2019 SSA Spring Board of Directors' Meeting draft minutes

Raleigh, North Carolina
February 23, 2019

1.0 Call to Order at 9am EST.

Also attending: Rich Carlson, Bernald Smith, John Godfrey, Denise Layton. Alexa Owens

Directors absent: Michael Solley, Geoff Weck, Craig Funston, Bill Hill

1.1 Welcome and remarks from SSA Chairman Ann Lafford

1.2 Introduction of guests: Roy Bourgeois, Pat Costello, and Rick Lafford.

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 HERE)

1.4 SSA Committee Chairs (list attached here)

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 (September 8, 2018 Board of Directors' Meeting)

2.2 Approval of Rusty Lowry to fill out the term vacated by Dody Wyman, ending May 2019, and then serve a three year term ending May 2022, as a National Soaring Museum Trustee.

Moved by Rich Owen, seconded by Jim Garrison, approved.

3.0 Chairman's Report (report from Ann Lafford)

Chair Lafford asked each, in turn, to emphasize the highlights of their reports. She highlighted Ken’s outlining of our mission and that he has volunteered to head the Growth and Retention Committee in order to continue our focus in that area. We need to continue our work with the Youth/Junior Committee and to develop additional help and resources there. Focus on developing more CFI-G’s and build on the interest generated by the recent instructor scholarships. Planned Giving and our continuing efforts there will be further addressed by John Godfrey. Promote new contest sites, especially for nationals. Eric Bick has recently started a new Contest Corner column in the magazine and Hank Nixon had been contacted about having some of his team develop articles for that. The SSA web site needs some effort to keep current and also to add additional features.

4.0 Executive Director's Report (report from Denise Layton)

We do have a convention site for 2020. Memphis Soaring Society wanted to have it there, but their convention center will be closed for renovation that year. They agreed to host it in Little Rock. That Convention Center has had some renovations and CEO Layton visited a few weeks ago and said she thinks people will find it very, very nice. Still looking for suggestions for 2022, so if anyone has any suggestions,
please let her know. Director Garrison suggested that Richmond, Virginia, be given a look and he was planning on visiting. Director Vassel asked about our budget for convention centers as he thought Salt Lake City would be a good venue. CEO Layton said that Little Rock would cost about $20,000. Reno was free. Several that were looked at were $50,000-$100,000, which is too high for the SSA. Director Whiteley asked about the minimum square footage. CEO Layton advised we like to have about 80,000 square feet. Have to fit the timing within the by-laws (for board meeting), availability, and the senior’s, so we can’t really adjust much for the weather.

**ACTION ITEM:** CEO Layton to send note to the Board on the specific dates of the 2020 convention.

CEO Layton commented on the John Stoffel donation, as an appreciation for the treatment received from a club up north and another down south, $10,000 was donated to the SSA. It was decided to use this for flight training scholarships. It also serves as a reminder for members in our soaring community to be polite, helpful, and respectful to people seeking information and help. The donor thought it was an excellent use of the funds.

CEO Layton decided to spend a little money on a new brochure, a little nicer than what we’ve had previously. Favorably received. CEO Layton said it was a joint effort from her, Alexa Owens, and Steve Hines.

**ACTION ITEM:** CEO Layton to send 1000 copies of the new brochures to Director Owen, Seminole Lake Gliderport.

5.0 **Treasurer’s Report** *(report from Richard Maleady)*

Year end. SSA operations approximately $35,000 to SSA. Funds and dues and prospect for 2019.

- **Attachment A** - Statement of Revenues and Expenses
- **Attachment B** - Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Fund Equity
- **Attachment C** - SSA Foundation Year End Income Statement
- **Attachment D** - SSA Foundation Year End Balance Sheet
- **Attachment E** - Fund Tracker spreadsheet
- **Attachment F** - Final 2019 Budget

6.0 **Committee Reports**

6.1 **Chairman Ann Lafford (SSF, Administration)**

6.1.2 SSA Foundation *(agenda, with attached SSAF Treasurer's Report)*

Director Alexander moved to recess the meeting of the SSA board and convene the meeting of the members of the SSA Foundation. Director Garrison seconded. **Approved.**

