.

#### 6.2.3 Awards Committee (see report from Jay McDaniel)

Director McDaniel advised he was still accepting nominations for the Eaton Award. He had a nomination for the Tuntland, but there were still other awards to be decided on and the deadline is November 1st.

Director McDaniel advised Soaring magazine had an article on the new Southwest Soaring Hall of Fame, and wanted to advise Directors this is separate from the SSA Hall of Fame which is administered by the National Soaring Museum.

Director Northcraft advised SSA should trademark the soaring hall of fame. Director McDaniel will take care of doing this.

#### 6.2.4 Group Insurance

Vice Chair Umphres advised there was no separate report on insurance, but he did want to give our broker, Pat Costello, the opportunity to speak.

Pat Costello advised the number of SSA claims was up about 20% over the previous year, but claims severity was slightly down over the previous three years. They had only had one "shock loss" which is a loss of over \$200,000. He advised they had been calling customers in hurricane areas of Florida and Houston to check on them and so far no claims have been filed. Costello advised there is no exclusion for flood damage, unlike homeowners policies. Costello said it is nice to see that the SSA program is helping people during this time.

#### 6.2.5 Badge & Record Committee (see report from Bob Faris). No further comments.

### 6.3 Vice Chairman, Ann Lafford

#### 6.3.1 Contests

##### 6.3.1a Contest Committee report (no report)

##### 6.3.1b Rules Committee report (see report from Hank Nixon) The committee will meet in Nov.

6.3.1c Site Selection (see report from John Lubon) (15-Meter/Open application) (Standard Class application)

ACTION ITEM: Approval of 15-Meter/Open application and Standard Class application. Vice Chair Umphres moved to approve the two proposed contests, Director Alexander seconded and the motion was approved.

Director Northcraft commented west coast sites have trouble making money on a contest because they have to bring in tow planes and he thought a change in fees was appropriate. Chairman Sorenson asked him to relay this to Hank Nixon.

6.3.1d Handicapping

Vice Chair Lafford advised there was a new chairman for the handicapping committee, Barry Jeager.

6.3.2 Trophy Committee (see report from John Godfrey) (Agreement for loan of Contest Trophy)

ACTION ITEM: Approval of contest trophies being released to contest winners for a specified period of time.

Vice Chair Umphres advised the contest community wanted winners to take possession of trophies temporarily after their win. He had drafted an agreement which the winners were to sign in order to take the trophies home. Vice Chair Umphres moved the Board approve the agreement to allow contest winners to take trophies home temporarily under the terms of the agreement, which is included in the Board reports. The Trophy Committee will be responsible for modifying the length of time the winners are allowed to keep the trophies before returning them. Director Northcraft seconded and after further discussion, the motion was approved.

6.3.3 U.S. Team Committee (see report)

Director Alexander advised there was a U.S. Team training camp in Cordele, Georgia. He also advised that Team members would be sharing their knowledge other pilots through talks at the upcoming SSA Convention. He said great news was Sarah Arnold winning her second WGC. He said a Team is getting ready to go to Argentina and they were working on teams for 2018. He advised the Juniors were getting very involved and plan on continuing with camps. They have had good support for this.

6.3.4 Sailplane Tracking (no report)

Vice Chair Lafford advised Lane Bush needed to be replaced on this committee and we needed someone to interface with Pedja Bogdonovich. Pedja has done tremendous work on this project. It was suggested that this committee broaden its focus beyond interfacing with Pedja and consider how sailplane tracking fits into strategic growth. Lafford will ask Lane Bush if he knows anyone who could take his place.

After a ten minute break, the meeting resumed.

6.4 Vice Chair, Geoff Weck (Government Liaison and G&P)

6.4.1 Director and Special Advisor Stephen Northcraft (Governmental Regulation, Airspace and International Soaring Groups)

6.4.2 Government Liaison Committee (see report from Stephen Northcraft) (Final AMOC on Blanik Aircraft) (Busch request for interpretation) (Greg Davidson memo) (IS28B2 Lark Inquiry) (Special Airworthiness Information Bulletin)

Director Northcraft advised a Third Class Medical had been approved this year. According to how everyone seems to read this, tow pilots can tow with a basic medical. Pat Costello said the insurance company will go along with what the FAA says. If the FAA denies this, the insurance company will deny it if there is a claim.

