BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

Sept 13, 1997

THE SOARING SOCIETY OF AMERICA

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Washington, DC

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 AM by Chairman Ed Byars.

Directors and Officers present were: Ed Byars, Gene Hammond, Phil Petmecky, Doug Jacobs, Hannes Linke, Mike Koerner, John Good, Charlie Spratt, Tim Welles, Frank Reid, Stephen Northcraft, Jim Short, Ron Clarke, Larry Charchian, Bill Sproull, Chip Bearden, Tim McAllister, Bob Ball, Bob Nady, Sharon Smith, John Campbell, Bernald Smith and Don Engen (who joined the meeting shortly after it began). Also attending were Larry Sanderson, President and Richard Hall, Trustee. [Note: The roll shows 24 voting directors present. All motions requiring a majority to pass will thus need 13 affirmative votes according to SSA By-laws]

Directors and Officers absent were: David Volkmann, Honorary Vice President Sterling Starr and Honorary Vice President Bill Ivans. One director's post in Region 11 is vacant due to the resignation of Al Thomas.

Byars welcomed the directors and expressed appreciation on behalf of the Board to the members of MASA for their efforts in hosting the meeting. Byars asked Ball to convey the gratitude of the Board to the MASA members involved in organizing the hospitality event.

Region 11 Vacancy

Byars said that the first order of business would be discussion and possible action concerning the vacancy in Region 11 that resulted from Al Thomas' resignation. Byars said that Thomas had conveyed his regret for the resignation but that his relocation from Region 11 to another area of the country required his action.

Sanderson then read a letter from PASCO President Bob Korvas. In the letter, Korvas expressed the formal request of the PASCO Board of Directors that the SSA Board appoint David Volkmann to fill the unexpired portion of Thomas' term of office.

After discussion of the request, Koerner moved that the Board appoint David Volkmann to fill the unexpired term of Al Thomas. Nady second the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 19 aye and four abstentions.

It was noted that, as a practical matter, Volkmann will not assume the Thomas seat until January 1, 1998 as Volkmann's present term of office does not expire until December 31, 1997. Reid
requested that a copy of the PASCO letter be attached to the official Minutes of the meeting. Sanderson said that he would provide the copy for the Minutes.

Byars expressed his thanks to those directors who would be leaving the Board at the end of the present term. He asked that the Minutes reflect the appreciation of the Board to Mike Koemer, Phil Petmecky and Lorry Charchian for their service to the membership. Byars also congratulated those directors who were re-elected to the Board and those who will be joining the Board in January 1998.

Strategic Update
Sanderson then presented a brief report of status of various tracking parameters related to the SSA Strategic Plan. He used overhead slides to show the status of sailplane accidents, participation in SSA sanctioned contests, cash-debt, membership census, designated funds, financial liquidity and revenue vs. expenses.

In addition, Sanderson commented on specific trends in the operating environment that might have significant impact on future SSA operations. He called attention to recent changes in Germany wherein the German aero club is taking responsibility for many government duties related to licensing of pilots and light aircraft. Sanderson said that these changes bear close observation because of the possible precedent for future US operations.

Minutes of the Winter Board Meeting, Arlington, Texas
B. Smith asked that the draft minutes be amended as follows:

Page 6, Insurance Sub-committee report, change reference to "Costello insurance program" to "SSA's insurance program as managed by Broker Pat Costello."

B. Smith moved to accept the Minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Nady and passed unanimously.

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting, DFW Airport, Texas
Hammond moved to accept the Excomm Minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Linke and passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS

Chairman's Report - Byars
Byars said that Engen had suggested the concept of extending the terms of Vice Chairs to two years. Byars said that his intention is to appoint a special committee tasked with examining the suggestion and making specific recommendations for consideration at the next Board meeting.

Byars then asked Sproull to present the report of the Nominating Committee.

Nominating Committee - Sproull
Sproull said that the report of the Nominating Committee, composed of himself, Jacobs and Reid, was presented in the Board Book as item IV-A-5. Sproull said that the committee had held
several discussions concerning the need for individuals who serve as Vice Chairs to be preparing
themselves to assume additional responsibilities on behalf of the SSA. In this context, he said
that the committee was presenting the entire list of nominations. In addition, the committee was
prepared to make specific recommendations of nominees they feel particularly suited by skills
and circumstance to serve as Vice Chairs in 1998.

