

Report on SSA Directors Meeting, September 29-30, 2007

Rick Sheppe
October 2, 2007

The Fall meeting took place over the weekend of September 29 and 30 at the National Soaring Museum in Elmira New York. The museum staff took good care of us and several Directors took the opportunity to go flying on Saturday afternoon. It was fun to watch the westerners marvel at all the Fall colors.

Fully half of the meeting was taken up receiving, discussing, and voting on the recommendations of the Future Restructuring Task Force, as contained in their 121-page report and presentation by Chairman David Pixton. Among their recommendations were to hire a new Executive Director, reduce the size of the Board of Directors, merge a couple of Regions, and above all, fix the magazine. Their report will appear on the SSA website shortly.

The BOD voted to accept the report and to take the following action: to wait on hiring an ED until we are financially more stable, to give more administrative authority to the Office Manager Denise Layton, to relieve her of magazine duties, to hire a full-time editor, and to seek a new publisher. We accepted, in principle, the idea of reducing the size of the BOD from 26 to 16. We asked the FRTF to come up with a proposed change to the bylaws to accomplish this. We also recommitted ourselves to having an annual audit. This was the no-debate-necessary vote.

Other business:

- We elected the Executive Committee: Dianne Black-Nixon (Chairman), Phil Umphres (Vice Chairman and Treasurer), John Dezzutti, Al Tyler, Cindy Brickner. We elected Directors-at-Large: Dean Carswell, David Pixton, Peter Smith, John Dezzutti, Ken Sorenson.
- Pilots seeking a place on the Club Class Team must qualify at the US Sports Class Nationals in Club Class gliders.
- The current plan for between-convention years is to do nothing.
- We voted to require towplane liability insurance to receive a contest sanction, beginning in 2008.
- We nominated Dick Butler and Joann Shaw to the Soaring Hall of Fame.
- Special late elections for Regional Directors in two Regions (including Region One) were authorized.

This is my last report as a Director. My term expires at the end of this year, and I will not seek reelection. I have decided to concentrate on my activities as Alternate Delegate to the International Gliding Commission, and it has become too time consuming (and expensive) to do both jobs.

I urge all members in Region One to take the time to vote for a new Director in the special election scheduled for November.