

**NAFSR Board of Directors Meeting
October 10, 2015**

The Board meeting was held in Albuquerque, NM in conjunction with the USFS National Reunion.

In attendance – Jim Golden, Corbin Newman, Dave Jay, Marlin Johnson, Darrell Kenops, Al West, Tom Thompson, Mike Hendershot, Gail Kimbell, Jack Troyer, Jane Kollmeyer, Hank Kashdan, Richard Stem, Mike Rogers, Dave Williams, Dale Robertson, Ranotta McNair, Johnny Hodges, Bob Averill, Stan Tixier, Malcolm Gramley, and Dave Nelson.

Introduction

Jim Golden opened the meeting at 8:30 a.m. He had hoped to have the Chief attend part of the meeting, but he was unable to make it. Jim expected to spend most of the morning reviewing our annual work plan.

Financial and Membership Report

Johnny Hodges was introduced as the new secretary/treasurer replacing John Combes. Johnny's wife, Ellen, will serve as his assistant. The transition from John to Johnny has gone fairly smoothly. The biggest problem so far is sending out messages to our large number of members using our new Gmail account without triggering Google's spam monitor.

As of September 30, 2015, the balance in our bank account is \$14,219.05. A new bank account has been set up in Ft. Collins, CO. NAFSR has now been incorporated in Colorado.

We currently have 638 members.

2015 Work Plan

Corbin Newman's transition into the Executive Director's position this year has gone well. Corbin replaced Darrell Kenops and Darrell has been very helpful in assisting with the changeover.

Partnerships

Corbin discussed the importance of partnerships with other organizations. Hank Kashdan works with many partners in the D.C. area. Other organizations are interested in our opinions about issues and want our support. It is also important to get NAFSR members involved in supporting key issues. We would like to have a MOU between the FS and NAFSR.

Mac Gramley attended an AWCP meeting this year. We have signed on to letters with them, but declined to sign on some items. It is up to Corbin and/or the Board whether or not to sign letters. Mac thinks we should assign one person to cover meetings with AWCP (2 meetings per year) so we have consistency and build relationships with other members. AWCP meets all over the country so travel expenses are high.

To Do List – appoint an AWCP representative.

Regional Representatives

Jim asked that regional representatives meet with RF's or RLT's at least once per year.

R-1 – Richard Stem has met with RF twice this year.

R-2 – Tom Thompson met with RF twice. The challenge is to have substantive things to talk about that they are interested in.

R-3 – Marlin met with RF once.

R-4 – Jack met with RF twice. Their communications are good.

R-5 – Mike Rogers said there are 2 representatives in California, he and Steve Eubanks. It is difficult to get a meeting with the RF or RLT.

R-6 – Ranotta McNair has had a “cracking the egg” meeting with RF Jim Pena who is new. She also believes there is confusion between regional organizations and NAFSR on our roles.

R-8 – Mac Gramley has not met with the new RF, Tony Toeke. Tony is very supportive of next reunion in Asheville, NC.

R-9 – not present

R-10 – not present

Fire Communications

Rich Stem gave an update on the Fire Process. Earlier in the year he talked to new RF's about the intent of the process which is to get fire information to the retirees to help stop the spread of rumors and criticism. The Board felt the process worked well this year. Although there was heavy fire activity in 4 regions this year and there was an overload of information shared, the Board felt we should continue with the Fire Process. We may need to look at how we share info in the future if we have heavy fire activity from multiple regions.

Al West gave a report on the annual meeting with Jim Hubbard and Tom Harbour in Sacramento in June. Al was disappointed with the lack of response from the Chief on our Fire Policy Report.

Reforestation Survey and Report

Jim Golden gave an update on the reforestation survey and report on some of the large fires in the West over the past 10 to 15 years - Rodeo/Chediski, Biscuit, and Hayman. Jim has not completed the report, but he has generated several questions. Do we need policy changes at the national level? Is there enough money for planting? Funding for NFS in general is so low, should reforestation be a high priority?

John McGuire Award – Stan Tixier said that the award would be given at the banquet on Thursday night. All of the award information and history was given to the secretary to share with the BOD. The award started in 2003 and there are still three of the original committee members serving on the committee – Al West, Ted Stubblefield and Les Joslin. The original Charter has been amended.

Newsletter Editor – Jim Golden has been serving as the newsletter editor since John Marker passed away. He would like someone to take over as the editor. Jim would be willing to continue to assist.

Establish Legislative Network – Hank feels that the BOD is the network and it is easier for Hank to call someone on the BOD when he needs assistance.

Communications – Corbin would like to develop a short quarterly report to share with our members. Share what has been done by NAFSR so we can use information in recruiting materials. Regional representatives need to send Corbin information to use in his report. What have you done?