Sproull said that the Nominating Committee is suggesting that the Board give special
consideration to the Vice Chair candidacies of Ron Clarke, Hannes Linke, Frank Reid and Jim
Short.

Sproull asked if the directors wished to add any nominations from the floor. No additional
nominations were put forth.

With regards to Directors-at-Large, Sproull reported the list of nominees and said that the
committee would not make specific recommendations.

Sproull asked for additional nominations from the floor and Lorry Charchian was nominated as a
Director-at-Large for 1998.

B. Smith asked for permission to address the Board and announced his intention to withdraw his
name from consideration as a Director-at-Large for 1998. He expressed his pleasure and
gratitude for having been able to serve on the Board for 35 years and thanked the directors for
their support.

Sproull discussed the process that would be followed and said that the actual elections would be
held later in the day. He said that Sanderson would be asked to review the list of nominees to
determine if each individual was willing to serve if elected. Sanderson then read the list of
nominations allowing each person the chance to withdraw from consideration. Chip Bearden
withdrew his name as a candidate for Vice Chair.

Byars said that the balance of his report is presented in the briefing book.

Treasurer's Report - Jacobs
Jacobs said that his report is presented in the briefing book. He noted that the SSA continues to
build liquidity and that this is a good condition for the Society.

Good said that he appreciates the state of the SSA finances and that it is gratifying for the Board
to know that finances are not precarious from meeting to meeting.

B. Smith said that perhaps it is time for the SSA to consider a process of multi-year budgeting.

Trustee's Report - Hall
Hall said that the report is presented in the book and that he had nothing to add other than to
address any questions of the directors.
Jacobs said that the format and content of the reports is the result of Starr’s efforts and that the directors should be pleased with the level of information that is available. He commended Starr for the effort to create the reports.

Jacobs and Hall said that the fund investments remain very conservative and that some directors had expressed concern over the nature of the investments. They said that the Trustees had perhaps not been aggressive enough in the current market but that they felt the overriding interest of the SSA was in the long-term preservation of the funds at a reasonable rate of growth. Jacobs asked for a sense of the Board and directors generally agreed that the investment strategy is a little too conservative. However, the directors were quick to reaffirm that the actual responsibility for decisions on investments rests solely with the Trustees.

Ball asked if the Trustees had considered use of a professional manager for the investments. Hall said that the Trustees had long considered such a move but that the overall portfolio had been too small for such a step. He said, however, that the funds were reaching level where a professional manage might consider taking the portfolio. Hall said that the Trustees would continue to consider the option.

Byars deferred voting on a new Trustee until later in the meeting.

President’s Report - Sanderson
Sanderson reported that during his current visit to Washington that he had visited with SSA’s insurance brokers for the office coverage as well as the member personal packages. Additionally, he said, Short had organized an exceptionally productive meeting with representatives of the Bureau of Land Management. These individuals, Sanderson said, are the ones responsible for drafting the proposed rules concerning overflight activities in wilderness areas. Sanderson said that Byars, Hammond and Short had met with FAA Associate Administrator Guy Gardner earlier on Friday. He said that NAA President Steve Brown had set-up the meeting on behalf of the SSA.

Sanderson said that the Board should note the growth of the CAP/SSA partnership. He commended Campbell for helping to establish the program. Sanderson said that the CAP had conducted 3 national glider encampments in 1997 and that plans are being made for 5 such camps in 1998. He said that these camps had resulted in a significant number of new SSA Youth members. He encouraged directors to promote the concept of CAP glider camps in their regions.

With regards to membership levels, Sanderson called attention to the reports presented earlier which showed that the SSA is regaining members following the impact of the dues increase. He said that staff anticipates no change in the financial forecasts and that the SSA should end the year slightly in the black.

Sanderson reported that the SSA is developing a CD version of the Sailplane Directory and a special glider screensaver. These items will be available for sale during the fall.