1 Call to Order 9:23am EST.
2 Approve Minutes of September 8, 2018
   The minutes are contained in the Minutes of the SSA BOD of the same date – section 8. Director Alexander moved to approve. Director Garrison seconded. **Approved**
3 Treasurer's Report
4 Chairman Report
   • Revision of the Investment Policy to Increase Equity Exposure (See attached Cochrane articles)
Chair Godfrey drew attention to the Vanguard Performance Report, currently the foundation is at the 60/40 equity/income allocation. Over the year the market decline took a 4.5% hit, which is in line with our allocation. Generally, over the long term, it’s been nearer 7%. We talked at the last meeting about reporting back on making a higher equity allocation. Didn’t get that far, and Chair Godfrey apologized for that. One of the things that’s important here is the appetite for the members to live with higher volatility in our investment portfolio. With the notion that history says over the long term it will earn more. Who wasn’t nervous in December? Based on the straw poll, we still a reasonable appetite for moving forward into more equity. Pete Alexander asked if we were headed to 70/30? Chair Godfrey responded that we might be headed for 80/20. Pete Alexander shared he thought the market is entering a new arena where historical models are not reliable. Chair Godfrey referred to Treasurer Umphres’ report and the Phil recommends treating Kunda as an endowment and being careful about spending. We’ll be looking at this going forward. We now have John Cochrane and Mike Davis on as advisors. We’ll also be looking at other foundations our size.

- **Revised MOUs with Mozer and US Team**
  If we are going to be dealing with increased volatilities, we also need to consider how to protect our stakeholders; the general endowment, the US Team, and the Mozer Trust, and peg this to June 30th.

5 Proposed Change to the Bylaws
To simplify and consolidate at which annual distributions are calculated it is proposed to change the Bylaws so that distributions are calculated as of June 30 rather than July 30.

Article 11.1 to be modified as follows: By **September 30th August 31st** of each year, the Chairman of the Foundation shall determine the Annual Distributable Amount for the following calendar year by applying the Annual Distribution Percentage to the average of the fair market value of the general endowment assets of the Foundation as of **August 31st June 30th** of the current year and **August 31st June 30th** of the two prior years and shall give the Chairman of SSA written notice of the Annual Distributable Amount and the total of all amounts of accumulated undistributed Annual Distributable Amounts from prior years within ten (10) days following such determination.

Why June 30:
1. It is beneficial to do the calculation in time for the annual budgeting cycle
2. It is simpler to do all the calculations (General Endowment, Mozer, US Team) at the same time
3. It is helpful to do it on a quarterly boundary to minimize accounting load
4. Doing the calculation as of Sept 30 (i.e. available mid to late Oct) is not soon enough for the SSA budget cycle

Director Maleady moved to approve. Director Alexander seconded. **Approved.**

6 Other Competent Business

Director Alexander moved to adjourn. Director Schrader seconded. Adjourned the meeting of the SSA Foundation at 9:32am EST.

Resumed the meeting of the SSA board.

6.1.3 Fundraising and Development (**report from John Godfrey**)

This year we implemented giving through the web site portal and generated about $6,500 in giving, which is not bad. The second thing was to launch the Society of Eagles and have encouraged declarations which to date have resulted in 12 amounting to $384,000.
CEO Layton has been working on thank you cards and she, Alexa Owens, and Steve Hines has been developing a giving brochure, which will be printed after final approval of content.

Director Sorenson asked if clubs and chapters could use some of this locally. John Godfrey suggested there is, but we don’t have a package ready.

Moving on, there are multiple stages in annual giving and planned giving and moving through these stages. Last week we started fund raising for the US Junior Team, seeding $4500 in matching funds for donations of $60 or greater. We sent an e-mail to approximately 10,000 people, 3,000 opened it, 61 went to the Giving page, 29 donated, and we still have $1900 in matching funds. Seems disappointing, but it’s only been four days. Nine engagements are needed to get action.

Discussion on mail services. Brienna Bick suggested in her report we might want to switch to MailChimp.

John Godfrey added that our nut to crack is to break outside of the SSA membership, to new prospects.

Chair Lafford asked who is the person to work this. John Godfrey suggested it would be him. Director Whiteley added that the SSA mail server is cloud based and managed by a third party. It’s important that the SSA server maintain a good reputation so that our e-mail does go through. However, it may be beyond our ability to fix, because of the way Earthlink, who also manages Mindspring, IX.Netcom.com, and others, does not use the community black lists, but their own. Other e-mail services may be problematic at times.

**ACTION ITEM** , work on e-mail effectiveness strategies. Directors Alexander and Whiteley, John Godfrey, Doug Easton, Brienna Bick.

John Godfrey shared that SSA has contracted with a company, Crescendo, for a planned giving web site as a sub site of SSA.org but oriented toward planned giving. A good web site is fine, but we have to drive people to the web site. So, use eNews to drive people to the web site. Crescendo will also allow periodic e-mails and newsletters that will discuss giving and also close the loop on what the gifts have helped accomplish.

**ACTION ITEM:** Need a package for Clubs on Gift Giving. (John Godfrey)

**ACTION ITEM:** John Godfrey to send a note through Clubs and Chapters on Gift Giving.

Director Schrader says that content contributors are vital to messaging.

