

ELECTRICAL REBUILDER'S ASSOCIATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

The meeting began at 7:05 pm eastern time via conference call. Mike Schroeder, Alan Melton, Polly Shea, & Bob Thomas were present. Chris Thompson was present for the start of the phone call but had to leave early.

First item of business was the show, only two weeks away. Polly reported that the number of exhibitors was down from the previous show. This was due to several who had either closed or had been bought out. Because the show has moved farther east this time, several others, located west of Kansas City, would not be returning because of the increased distance. Polly said she would send out a list of exhibitors and an updated schedule of events by week's end.

She also stated that a few small non-exhibiting companies were requesting admission at a reduced rate. One was semi-retired (business closed) and another was an independent warehouse. It was suggested the semi-retired individual could join under the individual member category, so long as his intentions did not include selling. It was pointed out that independent warehouses are separate businesses and would have to pay as such to attend. Bob suggested that Polly use EMS as an example when explaining this to independent warehouses.

Mike reported that he was still negotiating with Dell on the computer for the show, and noted it would be ordered before the weekend, to guarantee delivery.

Bob reported that Wes Grueninger had made lots of progress with the new website, but that it would not be operational by the show. Some parts of the site will be finished, but the membership section is not one of them. The goal is now to have a demo homepage and forum set up, so at least parts of the site can be shown at the ERA booth. Bob said that Wes did not want to rush the project and sacrifice functionality. The primary goal is still to build the best website possible to meet the needs of the association.

Alan reported that he met with Jeff Reynolds and Bill Gager at the Vancouver Electrical Clinic last weekend. He said that Jeff has proposed a jointly sponsored event in Niagara Falls in the spring of 2005. Alan informed him that our 2005 show would be held in the northeastern US, during the later part of May. Jeff said they would put as much space as possible between their event and ours, with the hope that we will participate in some way.

Alan also asked Bill Gager to consider holding the APRA fall clinic, already being planned for the NYC/Long Island area, around the ERA “Keep It Current” seminar scheduled for the weekend of September 18.

Next topic was the publication of the book the Technical Education committee has put together. Bob asked if a publication director should be appointed to help with this and other educational projects already. It was decided that the Publication Director’s position should be filled as soon as possible. Alan said he would look as a few people to see if any were interested. Polly said she would give the material to her typesetter for a price quote on putting together a prototype for the show. Dennis (now contacted via Alan’s cell phone) said he would do the same. Bob recommended that the book be saddle stitched, and punched for a three ring binder, because individual pages would tear out too easily.

The final topic discussed was the removal of non-renewing members from the roster. It was decided to continue to follow the procedure already in place. Anyone over 90 days past due will be removed from the active members list. Anyone over 30 days past due will be removed from the newspaper subscription list, the only exception being advertisers. As of April 26, there were 370 members who were paid and current. Several new applications have been received since.

The next trustee meeting was tentatively set for Thursday evening, May 21, at 9 pm in Covington.

Respectfully Submitted – Bob Thomas