Sanderson then presented some overhead slides depicting activity levels in processing badges and records. He said that the staff had recently heard some concerns that the approval rate for
badges and records was declining and that this "toughening" of the approval process was causing a decline in the number of badges and records being claimed. Sanderson's charts showed that, in fact, the approval rate for both badges and records had increased in recent years and that badge and record applications are significantly higher in 1997 than in 1996.

Greenblatt suggested that this information become a topic for the President's column in the magazine. Sanderson said that he needed help from the Directors to ensure that the proper information was reported if the unfounded concerns are raised in their area.

Sanderson then reviewed the status of his workplan for 1997 (agenda item IV-A-3,4). He commented on the specific programs in each area of priority and commented that the Executive Committee had established a process to participate in the ranking of these work priorities.

After a short break, Byars reconvened the meeting and introduced Al Blackburn and Billy Singleton as visitors to the meeting.

Completing Sanderson's report, B. Smith discussed the concept of naming the SSA headquarters building. He said that he had no specific recommendation at this time but that the SSA should review the possibility. He suggested that the Board create a special committee for the purpose of developing possible recommendations.

B. Smith moved that the Chairman appoint a special committee tasked with reviewing suggestions to name the SSA headquarters building and that the committee be asked to report at a later meeting of the directors. S. Smith seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Byars said that he is appointing B. Smith as Chair of the special committee and that B. Smith should select members as appropriate to the task at hand.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Publications Committee - Clarke
Clarke said that he had nothing to add to his report in the briefing book.

Sanderson referenced the discussions underway to consider creation of a new publication in concert with the BGA. He said that there appears to be a very strong interest in the publication and that this effort is in line with the SSA goals of developing new strategic partners.

Nady commended Clarke and the publications staff for production of the new Sailplane Directory. He also complimented Clarke and the staff on evolution of the new magazine format. Several directors added the support for Nady's comments.

Charchian asked if work is being done to produce a new roster of the membership. Sanderson said that this question should be deferred to a discussion that will occur in the next report concerning electronic communications. Sanderson did say that the staff is moving towards publication of an electronic version of the roster on the Home Page but that there are no current plans to produce a printed version.
B. Smith asked if there is a review underway concerning a recent article in Technical Soaring that was authored by Julian West. Sanderson said that the article and proposed response was being reviewed by Editor Rob Sjostedt.

Electronic Communications sub-committee - Welles
Welles reviewed the status of current Home Page operations. He said that this medium is proving to be well received and that the SSA goal is to establish our page as the place to go for soaring related information. Welles said that the SSA must move forward on being able to conduct financial transactions on the Home Page. He said that this activity will probably necessitate moving the page from its current domain at Harvard to a commercial location.

Sanderson said that staff is in the process of reviewing needs concerning transactions such as membership joining, renewal, merchandise, etc. Welles said that he would work with staff and Guenther Eichhorn to ensure that the Home Page is constructed to serve all of SSA's needs for the future. He again commended Eichhorn for his volunteer efforts to date.

Directors then discussed the possibility of including the membership roster on the Home Page. Sanderson and Welles said that this effort is underway within the staff. Several directors noted the need to collect e-mail addresses from members on their renewal forms.

Technical Committee Report - Northcraft
Northcraft said he had no additional information to add at this time.

OSTIV - B. Smith
B. Smith reported that the Sailplane Development Panel of OSTIV had accepted a proposal to hold their Fall 1998 meeting in Elmira, New York.

B. Smith moved that the Board approve the appointment of Mark Maughmer as SSA representative to OSTIV. The motion was seconded by Petmecky and passed unanimously.

B. Smith then noted the special OSTIV Recognition that had been awarded to Mark Kennedy and Cedric Vemon for their work to publish the OSTIV papers in Technical Soaring. He said that this recognition is particularly appropriate and asked that Sanderson convey the certificate, which he handed to Sanderson, to Kennedy at an appropriate time.

Koemers said that he was extremely grateful as a director to have had the benefit of B. Smith's services on behalf of the SSA. He noted B. Smith's service to OSTIV and other groups and stated his desire to see Smith maintain certain of his technical memberships on behalf of SSA's interests.

