

ELECTRICAL REBUILDER'S ASSOCIATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Wednesday, March 17, 2004

The meeting began at 7 pm eastern time via conference call. Mike Schroeder, Polly Shea, Chris Thompson & Bob Thomas were present. Alan Melton was unable to attend. His father, Keith, has been in intensive care since surgery on March 3rd.

First item of business was the nomination of officers for 2004. Mike Dietrich has agreed to serve at SW Regional VP; Wes Grueninger has agreed to move up to take a place on the Advisory Board; and Larry Hagemeister has accepted the NW Regional VP job and is already working on the Portland seminar.

Mike reported that office in Union, Missouri is up and running. The office is open and staffed three days per week (Monday-Wednesday-Friday) from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm central time. An answer machine and fax are set up on separate dedicated phone lines, and all messages left can be answered in 48 hours or less. A photo of the ERA office, new contact information and news of the opening will be in the April newspaper. Darlene Schroeder, retired from a career with the city, is our new office manager.

All membership information has been installed on the new computer and is now being maintained in Union, Missouri. Membership updates will be sent to the ERE every Monday morning from now until the show, to aid in determining which registrants are current members. Bob is keeping a backup of the membership information on his home PC, which will be updated via a CD of the Access database monthly.

ERA show was next topic of business. It was decided that the Dell computer that will be given away to a rebuilder attending the show would also be used in the ERA booth. This will give everyone visiting the booth a chance to see it, touch it & try it out. Dave Kaplan will do a regulator presentation on Sunday, in place of the previously scheduled Juan Grube presentation (the equipment Juan normally uses for his presentation may not be available).

After making several attempts to work out a show promotion with J&N, Polly acknowledged that no interest was shown on their part. Based on the cool response, everyone agreed to drop this idea. Three companies have signed up for swap-n-shop booths, however one of them is NRG, and Bob pointed out that they do not meet the criteria agreed upon at the planning meeting (rebuilders only).

Mohammad Samii has offered to hold an open house at his shop the Friday before the show, for rebuilders who might be driving through Illinois. His invitation will be printed in the April newspaper. Polly also said to remind everyone that baseball game tickets will be available for the Saturday night game.

Progress on the website was reported by Bob, who has volunteered to serve as website director. A committee is actively working on putting together a more detailed website plan. Hank Henke, Wes Grueninger and Bob are exploring the options on who will be used to construct the site.

He said there are many considerations in choosing a partner in building the website. So far, the proposals we have received are so varied in scope and cost, they are impossible to compare. It is still possible that the new site, or parts of it, can be operational for the show. However, all agreed that the prime objective is to build a website that will serve all the association's needs, and the time frame is secondary. In addition, he pointed out that the cost could exceed the amount budgeted (\$6,000), and cost may become a factor in the final choice.

The Tech Ed seminars in Houston and Oklahoma City were discussed. It was decided that Darlene would begin Friday, March 19, to find a hotel for the Oklahoma City event. After several contacts with Oklahoma Starter Drive, it looks like they will not be hosting the seminar after all. Once a location has been pinned down, flyers will be printed and shipped to area suppliers. If a location can be found by March 22, the Oklahoma seminar information can make the April newspaper.

The last topic discussed was the possibility of separating the training fund and depositing that money in an interest bearing account, which will be adjusted monthly to reflect the training balance. It was also agreed that any interest accrued would become part of the training fund. Mike said he would open the account this week, and set it up so Chris would be able to adjust the balance electronically to reflect the correct amount after expenditure and deposits for training have been made from the regular account.

The meeting concluded at 8:45 pm. The next trustee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 7th (first Wednesday in April).

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Thomas
Secretary