Job Corp – Tina Terrell, national director of Job Corp for 2 years gave a report on the program. A Center in Oklahoma is being closed by the Dept. of Labor. DOL is closing centers and also opening new ones. Tina found that some Center Directors never talked to the Forest Supervisors or worked on any projects on the National Forests. She is addressing that issue. Current centers are running less than full because of funding issues. The DOL is expanding urban facilities at the expense of funding FS rural facilities.

Quarterly Conference Calls – Calls will continue, but we need to schedule calls further in advance and provide agendas a bit ahead of the calls.

Website – Our webmaster, Ken White, wants to work on revising our website. There is agreement that the website needs to be updated. Ranotta, Corbin and Johnny agreed to help with the redesign.

One Pager – Ranotta handed out a paper that she, Tom Thompson and Jane Kollmeyer have been working on over the past year. It summarizes exactly what NAFSR is all about. It is well done and generated substantial dialogue. The authors will make final edits and finalize the paper in the next month.

Perspectives on NAFSR – Corbin asked the former Chief's that were present (Dale Bosworth, Dale Robertson and Gail Kimbell) to give their perspectives on how NAFSR is doing. They felt we are current on our thinking, we are relevant and on the right track. We should focus on priority items where we can make a difference. We should help with things that the FS can't do themselves.

The Board was unable to finish the discussion on priority issues due to time limitations.

Joint Meeting with NFMH, NAFSR and Regional Associations

In the afternoon, the Board met with the National Forest History Museum, and regional associations to discuss their current status and issues common to all organizations.

NFMH – Dave Stack said they currently have 657 members. They have a problem attracting new members. They are hoping for some large donors this year or next. Dave would like copies of everyone's newsletters. The regional representatives asked the Museum for write-ups to include in their newsletters.

NAFSR – Jim Golden mentioned we have 650 members, a \$10,000 annual budget, a quarterly newsletter, and the McGuire Awards. We are a friend and watchdog of FS.

R-1 – Tom Schenarts – We usually invite speakers from RO or Forest for lunch meetings. It is hard to recruit new retirees and have only 2 new members in last 2 years.

R-2 - Dan Nolan – We currently have 365 members and we've only been in existence for a little over 2 years. We have several different activities - Memorial Grove (honoring deceased employees that have worked in the region), international trips, college scholarship, Annual Gathering that rotates around the region. Our membership continues to increase and we recruit current FS employees.

R-3 – Joel Johnstone – Some of our activities include quarterly luncheons, planning the reunion, annual camping trip, and trail maintenance projects. We have an aging membership, there are generational differences, and many retirees are not career FS employees. Social media use is limited.

R-4 – Jack Troyer – We hold monthly meetings with someone from RO at each meeting. We have declining membership. Annual meetings are hosted by a Forest. We have chapters in Boise, Twin Falls, Reno, and McCall.

R-5 – Mike Rogers – The SW FSX Club has no lifetime membership. We host 2 lunches in the Bay Area and a picnic in July. There are not enough active members to host national reunion. There is no interest in face to face meetings. The Los Padres group is separate from FSX.

R-6 – Mike Ash – We have about 1,000 members. We hold monthly board meetings followed by lunch with about 40 people attending and an annual banquet with 140. Our average age is in the high 70's. We are more of a social organization and not too interested in policy issues. The RF is at most meetings along with RO staff. We provide grants to the field and funds to employees that have lost their homes in fires.

R-8 – Mac Gramley – We publish an annual directory and a quarterly 28 page newsletter, mailed and printed for about \$2. We have 11 satellite organizations across the southeast. Every retiree gets a membership application in their retirement packet. Membership is holding steady over the past 20 years with about 400 members.

R-9 – No representative

R-10 – Jim LaBau – 50% of our retirees move back to the lower 48 and the rest are really spread out so we have no organization.

DC Group – We started meeting in the 80's. People come to meetings to socialize and hear from leadership. We have no newsletter.

Final Thoughts –

- Use NAFSR as an umbrella organization for the regional groups for websites.
- Connecting with new retirees is a weak link.
- Hank thinks ASC puts app for NAFSR in retirement packages.

NAFSR Open Membership Meeting

In the late afternoon we held an open membership meeting for NAFSR members.

Corbin reviewed the role of NAFSR as an advocate for FS and the types of issues we work on.

Jim reviewed our work plan accomplishments.

Hank reviewed wildfire suppression funding and the forest reform act. See the report on our website about fire funding.

Comments from members –

- Email traffic about only foresters could be line officers (not a good idea)
- Use other industries such as recreation and livestock industry to help lobby on fire funding
- Work some more on the social aspects of NAFSR
- Keep members more informed
- More members should work on local collaborative projects
- Cost of fire suppression is out of control

Johnny Hodges, Secretary