Academic Oversight sub-committee - Charchian
Charchian said that he did not have much to add to his report that is already in the briefing book. He said that he has had contact with SAE since writing the report and that there is discussion of holding the design competition in 1999. He said that he would continue to push the project and resolve any questions presented by SAE.
RTCA - B. Smith
B. Smith said he had nothing to add to his report except to distribute an RTCA membership list which shows the type of organizations that belong to the group. He said that it is important for SSA to participate in this organization.

Government Liaison Committee - Short
Short reported on the status of SSA efforts to develop a response to the draft BLM rules affecting overflights of wilderness areas. He said that he and others had conducted a very productive meeting with BLM staff during this particular trip to Washington. Short also said that the BLM staff had offered to introduce him to the right staff members with the National Parks Service concerning airspace issues.

Short reported on FAA activity in the area of glider certification. He said that the FAA is being very pro-active in trying to resolve certification difficulties.

Sanderson introduced the resolution of the German Aero Club calling for formation at the FAI level of a special airspace working group. Short moved for SSA endorsement of the DAEc proposal (copy attached to these Minutes) with communication to NAA and IGC asking those groups to support the resolution as well. The motion was seconded by B. Smith and passed unanimously.

B. Smith mentioned a pilot poll that is being conducted by Mitre Corporation on behalf of the FAA. Ball said that he would research the poll and find out who is involved in the collection and analysis of the results. Ball said he would report to Short.

Soaring Safety Foundation - Hammond
Hammond reported that the SSF Trustees had met the previous evening. He noted that the most recent accident figures from the FAA show 38 accidents this year including 6 fatalities. These figures represent a small increase from the previous year.

Hammond discussed SSF plans to create safety awards for members and SSF support for development of safety information on the SSA website.

Hammond said that the Board needs to appoint SSF Trustees and he mentioned that the terms of some current Trustees need to be adjusted so that they fall into a reasonable rotation. Thus, Hammond moved for appointment of Billy Singleton and Bemald Smith to terms ending December 31, 1998, Stephen Northcraft to a term ending December 31, 1999 and Tom Knauff and Gene Hammond to terms ending December 31, 2000. Petmecky second the motion and it passed unanimously.

Hammond announced that he is retiring as Chairman of the Safety Foundation, He told the directors that the SSF Trustees have elected Billy Singleton as Chairman of the SSF. Koemer expressed his view that Hammond has performed invaluable service for the SSA through his work as Chairman of the SSF. He suggested a resolution of the Board expressing thanks to Hammond.
Koerner move for approval of a resolution of appreciation (copy attached to these Minutes). S. Smith seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Affiliates and Divisions Committee Report - Reid
Sanderson said that the Board must appoint a Trustee for the NSM according to SSA's agreement with the NSM. He said that Hal Lattimore's term as an SSA appointed NSM Trustee will be ending on December 31, 1997. Sanderson said that Lattimore is interested and willing to continue in this role.

Reid moved for appointment of Hal Lattimore as an NSM Trustee for the term January 1, 1998 through December 31, 2000. The motion was seconded by Clarke and passed unanimously.

Byars reported on discussions he had with members of the ASA concerning a design effort for a new motorglider. He distributed a letter from Don Pollard and informed the Board that he would be forming a special committee to review Pollard's proposals.

Campbell noted that the report of the Collegiate Soaring Association had been misplaced in the briefing book and that it should have been included in the Affiliates and Divisions section.

The Board recessed for lunch

[During the lunch period, NAA President Steve Brown and USUA President John Ballantyne were introduced as guests. Each thanked the Board for the opportunity to visit and expressed the support of their organization for issues of mutual concern with the SSA.]

Byars reconvened the meeting at 1 PM.

Before turning to the next report, Byars recognized Linke for a question. Linke asked for clarification if B. Smith will be continuing his work representing the SSA at RTCA. Koerner moved that the Board request B. Smith to continue to represent SSA at RTCA as well as other organizations relevant to SSA's Government Liaison function. Short seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Contest Committee Report - Good
Good informed the Board that Bob Semans had resigned from the SSA FAI sub-committee. Good said that he has appointed Dave Cole to replace Semans. The members of the sub-committee are: Dave Cole, Jackie Payne and Jana Drane.