Director Alexander said engagement is all well and good, but his attention is limited to no more than a page. John Godfrey agreed that you get to present the message in five seconds and the message has to be above the fold. Short term, John Godfrey would like to figure how to get EAA and AOPA to promote the Junior Worlds.

**ACTION ITEM:** John Godfrey to focus on breaking outside of the SSA membership, to new Gift Giving prospects.

6.1.4 Editorial Advisory Committee

6.1.5 SSF (report from Rich Carlson) SSF Chair Carlson highlighted a study guide for persons wishing to prepare for the Bronze Badge with references and an online 290 question database. Can choose by subject, random, or sequentially. Revision is easier, adding new questions are easier. No folklore questions, only questions with references.

SSF has a $50K annual budget to support our activities: FIRCs, safety seminars, site surveys, and pushing out more online activities.
Requested launch and flight information from clubs and commercial operators using post cards. Going to send requests using e-mail and eNews. Last year got about a 30% response rate. 2018 was skewed toward off airport landing accidents, possibly related to marginal cross country weather, and there were 7 fatal accidents resulting in 11 fatalities.

Chair Carlson led a discussion on NTSB asking questions, following the Driggs accident, on SSA programs or guides on commercial operator performance on scenic rides. Chair Carlson and Steve Northcraft worked together to respond to these questions. He did not know of such a guide and was not suggesting it was something we’d want to generate. He did suggest the SSA be consistent on the position on the SSA with regard to those providing commercial scenic rides. Anything will be shared within the SSA. Carlson suggested we not be surprised should they come back and request that site seeing operators be required to produce special procedures like the helicopter rides over volcanic areas. Director Alexander mentioned an accident from California where the passenger interfered with the rudder controls. Director Schrader commented that he felt the SSA shouldn’t do have rules over commercial rides. Chair Carlson said that’s not what he was suggesting, but that the operators may be required to do something similar. Director Whiteley commented that some of this may stem from the big balloon accident fatalities where the operator was found to be unfit. We were warned that could result in changes to the way commercial glider rides are given. Director Whiteley asked that these communications be shared with the SSA board.

ACTION Carlson to send NTSB correspondence to CEO Layton for distribution.

6.1.6 Administrative
6.1.7 Cross-Country Development
6.1.8 FAI-IGC representative report

6.2 Vice-Chair and Treasurer Richard Maleady (Financial, Awards)
6.2.1 Budget and Finance Committee (incorporated into 5.0 above)
6.2.2 Nominating Committee
6.2.3 Awards Committee (report from Jay McDaniel)
   Replaced Ann Lafford with Michael Solley on the committee.
6.2.4 Group Insurance (report from David Volkmann)
   Director Maleady hoped all had read the report and asked Pat Costello if he wouldn’t comment.

Pat Costello advised the program has been pretty consistent. There’s been a reduction in the flight losses, but an increase in the ground losses. Of course, a decrease in both would be preferred. We don’t make a large profit for AIG, but we’ve been with them for a long time. Others who engaged us are no longer around. We’re with a good strong company and we get no complaints about the adjusters and the service.

Director Schrader asked about the enhanced passenger liability limit. Pat advised there may be some that need to improve their performance before becoming eligible, but it’s being offered generally upon renewal. We haven’t turned anybody down.

6.2.5 Badge & Record Committee (report from Bob Faris)
   Director Maleady advised there were some rules changes. Director Whiteley said he’d posted them at Bob’s request.
Chair Lafford called for a break 10:25am EST, please return at 10:40am EST.

Resumed at 10:43am EST

6.3 Chairman, Ann Lafford

6.3.1 Contests

6.3.1a Contest Committee report ([report from Hank Nixon])

6.3.1b Rules Committee report ([report from Andy Blackburn]) ([Proposed rules for 2019])

**ACTION ITEM** - Approval of proposed rule changes. Director Owen moved to approve, Director Alexander seconded. Director Schrader added that he’d e-mailed Chair Nixon over a week ago that the contestant signs a waiver, but the passengers are not signing anything and there’s no requirement. Chair Nixon didn’t think it necessary, but Director Schrader is not proposing to amend this motion. Director Owen will take passenger waiver requirement for ACTION. Motion approved.

6.3.1c Site Selection ([report from John Lubon]) ([Sanction application Chilhowee])

Director Alexander commented that it’s still a challenge to get new national sites. The good news is that this year and next year Kansas City is coming on line, Minden is coming back, and Montague is coming back. Goal is that no one will have to drive more than two days to get to a national’s site. It may not be the desired class, but it will be within that driving range. Chair Lafford discussed the importance of communication both the chosen and non-chosen sites. Director Alexander agreed. Director Maleady moved to approve the Club Class Nationals for Chilhowee for May 5 – May 14, 2020. Director Alexander seconded. Approved.