Director Northcraft said you can now ship your Blanik L13 to Czechoslovakia and they will repair it and ship it back. The cost is \$30,000 plus approximately \$15,000 to ship.

Director Northcraft advised the factory manual for the Lark IS28B2 does not say there is a 35 year life limit on this aircraft. The FAA's position is they don't have a life limit, so you can fly them in the U.S. He has asked for clarification on their position and waiting to hear back from them on this. He advised this information should get out to clubs, and should be on the SSF website.

An action item is to get the word out to the SSA membership regarding the L13 and Lark updates using eNews, the SSA website, and other means.

6.4.3 Representation Committee & Representatives (see report from Bernald Smith)

Director Smith advised his report was in the book and he had nothing to add. He does want to speak with COO Layton about flight recorders and what can be put in the magazine to acknowledge those people at Stanford University who worked on this.

It was noted that the Board is trying to find someone to assume the chairmanship of this committee so that Bernald can retire from this position but that so far he has been irreplaceable.

6.4.4 Growth & Development (see report from Chris Schrader)

Due to the hurricane approaching Florida, Director Schrader was unable to attend the meeting. Chairman Sorenson advised Director Schrader was working on a membership survey and had found aircraft financing from an alternate source. The SSA chapter manual is being worked on. He also advised Director Schrader was responsible for having some promotional videos shot and these will be delivered to the Board by the end of December. He also asked for continued support of junior camps and initiatives.

Vice Chair Weck thanked Director Northcraft for all of his years of service as a Region 8 Director. Although he is stepping down as a Regional Director, he will continue handling our Government issues.

6.5 Vice Chair & Secretary Frank Whiteley (Clubs, Governors and Youth)

6.5.1 Clubs and Chapters (see report from Frank Whiteley)

Vice Chair Whiteley advised Windy City Soaring may lose their airport. It was for sale, presumably to be returned to corn production. He also advised when Jim Skydell was a Director, he produced a policy on membership which states when someone signs up for membership, the SSA has to receive payment within ten working days in order to be acknowledged as a member. There were a few glitches in this, but everything is straightened out now.

6.5.2 State Governors and Record Keepers (see report from Frank Whiteley)

Vice Chair Whiteley advised a governor was needed in Wyoming, and he thanked Director Solley for getting volunteers in Region 5.

6.5.3 Digital Media Committee (no report) Nothing to report.

6.5.4 Youth Committee (see report from JP Stewart)

Vice Chair Whiteley advised there were a lot of initiatives and scholarships. He reviewed the Costello and Purduski scholarship information and advised the Board how recipients will invoice the SSA as they progress with their training. This way, if the SSA doesn't receive anything for a month or two, someone can check on the recipient and make sure they were progressing. The Bultman scholarship has now been changed to include flight training as well. Vice Chair Whiteley spoke with the Bultman family who said they would be pleased for it to include flight training.

The scholarships are set up so students have funds available for pre solo and post solo to help them with costs. Money can be used for training, contests, camps, etc. The deadline for all scholarships will be December 31st of each year. The current plan is to offer a number of \$2000 flight training scholarships for different phases of training, all included on a master scholarship application. JP Stewart is working on a fillable form for the website. Steve Purduski and Pat Costello were present in the Board meeting and stated that they are very pleased with what the committee has done with this. Director Whiteley advised this would go out to Chapters, placed on the front page of the website, written up in Soaring magazine, and advertised at the SSA Convention.

6.5.5 COBM (see report from Frank Whiteley)

Vice Chair Whiteley advised there was a new business member in Colorado. Soar Aspen. He also advised Soaring in America is out of business and the SSA would like to have their 800 phone number. The SSA office is working to get this when the number is available.

6.5.6 Affiliates & Divisions (no report) Nothing to report.

The meeting recessed for lunch and resumed at 1:00 p.m.

The meeting reconvened with Agenda item 8.0, taken out of order by agreement.

8.0 Soaring Society of America Foundation

8.1 Convene meeting of SSA Foundation to conduct Foundation business

The SSA Board was recessed and reconvened as the SSA Foundation meeting. Vice Chair Umphres moved to approve the minutes from the last meeting, which was seconded and approved.