Good moved for approval of the FAI sub-committee report (agenda item V-F-2) which requests the Board to a) continue soaring record categories and types currently recognized at the State and National level and b) to add World Class and Feminine 15 meter as record categories at the State and National level. The motion was seconded by S. Smith and passed unanimously.

Good reported that a special committee is working on development of an SSA bid for the World Soaring Championships in the year 2003. The group is chaired by Eric Mozer. Good moved that
the Board express SSA’s interest in seeking the WSC in the year 2003. the motion was seconded by Spratt.

Directors then discussed the motion. Jacobs expressed concern that the SSA retain control over both the bid process and the final organization assuming SSA is to receive IGC approval. Good said that the process is to solicit local interest but that the final bid is conducted in the name of the SSA and that the SSA would hold ultimate responsibility for the event. B. Smith reiterated that this level of control is very important to the success of the event.

After further discussion the motion passed unanimously.

Good then reviewed the process by which local bids will be solicited and presented to the SSA Board for review and possible acceptance. B. Smith noted his concern that the process is pushing too soon for formal bids from local organizations. Good said that he would exercise discretion in establishing the timetable for various activities. It was the sense of the Board that the process as proposed by Mozer's group is acceptable and that a further report is to be presented at the winter meeting in Portland.

Rules sub-committee - Striederck
Good reported that the sub-committee will be holding a meeting in November to discuss specific proposals to change the Contest Rules. He said that the election for members of the group is presently underway.

Good commented on Excomm questions concerning highlighting of proposed changes to the Rules. He said that he felt the sub-committee was making special effort to call attention to the changes but that he would review the process to see if improvements could be made. Good said that the committee continues to examine Excomm questions with regards to ways to improve participation in SSA sanctioned contests.

Good expressed his disappointment over the reporting of contest scores from Albert Lea and Cordele. He said that the Contest Committee would be making a special effort to develop a new scoring program that better supported the reporting process.

Good also reported on the results of allowing motorgliders to fly "enabled" in the recent Open Class nationals. He said that the experiment seems to have worked fairly well and that the Contest Committee will probably continue the process in the future as a continuation of the test period.

International Gliding Commission - Hammond
Hammond reported that Bertha Ryan has been awarded the Pelagia Majewska Medal of the FAL. The award is being presented to Ryan on the basis of her longtime service to soaring.

US Team - Hufstutler (absent)
Good reported that Hufstutler did an excellent job of organizing the team in France. He thanked Don Engen for organizing the US Air Force transportation for the team and gliders. Good
acknowledged the work of Wally Miller in helping to arrange for the participation of USAF Academy Cadets in France.

Site Selection sub-committee - Welles
Welles moved for acceptance of the sub-committee recommendations for 1999 contests. The sites include Minden (Standard Class), Hobbs (15 Meter) and Elmira (Sports). The Open Class decision will be delayed until Spring 1998. The motion was seconded by B. Smith and passed unanimously.

Byars then discussed a letter he has received from Rudy Mozer concerning a proposal to create contest flying opportunities for young people. Mozer is proposing a method by which contest caliber gliders can be made available to young contest pilots for use in developing their contest experience. Byars asked for a sense of the Board with regards to the proposal. B. Smith moved that the Board convey a statement of enthusiastic support to Mozer for the proposal with an understanding that significant details must be resolved before possible implementation. Clarke seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Member Relations Committee Report - Nady

Insurance sub-committee - Volkmann (absent)
Sanderson read a brief e-mail note from Volkmann expressing his regret at being absent from the meeting.

Youth sub-committee - Campbell
Campbell said that he had little to add to his report. Sanderson complimented Campbell on his efforts to develop and expand the CAP/SSA partnership.

Campbell said that the Youth sub-committee appreciates the support of various sponsors who supported the Junior Team in Europe.

Election of Directors-at-Large
Byars said that the Board would move forward with voting for Directors-at-Large for the 1998 term.

B. Smith moved that the Board elect Byars and Engen by acclamation. The motion was seconded by Hammond and passed unanimously.