6.3.1d Handicapping

6.3.2 Trophy Committee ([report from Richard Maleady]) ([Photo of 18-Meter trophy])

Director Maleady advised that some trophies travelled, others didn’t. They are being returned presently so they can be awarded this season. The Ittner Family Fund has endowed in honor of Nelson Ittner an 18-meter Speed Trophy. It’ll be called the Charlie ‘Lite’ Minner 18-Meter Speed Trophy in honor of the late Charlie ‘Lite’ Minner. We’ve received funds for the endowment and funds for the trophy. There is an excess of funds which might be applied to the Pelican trophy case, but we’ve not done that before, so Director Maleady will approve Geena about applying the excess of funds for the trophy case. That trophy will be presented in Hobbs in June, 2019.

6.3.3 U.S. Team Committee ([report from Pete Alexander])

Director Alexander advised that Doug Jacobs is the new member of the committee. An election wasn’t held because Fernando changed his mind. John Good as agreed to captain the Juniors and we’ve been running a conference call every two weeks. You’ve heard about the current fund raiser and DJ and PA sold 14 rides at the Seniors at $300 each. Gave a way a couple, one to our Junior champion and another to a team captain. We’d like to send four pilots, but due to budget can only send three, JP may possibly self-fund as a fourth. Each of the pilots have homework assignments to share knowledge with each other. Each is set up to fly a regional and a national before we go. Each pilot must show up a week before the opening ceremony. Geena Wilson of the Ittner Family Fund donated $2500 to Junior Team. We still working on the budget, but they’ve rented a house for the full team. John Godfrey said we must communicate what’s been done. Next month they need to start communicating what they’re doing to prepare. Group of central California juniors for a JG California Juniors will be holding a camp contest at Williams, possibly with up to 20 gliders. It’s being organized by Thomas Greenhill and Ben Mayes. Ben
will be flying with Pete at Perry. Director Schrader had discussed with Thomas Greenhill about changing this from a camp to a contest. It will be an introductory format with large turnpoints and complete a task.

Director Alexander described the continued discussion of supporting all of the classes and teams. Doug Jacobs provided some historical insights at a recent session. Director Leonard described how last year the NSM had provided some educational funds toward the junior program. Discussions about other video sessions that might be edited for sharing. Director Schader noted that several in California are above the ‘junior’ age, but are engaged with these juniors.

6.3.4 Sailplane Tracking

6.4 First Vice Chair, Geoff Weck (Government Liaison and Growth & Retention)

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

6.4.2 Government Liaison Committee

6.4.3 Representation Committee & Representatives (report from Bernald Smith)

Situation with UAVs is complicated by rapid growth and production in China. Many other reports other than what’s been publicized. FAI is up to their eyeballs. Bernald shared he thought the US was behind both Australia and the EU as far as how drones are going to fit into airspace and the world of aviation. The real use is almost non-aviation; agriculture, sports, and other activities. RTCA and FAA are working hard to keep up. They probably won’t get ahead of the game. There’s activity in the flight recorder arena and continued use of .IGC logging format and possibly forming a committee who will work together for a .FAI format that will be modernized and include automatic uploads. Planned two year window to approve an .FAI format so that they can get moving on modernizing. Director Schrader asked if this would mean new flight recorders? Bernald replied that those are outdated too. A huge number would be downgraded, so there’s new discussion on security above diamond level. They’ll have to update for equipment for world records. May not have an impact on contests due to other local controls.

6.4.4 Growth & Retention (report from Ken Sorenson) (CFI-G Scholarship report) (Webinar metrics – Bruno Vassel)

Director Sorenson goals and focus are similar to prior reports and the committee will serve to coordinate and facilitator for projects. Rather than continue with a chapter manual but concentrate on a repository for best relevant materials that club can draw on. It seems the clubs don’t have an active interest in growing because the leaders are busy just keeping the activities on track. Perhaps the best way to bring growth is for a team to visit and present what could be certain paths for growth and success. Director Schrader will continue on the committee by concentrating on promotion and marketing materials.

Director Sorenson described the CFI-G scholarship incentive program. The selection committee, Sorenson, Whiteley, Garrison, Shore, Manley, examined 26 applications and awarded 13 awards. It was structured for the SSA to provide $1500 and the sponsoring chapter to provide $500. However, the award is based on successful completion within 18 months. Chair Lafford added they must write a thank you note. Director Sorenson also said perhaps they could speak at the next convention. Chair Lafford asked about non-selectees. Director Sorenson said all were contacted and advised future funds could be forthcoming, intending to seek Kunda funds in the future.

