

2017 NHPA Annual Business Meeting

July 23rd 8:30 AM ST George, UT

The meeting was called to order by President Stuart at 8:30 am. Ken Heinritz opened the meeting with a prayer. That was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the meeting rules. The motion passed. President Sipma announced a correction to the agenda to add introduction of the audit committee after the credential report and the bylaws discussion and voting before election of officers. The Minutes Approval Committee was introduced. They include Phyllis Quist (WA), Brian Fisher (OH), and Ron Highley (MO).

Secretary David Sidles gave a financial report of the 2016-2017 fiscal year. It showed the NHPA with a loss of (\$3,944.00). Game Related Sales showed a loss of (\$12,778.00) for the same period. It was reported that the NHPA generally carries a bank balance that over the fiscal year averages around \$150,000.00. The 4 bank accounts the NHPA uses were explained. It was reported that NHPA had shown a loss 2 of the last 3 years and that the WT had a significant effect on the annual bank balance. Ron Highley (MO) asked why the Buffalo tournament was a loss and Dave described the housing situation that occurred there. Howard Reed (KS) asked about past years balances and it was reported that cumulatively the NHPA (including GRS) reported net losses 4 of the last 5 years. Membership declines and increasing general operating expenses were cited as primary reasons along with size and location of recent WT's. Debra Odum (TX) asked about membership reporting. Dave described how charters reported differently and that the bylaws were not completely clear on the timing of reporting. Seth Ohms (UT) asked about progress toward online membership. Dave reported that the NHPA website didn't currently have that feature and the additional problem with every charter charging a different amount. He went on to indicate that it was something that was a priority and work was being done to implement it soon however it was dependent on website development. Wayne Saulsbury (DE) wanted to confirm that GRS would be closing and it was confirmed that would happen before the end of the year. A motion was made to accept the financial report. The motion was seconded and passed. A question was asked whether horseshoe sales would continue at the WT and it was pointed out that was the goal of the Council. A question was also asked about approved tools and it was reported that the NHPA would continue to oversee that program.

President Sipma reported that 43 of 54 charters were signed in at the meeting. 100 total votes were represented at the start of the meeting. The audit committee was introduced as Sandy Sipma, Diane Smith, and Carla Sidles.

There was a presentation by the 2019 site host, Wichita Falls, TX. That was followed by a progress report from Florence, SC representatives on the 2018 WT site.

Following a short recess, rollcall was taken and 1 delegate was absent which reduced the total number of votes to 99.

There was a brief discussion of the World Tournament and the format. Concern was expressed that the best players weren't being featured well. One suggestion was to move the Championships to the middle of the tournament but that would lead to other issues such as lack of teardown and scorekeeping help near the end of the event. No action was taken.

NHPA Officers, Directors, and Committee Chairs each reported on their respective functions and activities. Wayne Callicoatte was introduced as the new NATSTATS director.

A report on the NHPF was given by Board President Casey Sluys. He encouraged everyone to visit the Hall of Fame. He explained how the Amazon Smile program was working to make money for the NHPF and encouraged members to use it. He described how the NHPA and NHPF were working together to promote horseshoes. Austin Baily (IL) and David Spears (ID) were introduced as Associate NHPF Directors and Casey expressed the need to find younger people to take leadership roles in directing the NHPF. He noted the goal of being able to get the NHPF to where it could perpetually fund itself into the future.

Bylaws proposals were reviewed and acted on with the following being a summary of discussion topics and actions.

Proposal A: Dues Increase – The discussion began with a presentation by Rob Hagman explaining the need and expense to keep up with ongoing changes to software programming and language and the effect it will have on HSMaster and NATSTATS. The NHPA website was cited as needing improvements and the costs involved were explained. Concern was expressed regarding the annual donation made to the NHPF and a motion was made to remove the portion of the proposal related to this and to maintain Standing Rule 14. The motion was seconded and passed. In continuing discussion, President Sipma indicated that the now modified proposal could further be changed by reducing the amount of the increase. No further changes were suggested or made. Proposal A passed with 81 yes votes and 18 no votes.

Proposal B(1): “Snowbirds” – This would allow a provision for players who spend extended periods in states other than where they legally reside to participate in the State tournaments where the majority of their participation takes place. It was suggested that record keeping would be an issue. Concern was also expressed that delegate representation at the convention could be affected by members moving their declared residence. This proposal failed with 12 yes votes and 87 no votes.

Proposal B(2): Border States – Similar to Proposal B(1) but deals with members who live near state borders. The idea of a proposal to allow dual-membership was brought up and suggested for a future convention. This proposal failed with 21 yes votes and 78 no votes.

Proposal C: Wording change to remove reference to GRS - There was no discussion. This proposal passed with 99 yes votes and 0 no votes.

Proposal D: Eligibility of Officers – This would remove the gender specific requirement to be a Council member. There was no discussion. This proposal passed with 92 yes votes and 7 no votes.

Proposal E: Would require all Charter officers to be NHPA members - There was no discussion. This proposal passed with 99 yes votes and 0 no votes.

Proposal F: Would include junior members in determining a Charters representation at the Convention - An opinion was expressed that juniors would be included in some aspects of the NHPA such as being counted for membership purposes as this proposal suggests but not being included in the \$1 per member payment to the NHPF. It was also pointed out the juniors don't

contribute financially the same as adults and that the overall effect of this proposal would be very minimal. This proposal passed with 95 yes votes and 4 no votes.

Five Standing Rules proposals were presented and voted on.

SRC-Intro: Clarifies the current wording as to procedures the Council can use to change standing rules - This proposal passed with 95 yes votes and 4 no votes.

SRC-10: Removes the requirement for Regional Directors to subscribe to "Newline" - This proposal passed with 97 yes votes and 2 no votes.

SRC-11: Changes the date for submitting rules change proposals - This proposal moves up the date to November 30th from December 31st allowing more time for processing. This proposal passed with 99 yes votes and 0 no votes.

SRC-14: Change to requirement to pay the NHPF \$1.00 per adult member annually and making it optional. (Note-This was not eliminated as a result of the Bylaws vote) - This proposal failed with 17 yes votes and 82 no votes.

SRC-End: Updates the last revision date - This proposal passed with 97 yes votes and 2 no votes.

Election of Officers: Three offices were open for elections. David Sidles was the only announced candidate for the Sec/Treasurer position and was elected by acclamation.

Candidates for the 2nd Vice President position were Tina Hawkins (OK) 2nd Laurie Lampkin (KY). Candidates for the 4th Vice President position were Ron Smith (LA) and Rob Hagman (MN). Candidates were each allowed to make a presentation to the delegates followed by the voting.

David Sidles gave an update on the protection status of the NHPA logos. He said that a decision to use the TM mark instead of the R mark was made due to cost. There was concern expressed about protecting the NHPA's rights to the HSMaster software. One suggestion was to copyright it and perhaps be able to draw some revenue from its use by organizations other than the NHPA.

An open discussion followed on Membership Solutions. A plan for dividing the amount of the dues increase was suggested with much of the increase going to areas that would promote growth. Another idea suggested was to look at large non-sanctioned clubs or tournaments and get introduced to them. State Senior Games participants were suggested as potential members.

Election results were then announced. Laurie Lampkin was announced as the next 2nd VP and Rob Hagman was announced as the next 4th VP with terms beginning January 1st, 2018.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

David Sidles, NHPA Secretary