The directors then cast their ballots for the remaining four positions using the weighted ballot system as required by the By-laws. The following individuals were elected as Directors-at-Large for 1998:

Doug Jacobs
Billy Singleton
Gene Hammond
Brian Utley
Eric Mozer was selected as the first alternate and Lorry Charchian as the second alternate.

Byars said the meeting would return to discussion of the Member Relations Committee report.

Awards sub-committee - Spratt
Spratt said that he is working to develop awards for national contests to replace the trophies that are damaged and in safekeeping at the NSM. He said that he would have specific proposals at the coming meeting concerning amendment of the award voting process.

Spratt said that he continues discussions with the NSM concerning possible relocation of the Hall of Fame induction to a larger venue.

Convention sub-committee - Kawal (absent)
Sanderson reported that he has met with the organizers of the Portland convention as well as representatives from other air sport groups planning to participate in the Portland programs. He said that the joint efforts are in their early stages but that the process appears to hold significant promise for the future.

Sanderson said that the Knoxville organizers are very excited about the prospect of working with other air sport groups and that the process should be expanding by that time.

Sanderson said that the Central Indiana Soaring Society has agreed to amend their requested year to 2001. He said that the sub-committee and staff are recommending approval of the CISS proposal subject to confirmation of suitable exhibition space and hotel accommodations. Reid moved for acceptance of the CISS bid to host the convention in 2001 subject to confirmation of suitable facilities. the motion was seconded by Nady and passed unanimously.

Sanderson said that the Albuquerque Soaring Club had requested the year 2000 and that they are not prepared to amend that proposal at this time. He further said that staff would like to develop a proposal for a "staff driven" event in 2000 located possibly in Southern California. The purpose of this proposal is to fully explore the potential of the joint efforts by air sport groups. Sanderson asked that the decision on the year 2000 be delayed until the winter meeting in 1998. At that meeting, staff will present specific proposals for the year 2000.

B. Smith moved to accept Sanderson's recommendation for development of a staff proposal concerning management of the convention in the year 2000. The report and board action are to be scheduled for the winter 1998 meeting. the motion was seconded by S. Smith and passed unanimously.

S. Smith announced that the organizers of the SSA Annual Convention in Arlington had decided to donate a portion of the proceeds of the convention to the SSA general fund. She presented Sanderson with a check in the amount of $6,611.22 payable to the SSA. S. Smith said that the purpose of the donation is for general SSA operations but that the organizing groups from Texas
would prefer that the funds be used to defray costs of SSA staff participation in the convention. She said that the groups were very appreciative of the support received from staff members.

Byars and Sanderson both expressed their appreciation for the donation and the directors gave a round of applause to express their appreciation.

Development Committee Report - (vacant position)

Growth sub-committee - Wander (absent)
Sanderson said that Wander had no additional information for the report. Sanderson called attention to membership census figures showing growth in SSA membership in recent months.

Publicity sub-committee - Rappaport (absent)
Sanderson reported that he is working with Burt Compton to have Compton represent SSA at key aviation forums such as Oshkosh, Sun-n-Fun and AOPA Convention.

Eagle Program - Sproull
Sproull introduced Brian Utley for a discussion concerning the proposal to create an SSA Foundation.

Utley reviewed the briefing materials presented in the book. He said that creation of a formal foundation structure is a small step forward in creating the long term strength of the Society. Sanderson passed out a copy of a letter written by SSA Counsel Jim Maddox. The memo outlined Maddox’s views concerning steps necessary to create a foundation. Maddox was very direct in his support of the concept.

Byars asked for discussion from the directors. Jacobs expressed his general support for the concept but recognized that there were many aspects of the proposal to be analyzed before a final decision could be made. S. Smith said that she feels the foundation is absolutely necessary. Bearden added his support to the proposal.

Utley said that there are always a number of issues involved in the creation of such an entity. Issues such as proper controls and leadership are always important items to resolve early.

Reid moved that, based on the current information, the Board approve the foundation concept as presented by Utley. The motion was seconded and after brief discussion passed unanimously.