Director Vassel discussed briefly how the webinar series got rolling and now, a year later we’ve had 15 webinars with 5250 attendees, with many repeaters. 350 live per webinar. Up till now the recordings are available on the SSA web site a day or two after the webinar. We were FAA approved for the Wings program. Approximately 25% of attendees are not glider pilots. Dozens respond to the polls that they have an interest in becoming glider pilots. Director Vassel suggests that David Lessnick’s vision has exceeded expectations. This is V1.0 and we need to move upwards with V2.0. Alexa Owens said the SSA
office reached out for the one list they received, but they’d only received one list to date. Director Vassel would like to better organize the topics on the SSA web site. Alexa noted that one lapsed member rejoined because of the webinars. Expect to continue with the mixed formats. We have a range of topics.

**ACTION ITEM:** Director Vassel to gather other lists of interested non-glider pilots from the webinars for Alexa Owens to send information to.

Break for lunch. 11:43am EST, plan to reconvene 1:15pm EST

Resumed at 1:15pm EST.

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

6.5.1 Clubs and Chapters (report from Frank Whiteley)

Current club count down by a couple at the same time last year but these may due to late renewals and is probably reflected in the member count being down, presently 5750 versus 5900 at this time last year. There could be some seasonal attrition. Snows birds lapse but pop up upon their return.

Director Whiteley has been assisting a small interest group in Montana, where there used to a couple of clubs that ceased operations when the L-13 were grounded; Glacier Eagles and the Bitterroot Buzzards. Turns out there’s a population of about 55 glider ratings, including 5 CFI-G’s, 18 C/GL, and 32 P/GL ratings in the area. Although many are aging out of the sport, they still might help support a startup.

Director Whiteley was looking to see if there were any 2-22e’s or 2-33’s in the area and was surprised to find 2-3 commercial operators out east and elsewhere turning out glider ratings. None are near Ronan, which is an hour north of Missoula. I’m told Missoula airport is not glider friendly, but Ronan is near enough that if there’s interest, it’s close enough to Missoula to be an alternative. Kay Ebelt is currently working in the Vero Beach, FL, area. She’s active with CAP and is a national Crossfield Scholar recipient has a house in Missoula and an interest in growing gliding in the area also.

Director Whiteley had a call from the Skyline Soaring Foundation recently seeking funds from the SSA to fund $1600 of one of their scholarships. I explained the SSA probably wouldn’t do that as we raise money for our flight training scholarships. I suggested their local foundation put together a program of what they’ve done over the years and make presentations to their local Rotary chapters and local EAA chapters and pass the hat. $1600 should be doable. The Skyline group is very generous with soaring youth.

Northwest Soaring of Cadillac, MI, wants to start winching. They have a line on a winch. The local college would like to use them to add a gliding course to their curriculum and I had a discussion with their insurance broker about whether the $3M program liability could extend over contracted services for their students.

Harris Hill is building a new pilot/visitor center. Pretty impressive, especially being built in January and February. Sunflower Soaring Foundation is also building a pilot center at Sunflower Gliderport. Director Leonard commented that the concrete had been poured though he was concerned about building a 3250sqft foot building over four months of winter and spring. Director Whiteley had received a couple of calls about hangar construction from Faultline Flyers and Windy City Soaring. He gave them Director Leonard’s contact information, Andironack Soaring Association’s contact, Mid-Atlantic Soaring Association’s contact, and Bob Carlton’s contact, as those were the four hangar projects he was familiar with.

Treasure Coast Soaring Club has not been very responsive to SSA requests for a current chapter roster. We had some discussion at the EXCOM meeting and didn’t recommend any specific action. They are not well managed and have some financial issues, including an IRS demand. They are a 501(c)(3) but it appears they aren’t keeping good books. There good ol’ boy group voided a recent election, including that of a treasurer, which they need desperately. He’s withdrawn from the club and said they don’t follow their own by-laws.
They have issues with their business model and bookkeeping. We’ve been trying to help and though I think their intentions are good, they’re not working with us.

Utah Soaring Association is doing their winter seminar series and are trying to do more winter training. Aero Club Albatross has done a one winter seminar and has a second coming up.

Aero Club Albatross is refinishing an LS-3 as a project led by Erik Mann. Brandywine Soaring Association is refinishing a G-103 in Richard Kellerman’s hangar. This weekend Philadelphia Glider Council is holding a FIRC. As a result we couldn’t get any volunteers to represent soaring at AMA EXPO EAST. Weather is a factor.

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

Since the report was filed we have a new governor for New Hampshire. We have a new governor in Utah. We would still have some vacancies filled. No current renewal deadlines.

6.5.3 Digital Media (report from Brienna Bick) (Demographic information) (Gender and age) (Interests breakdown) (Location breakdown)

Please look at Brienna’s reports. New additions to the web site are planned giving and the Junior Team. John Godfrey advised we’re seeking information on visitors to the SSA web site.