8.2 Nominating Committee Report (report from Committee) (bio of Andy Blackburn)

ACTION ITEM: Approve the two new recommended Trustees

The next item of business was to elect two new trustees for the SSA Foundation. John Lubon has reached his three consecutive term limit and was thanked for his service. Also, Heinz McArthur is unable to stand for re-election.

Director Garrison, head of the Nominating Committee, presented information on two trustees. First Phil Umphres, who is stepping down as SSA Treasurer at the end of 2017 and Andy Blackburn, whose biography was included in their report. Foundation Chairman Godfrey announced the floor was open for further nominations. Hearing no further nominations, Vice Chair Weck moved to approve these two to serve as trustees, seconded by Director Brickner and passed.

8.3 Planned Giving Development Committee (report from John Godfrey)

ACTION ITEM: Approve a plan of action for the development of a Planned Giving Program

This was discussed below during regular SSA meeting.

Discussion of financial reports. Foundation Chair Godfrey advised the trustees had agreed the endowment percentage would remain at 4 1/2% for the coming year, but it may go down to 4% in the next yearly cycle.

Hearing no further business to come before the Foundation, Director Brickner moved to adjourn, seconded by Director Lafford. The Foundation meeting was adjourned and the SSA Board meeting resumed at 1:30 p.m.

Foundation Chair Godfrey announced the next item of business was for the SSA Board to approve a plan of action for the development of a Planned Giving Program. He advised the original plan had been included in the Board report materials and discussed at the Executive committee meeting the day before. The ExComm felt this was too much money and did not support the original plan. So, Godfrey advised he proposed spending up to \$50,000 in the next year to put together a program. A three phase plan was formed. He advised a plan had been presented at the last meeting and he would start there. Need to create recognition, tracking, and recognize donors better. First item to be

done will be pulling together donation history. He proposed a part time person be hired to assist Kathey Pope in Hobbs with accounting matters, while she digs through files. He discussed a core message needed to be developed and in the long term we may need an editor to produce content for the website. After much discussion on this project, Godfrey asked for a motion to allocate up to \$50,000 to be used on this. Vice Chair Umphres moved the Board authorize between now and the end of 2018, up to \$50,000 to be used for a planned giving initiative. the money to be taken from either the general endowment available funds or Kunda at the discretion of the ExComm. The motion was seconded by Director Solley and passed with one abstention.

Vice Chair Umphres and Chairman Sorenson thanked Godfrey for taking the lead on this. He also has been involved in the Trophy Committee agreement and scholarship information.

Godfrey advised he needed approval to proceed with phase one, he's looking for an expression of support for this, which was received.

## 7.0 Regional Directors' Reports

### 7.1 Region 1 and 3 (see report from Ann Lafford)

Lafford reviewed her report and added that most clubs were holding even on membership and some had increased. She is working with a few sites to get them energized. She said there was one club who had received an opinion from the FAA on their gliderport operations.

### 7.2 Region 2 and 4 (see report from Jim Garrison)

Garrison advised he had many of the largest clubs in the SSA with several pushing over 100 members. He advised Alby was almost done with his journey and would reside at the National Soaring Museum. He said clubs in his region were fairly stable and he was pleased to announce three U.S. Team pilots and two junior Team pilots were from his region.

### 7.3 Region 5 (see report from Michael Solley)

Solley advised he was still getting to know everyone in his region. He said a camp for Category 1 pilots was held and was well attended. He said several presentations were made and everyone enjoyed the camp. Pilots yet ranked as Category 1 would like access to the camp training materials. He said key items in his report was places looking for help, and tow planes. He said a big issue in his area was financing for tow planes. He advised they also need a designated examiner in his region.

### 7.4 Region 6 (no report) Director Schrader was unable to attend.

### 7.5 Region 7 (see report from Geoff Weck)

Weck advised clubs were stable in his region. They had a regional contest but the weather was bad and the contest was cancelled. He advised AirVenture was hugely

successful. This had the biggest attendance since the early 1990s. SSA sold memberships and merchandise.

He advised the relationship with EAA was still a work in progress. He said we needed to reach out to EAA chapters and work with them on giving Young Eagle rides. He said they do a monthly Young Eagles day and we should work with them on this.

#### 7.6 Region 8 (see report from Stephen Northcraft)

Northcraft advised the weather was bad in the region this year. They did manage a cross-country camp in Ephrata and had people there the entire month of June. He also advised there was a new operation trying to get started in his region.