Northcraft then moved that the Board appoint a founding committee composed of Jacobs, Starr, Utley, Sproull and Hall and that this committee be tasked with preparing specific organizational recommendations for consideration by the Board at the winter meeting. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Administrative Committee - Sproull
Strategic Planning sub-committee - Starr (absent)
Sproull moved for acceptance of the Strategic Plan as presented in the briefing book. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Executive Compensation sub-committee - Sproull
Sproull reviewed the recommendations concerning development of an executive incentive plan. Sproull moved for acceptance of the plan and budget amount as recommended by the sub-committee effective in 1997. S. Smith seconded the motion.

Northcraft asked if the plan applied to staff members other than Sanderson. Sproull said that the initial plan applies only to Sanderson but that plans are to extend the program if it proves successful. The directors then engaged in a general discussion of the concept. Some, including Reid, expressed concern that it was not being applied in a timely fashion to 1997 while others expressed questions concerning the level of performance required to achieve goals. Sproull said that the purpose of the program is to give the Executive Committee the ability to influence strongly the priorities and level of activity of the staff executive. Sproull said that the program will undoubtedly evolve but that it must begin at some point.

After further discussion, Byars called for the vote. The motion passed by a vote of 15 aye, 6 nay and 2 abstentions.

Budget and Finance sub-committee - Sproull
B. Smith moved that the Board adopt the FY98 budget as presented. The motion was seconded by Hammond.

Directors discussed various aspects of the budget proposal. Sanderson commented that the budget does not have sufficient funds to allow for hiring additional professional support in the government area. He also noted that Home Page operations will add some burden to the budget as will the forthcoming need to upgrade the office computer system.

After further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Election of Officers
Byars said the Board would turn to the issue of election of officers for 1998.

Hammond moved election by acclamation of Byars as Chairman for 1998. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Reid moved election by acclamation of Jacobs as Treasurer for 1998. The motion was seconded by Northcraft and passed unanimously.

Charchian moved election by acclamation of Sproull as Secretary for 1998. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.
The directors then voted by secret ballot for SSA Trustee for the term January 1, 1998 through December 31, 2000. Bill Sproul was elected as SSA Trustee for the term January 1, 1997 through December 31, 2000.

The directors then voted for Vice Chairs using the weighted ballot system. The following individuals were elected as Vice Chairs for the year 1998:

Jim Short, 1st Vice Chair
Ron Clarke
Hannes Linke
Frank Reid

[Note - the designation '1st Vice Chair' is accorded to the individual receiving the most votes for Vice Chair]

Designation of Executive Committee
Hammond moved that the Board appoint the Chairman and four Vice Chairs to constitute the Executive Committee until the next regularly scheduled meeting. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Next Meeting
Byars asked for the directors preference concerning a full day meeting or a split meeting at the upcoming convention in Portland. Welles moved for a split meeting to be held on Friday, February 27th and February 28th, 1998 in Portland, Oregon. The motion was seconded by Greenblatt and passed unanimously.

Other Business
Byars asked if there was any additional business before the Board.

B. Smith asked the Board to consider holding the Fall 1998 meeting in Elmira at time to coincide with the Elmira meeting of the OSTIV Sailplane Development Panel.

B. Smith mentioned his desire to nominate Manfred Reinhard for the Lilienthal medal on the occasion of Reinhardt's retirement as Chairman of OSTIV. B. Smith said he is simply advising the Board now so that directors have time to consider the nomination they will receive.

Byars noted that this meeting will be the last for Phil Petmecky, Mike Koemer, Lorry Charchian and Bernald Smith. He thanked them for their service and expressed the consensus of the Board in stating the SSA's gratitude for their work.

Sanderson asked for an opportunity to comment on Bernald Smith's retirement from the Board. Sanderson said that he personally owed Bernald his gratitude for Smith's support and friendship over the years. He said that Smith exemplified the type of volunteer that has made the SSA the strong organization it is today and said that he will personally miss Smith's participation in the meetings. Following Sanderson's comments, Byars led the Board in an ovation for Smith.
B. Smith was asked to make the motion to adjourn which he did at 5:05 PM. The motion was seconded by Linke and passed unanimously.