6.5.4 Youth Committee

JP Stewart says the east coast contest is a go, sanction approved, and 15 juniors should attend. Although the contest manager is aware of the junior participation, it would be good have a junior manager there to assist and report. There will be a west coast junior event this spring, also sanctioned.

JP Stewart also reports the flight training scholarship program has been going well, a big thanks to Frank Whiteley for managing the payments. Hope to do an omnibus article this summer on the accomplishments.

Director Whiteley commented that the deadline for the 2019 awards to accommodate some new funding, including Bultman, had been extended to March 31st and we’ve put the word on via various channels about that extension.

JP has tried to get commitments from 3-4 Juniors to write articles. I’m told one was not written well enough to share and others have not appeared. John Godfrey’s comment in his report that the Junior’s web site is derelict is correct. Other reports are needed. After some discussion, it was determined that the Junior website and initiatives require revisiting.

**ACTION ITEM:** Pete Alexander, John Godfrey, Chris Schrader, and Frank Whiteley to revisit the Junior and US Teaam websites for recommendations June 30th.

Need additional on the 2019 Juniors and the scholarships for Soaring. Please forward a copy to Lafford and Layton.

6.5.5 COBM

6.5.6 Affiliates & Divisions

7.0 Regional Directors' Reports

7.1 Region 1 and 3 (report from Linda Evenski)

Chair Lafford introduced Linda Evenski as the new Region 1 and 3 Director. Director Evenski said the newest club, Sandford Soaring, in Maine is hosting a CFI-G encampment in September. Finger Lakes Soaring just purchased a Pegasus and may be selling a Grob and a Blanik. Connecticut Soaring is starting to venture
out to fly elsewhere for better conditions. They have a DPE in a club. Harris Hill will host R3 and the Juniors. Sugarbush will be offering three camps this year. Several of the clubs are using the Russell Holtz training materials. A few club are not growing, but in slight declines.

7.2 Region 2 and 4 (report from Jim Garrison)

R2 and 4 seems to be gaining several new K-21’s arriving; 1 x Tidewater, 2 x M-ASA, 1 x Skyline, 1 x Brandywine. Two gliderports in Virginia have been established as private gliderports; Merlin Soaring Association and Shenandoah Valley Soaring. Four of the five clubs in Virginia own their own fields. Weather was a factor that affected the traditional R4S and R4N contests. Rich Carlson said that despite the rain, M-ASA did 1800 flights in 2018.

7.3 Region 5 (report from Mike Solley)

Director Owen commented on behalf of Director Solley. Weather’s been poor north of the I-10 corridor. Sarah Arnold is doing the Carolina Wave Project. The commercial operations are doing well. Seminole Lake has approach the local drone ops about soaring. Seniors are coming shortly and a number will also be at Perry. Next year Seminole will host the Seniors and SGP.

7.4 Region 6 (report from Chris Schrader)

Director Schrader mentioned that Central Ohio Soaring Association, a former SSA chapter, had a 2-33 restored using K&L Soaring. Sandhill Soaring is experimenting with parking their DG-505 at Seminole for winter use. We’re hoping we made a smart decision in buying an expensive glider. There was a regional held at Adrian for the first time in about 20 years. We did this along with the Juniors and thank goodness Ron Ridenour stepped in to help. It was a little strange that Sandhill organized the contest but ran it remotely. We’re probably not equipped to do this annually, but perhaps on a rotation. The club members at Adrian did a great job and perhaps look at it again in 2021. Chair Lafford agreed that rotating works well. Director Schrader also commented that Norwest Soaring did a free summer ground school which was picked up by the local paper and resulted in some new members. Director Schrader also mentioned that Caesar Creek will be hosting the Standard and Sports Class Nationals in June and that contest registration has been slow, with only about ten registrants signed up so far. Not sure how much effort Caesar Creek has put into publicizing.

7.5 Region 7 (report from Geoff Weck)

7.6 Region 8

7.7 Region 9 (report from Frank Whiteley)

ASA scoring for their contest series seems broken on their web site.

Black Forest Soaring Society is starting a seminar series, hosted by Dave Rolley, and is restoring a 2-33. Very good newsletter each month is produced by Mark Palmer.

Colorado Soaring Association is restoring their Pawnee. Recent ground schools.

High Flights at Meadow Lake have a program with CAP and a local charter school and currently have 13 youth members, so will have to find out more on that.

Mile High Gliding was recently purchased by Journey Aviation, which was also recently purchased by a group who’ve changed the operating hours, launched a new web site, and are active on Facebook.

Soaring Society of Boulder had a recent 14-year old solo who will be applying for one of our flight training scholarships.
White Sands Soaring Association has been pretty active this winter. Tom K is building one of the HP-24’s but has also been posting some soaring videos.