#### 7.7 Region 9 (see report from Frank Whiteley)

Whiteley advised Tucson Soaring was about to celebrate 50 years and in November they would host a party to celebrate. He said they had a Learn To Fly day in Colorado with local flying clubs, CAP, community college aviation program which was a great success. He advised they had a new governor for Wyoming.

Chairman Sorenson commented John Seaborn was working on a campaign to keep soaring going in Hobbs and he's raising money for site preservation to keep the ramp at Hobbs Industrial Airport in useable condition.

#### 7.8 Region 10 (see report from Steve Leonard) Director Leonard was unable to attend

#### 7.9 Region 11 (see report from Jay McDaniel)

McDaniel advised he was concerned with safety in his region with four reported accidents. He said there would be a safety seminar in November in recognition of PASCO's 50th anniversary. He advised although there had been several accidents there were no fatalities in his region this year.

#### 7.10 Region 12 (no report from Cindy Brickner)

Brickner advised she was mentoring two clubs and she was teaching at two sites. She said there was a weather guy in their region who gave regular forecasts which the pilots appreciated getting. She said they need DPE's in the region. She said they had not had a regional contest there in several years and needed something to motivate clubs.

Vice Chair Weck advised Chicagoland does a community service day each year and all proceeds go to help a young person in need of medical help. this year they have a twenty-one month old with brain cancer. Every dollar raised will go to this child. He said it stands well with the community and you feel great because you are helping someone.

Vice Chair Whiteley mentioned the Perlan's world record claim and Chairman Sorenson will write a congratulations to them to be posted on the front page of the website.

#### 9.0 Other Competent Business

- 9.1 U.S. Soaring Hall of Fame (see report from Peter Smith) (Nomination of Rudolf Mozer)  
(Nomination of Brian Utley)

ACTION ITEM: Approve the two recommendations by the Vetting Board

Director McDaniel, who is on the Hall of Fame vetting board, presented the nominations of the two candidates and advised they were both worthy of induction into the U.S. Soaring Hall of Fame. After discussion, Director McDaniel moved for approval of these two candidates, seconded by Vice chair Whiteley and the motion was approved.

- 9.2 Club Site Survey and Club Advisor Programs (SSA Club Advisor Program) (SSA Where to Fly) (Club Site Survey) (Survey & SWOT Analysis) (SWOT Explained)

Chairman Sorenson advised the group of this program and advised Jim Calloway was working on it. He is looking for clubs to volunteer to be beta testers for this new program. They will talk with clubs and develop resources for a best practices manual. The manual will be done as the program evolves. Chairman Sorenson asked if anyone had any suggestions on how to grow commercial operations as well as clubs to please let him know.

Chairman Sorenson asked if there was any further business to come before the Board.

Director Smith advised the Board of the passing of Carl Herold. He was a pioneer of PASCO and air Sailing. He also created the sports class and the handicap system.

Director Whiteley advised the Board Sterling Starr was ill if anyone wanted to send him an e-mail.

Chairman Sorenson advised the deadline to submit Board reports for the spring meeting would be February 16<sup>th</sup>, two weeks before the March 2, 2018 meeting. He also advised that Layton would be contacting all committees about getting their reports in. She will also invite committee chairs to attend the Board meeting.

Chairman Sorenson gave special thanks to Phil Umphres and Stephen Northcraft for all of the work they have done for SSA over the years. Phil is stepping down from the SSA Board at the end of 2017 but moving over to the Foundation. Director Northcraft is stepping down from his duties as regional director at the end of 2017, but will still be involved in the government work.

Chairman Sorenson introduced Mike Solley to the group and apologized he neglected to introduce him at the beginning of the meeting. Mike is the new Region 5 director and has already been working hard in his region.

Chairman Sorenson thanked Richard Maleady for coming back and stepping into the role of Treasurer.

- 9.3 Date and time of next Board of Directors' Meeting - Reno, Nevada, March 2, 2018

It was decided the next Board of Directors' meeting would be held Friday and Saturday mornings starting at 9:00 a.m. after SSA breakfasts. The Executive Committee will meet Thursday afternoon at 3:00 p.m.

Chairman Sorenson asked if there was any further business to come before the Board. Hearing no other business, Director Brickner moved to adjourn, seconded by Director Garrison and passed.