US Southwest Soaring Museum redesigned their web site with some interactive content.

Albuquerque Soaring had expanded their training days, but may draw back a bit during the winter months. They held an Oktoberfest, elected a new board, and their new president as to be included on the chapters-SSA discussion group. They’re having an upcoming gala. They will host the 2019 Low Performance Contest and the 1-26 Championships. Utah Soaring is holding a winter seminar series and will host the R9 Sports Class and the 18M Nationals at Nephi. They will also host a the 2019 Logan XC/OLC Mountain Flying Camp.

7.8 Region 10 (report from Steve Leonard)

Director Leonard will not stand again, so we need to be looking for a regional director candidate. He suggested that 18M be considered for SSA state records as it gives us more opportunities for publicity opportunities. He would like the SSA Badge and Records Committee to make a firm decision regarding 18M records, rather than wait on FAI changes. Director Schrader also added that he’d like to see Junior national records as Junior incentives. He also said he would bring both proposals before the committee.

Director Leonard and CEO Layton had discussed that it was awkward that there was only a single award for the posthumus induction of Rudy Mozer into the Soaring Hall of Fame and that there should be a copy for each interested family member. For ACTION by Director McDaniel and CEO Layton.

Director Leonard expressed that some members feel that annual conventions would be best,

Club class handicap range is now span limited at 15 meters. Director Leonard stated that rule changes are being made without discussion. Handicaps changes will also have an impact. John Godfrey added that the spirit was to mirror the FAI club class but be a little more generous on the handicap range. Chair Lafford requested this be taken back to the Andy Blackburn and the Rules Committee. It’s not being handled as a rules issue but as a handicap issue. ACTION for Hank Nixon and Andy Blackburn.

7.9 Region 11 (report from Jay McDaniel)

Director McDaniel said last season impacted by the wildfires. Williams Soaring doing a lot of seminars. Refinishing now done by Schaffer Aviation on site. They’ve taken over ClearNav. Real hub of activity.

Thomas Greenhill and Morgan Hall are engaging youth activity.

Las Vegas Valley Soaring is having some issues with instructors only being available on Saturdays.

Soaring NV wave camp under new ownership and are planning a wave camp the 8th through 12th of April. Laurie Harden still has some involvement.

7.10 Region 12

Chair Lafford advised that Sean Franke resigned as director due to moving out of the region. The EXCOM discussed this yesterday. We have two options, appoint a director to fulfill the term or hold an election. We have two interested candidates; Cindy Brickner and Walt Rogers. The EXCOM recommends letting the regional members decide through an election. Director Sorenson moved for an election of R12 members, Director Owen seconded. Timing the process would hopefully mean we’d have a replacement by September. We have to make a call for nominations in Soaring, BIOS, and ballots mailed and returned.

Director Maleady raised a point of order, noting that the board needed to accept Sean Franke’s resignation, which was not acted on in September. Director Sorenson amended his motion to include accepting the resignation. Director Owen seconded. Approved the amendment. Approved the amended motion.

10 minute break, 2:30pm EST
Resume 2:44pm EST

8.0 Other Competent Business

8.1 Date and time of next Board of Directors' Meeting - September 7, 2019, Denver, Colorado.

8.2 Proposal to change Region 1 and 3. (Memo to members) (Letter to Ken Sorenson)

Director Sorenson moved that SSA will ensure that Connecticut and Rhode Island are included in Region 1. Director Maleady seconded. Director Sorenson said the proposal from Roy Bourgeois had two elements, to ensure CT and RI were in Region 1. The second involved splitting R1/R3 representation between directors, which would require a bylaws change. The Future Restructuring Task Force’s recommendation at the time was to combine R1/R3 representation. R1 director John Dezzutti was a member of the FRTF, an SSA EXCOM member, and supported the decision to combine representation of R1 and R3. Looking at some SSA member numbers distributed among the directors. R8 has the fewest at 569, R5 has the most at about 1500. The average under each of the 10 regional directors is 942. Under R1/R3 is 939, so basically the average of all of the directors, ranked 5th of the 10 regions. Another way to look at it by clubs, chapters and commercial operators is R6 and R12 have 12, to a maximum of 30 in R5. R1/R3 has 16 which is 5th of 10 and is the numerical average. Given a geographical consideration , R1/R3 director is not out of line with the size of other regions. Finally, to comment on Roy’s contention that R1 hadn’t had representation since 2007, the upcoming vacancy in R1/R3 was still vacant and that someone from R1 could have run at that time. Roy’s argument was that anyone from R1 wouldn’t have been familiar enough with the R3 operations and persons. Director Sorenson suggested the given the geographical sized of R1/R3 he couldn’t see that as a valid point. Nor is there any reason why New England couldn’t hold a convention. None of the other points are affected or fixed by changing the directorship.

Chair Lafford called upon Roy Bourgeois. Roy provided his background and the genesis of the crisis began with difficulty in getting designated pilot examiners which meant regional pilot candidates were having to travel in order to complete check rides. He sees the regional director as the one who can raise these issues with the local agencies the soaring community has to deal with. He agrees with Ken’s comments and if you look only at numbers and geography what I’m talking about makes no sense. When you have to deal with third parties, we fly in a footprint about the size of North Carolina, but have to deal with six different states’ aeronautical commissions, four different FAA FSDOs that don’t talk to each other, an FAA General Office that wishes gliding would go away, MassPort which owns three of the airports, and a Air Force Military Airlift Command that makes Hercules pyro drop runs 7 miles from the largest club. These organizations need someone to talk to, and that where the R1/R3 combined director has not worked for R1. Though we are only 500, we have more third party organizations per square mile. We have local support but those who would represent us, don’t feel confident in representing R3. We strongly feel we need R1 representation.

Bernald Smith commented that he was sympathetic with Roy and felt that there were representation issues with the restructuring and Roy’s concerns are worth considering.

Roy Bourgeois also stated that the FRTF also included that their realignment should be re-evaluated after a time. Chair Lafford said that is in the SSA By-Laws, that the regional structure of the SSA should be re-evaluated every ten years in year ending in 0. So that will be happening in 2020.

Roy said that in the 2018 call for elections, CT and RI were included with R4. Wants them back in R1.

Director Schrader commented that SSA State Governors can also represent the SSA to outside agencies. Roy agreed, though in his experience, this hasn’t happened. R1 has vacancies in Maine and Rhode Island and most see themselves as record keepers. Chair Lafford said this can be put to the governors. John Godfrey said that it’s built in that part of this process that Roy’s proposal is concerned with is already in motion with the upcoming regional review. Director Maleady commented that R5 has been able to get good representation through the governors in R5. With CT and RI, why couldn’t someone see the R1/R3
director as a manageable role? Roy commented that it’s both the competition between R1 and R3, at least if R1 wins, R3 loses and vice versa. Director Maleady asked if anyone from R1 has run? Roy, no because they don’t feel confident representing R3. Chair Lafford commented that between R1 and R3 it was challenging to get volunteers but she would have no problem with R1 based director. Chair Lafford suggested better utilization of the governors. Roy suggested this would make R1 closer to the SSA and the SSA closer to the SSA. Chair Lafford commented to Roy that no one from region 1 ever contacted her regarding any of the issues stated. However I had visited several Region 1 sites and helped with addressing other issues/challenges they had

Director Evenski is a little baffled by the reluctance between regions. Roy sees R1 and R3 as two different communities with on the sport in common. Director Maleady commented that R5 can have a director from the tip of Florida, representing members several states away. Roy’s response was that the R1 area doesn’t need someone from Pennsylvania, but someone local to represent to the number of 3rd parties of concern. If it’s simply a matter of membership and geography, that’s another matter.

Chair Lafford asked if any further discussion. Director Alexander what is the cost to add another director? Can we fix this issue in the next year, before the regional review? Director Maleady spoke to the issue that when the restructuring committee was convened because the then board was considered unwieldy.

Director McDaniel asked if the timing of the review was locked in stone? Director Garrison replied it’s in the by-laws, every ten years in a year ending in 0. Director McDaniel suggested that the review begin today? Chair Lafford commented that we could consider starting the regional review, but we have another motion the table today.

Director Greenfield commented that he’s generally opposed to doing things like this piecemeal.

Director Owen asked if any other regions were thinking of dividing things up?

Director Maleady asked if assuring CT and RI were part of R1 help in any way? Roy responded that it would in terms of OLC, but not in representation to third parties.

Roy expressed that the FRTF addressed internal problems, but did not address if it would change how the SSA was represented to third parties. Additional exchanges about DPE issues and recent changes.

Chair Lafford called for any further comments. Roy asked if the motion had an implicit rejection of the rest of the motion. Chair Lafford said someone could raise a second motion. Discussion on region 1 boundary. As moved requires no by-law action. The change in directorship is not part of this motion.

Director McDaniel asked if might also be raised again during the regional review.

**Motion approved, two opposed.**

Chair Lafford asked if there was another motion.

Chair Lafford suggested that Roy might consider nominating a Director-at-Large

Directors Vassel and Alexander suggested that the message going home might be that the board was not willing to change representation at this time where a by-laws change would be required, especially with the upcoming review. A Director-at-Large might be one opportunity.

Motion to adjourn made by Director Maleady, Director Alexander seconded. Adjourned at 3:35pm EST.